

entail financial and other obligations that call for the diversion of the limited resources of the States of the area from the more compelling and productive task of economic and social reconstruction and could further involve them in the rivalries of power blocs in a manner prejudicial to their independence and freedom of action, thereby increasing international tensions,

Concerned at recent developments that portend the extension of the arms race into the Indian Ocean area, thereby posing a serious threat to the maintenance of such conditions in the area,

Convinced that the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean would contribute towards arresting such developments, relaxing international tensions and strengthening international peace and security,

Convinced further that the establishment of a zone of peace in an extensive geographical area in one region could have a beneficial influence on the establishment of permanent universal peace based on equal rights and justice for all, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Solemnly declares* that the Indian Ocean, within limits to be determined, together with the air space above and the ocean floor subjacent thereto, is hereby designated for all time as a zone of peace;

2. *Calls upon* the great Powers, in conformity with this Declaration, to enter into immediate consultations with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to:

(a) Halting the further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean;

(b) Eliminating from the Indian Ocean all bases, military installations and logistical supply facilities, the disposition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and any manifestation of great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean conceived in the context of great Power rivalry;

3. *Calls upon* the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, the permanent members of the Security Council and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, in pursuit of the objective of establishing a system of universal collective security without military alliances and strengthening international security through regional and other co-operation, to enter into consultations with a view to the implementation of this Declaration and such action as may be necessary to ensure that:

(a) Warships and military aircraft may not use the Indian Ocean for any threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of any littoral or hinterland State of the Indian Ocean in contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Subject to the foregoing and to the norms and principles of international law, the right to free and unimpeded use of the zone by the vessels of all nations is unaffected;

(c) Appropriate arrangements are made to give effect to any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session on the progress that has been made with regard to the implementation of this Declaration;

2832 (XXVI). Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the determination of the peoples of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to preserve their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to resolve their political, economic and social problems under conditions of peace and tranquillity,

Recalling the Declaration of the Third Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Lusaka from 8 to 10 September 1970, calling upon all States to consider and respect the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace from which great Power rivalries and competition as well as bases conceived in the context of such rivalries and competition should be excluded, and declaring that the area should also be free of nuclear weapons,

Convinced of the desirability of ensuring the maintenance of such conditions in the Indian Ocean area by means other than military alliances, as such alliances

²⁸ A/8469 and Add.1.

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-seventh session an item entitled "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace".

*2022nd plenary meeting,
16 December 1971.*

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records



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**2022nd
PLENARY MEETING**

Thursday, 16 December 1971,
at 3 p.m.

NEW YORK

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7

President: Mr. Adam MALIK (Indonesia).

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REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/8574)

1. Mr. MIGLIUOLO (Italy), Rapporteur of the First Committee: It is indeed gratifying for the Rapporteur to be in a position to announce the successful completion of the long negotiations on a draft treaty, the more so when, as happens to be the case today, such a draft is the first of its kind in the history of the United Nations. Such is, in fact, the case with the draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, the text of which appears in the annex to draft resolution I in paragraph 20 of document A/8574.

2. After years and years of negotiations leading to agreements only on either the limitation of armaments or on non-armament, it is my privilege to submit to the General Assembly the first instrument of real disarmament worked out by the Members of the United Nations. When war is still raging in the world, bringing misery, suffering and death to millions of innocent people, I think I may be permitted to express the hope that this first step towards disarmament may be followed soon by many more, in keeping with the aspirations of mankind.

3. While submitting the seven reports contained in documents A/8573, A/8574, A/8575, A/8581, A/8582, A/8583 and A/8584, I must add that, as in the past, it will be the task of the Secretariat to verify the concordance of the texts in the various languages as far as the above-mentioned draft Convention is concerned.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the First Committee.

28. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the report of the First Committee on agenda item 98 [A/8584].

29. The General Assembly will now vote on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 10 of that report. Separate votes have been requested on operative paragraph 1, on the one hand, and on operative paragraphs 2 and 3, on the other.

30. We shall now vote on operative paragraph 1. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Ceylon, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Khmer Republic, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Zaire.

Operative paragraph 1 was adopted by 60 votes to none, with 55 abstentions.

31. The PRESIDENT: We shall now vote on operative paragraphs 2 and 3 together. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Ceylon, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, India, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Re-

public, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Khmer Republic, Laos, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Zaire

Operative paragraphs 2 and 3 were adopted by 52 votes to none, with 63 abstentions.

32. The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution as a whole. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Ceylon, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua,¹¹ Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

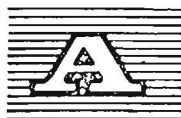
Against: None.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Zaire.

The draft resolution, as a whole, was adopted by 61 votes to none, with 55 abstentions (resolution 2832 (XXVI)).¹²

¹¹ The delegation of Nicaragua subsequently informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain in the vote on the draft resolution.

¹² The delegations of Iraq and Sierra Leone subsequently informed the Secretariat that they wished to have their votes recorded as having been in favour of the draft resolution.



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/8584
14 December 1971

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-sixth session
Agenda item 98

DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Giovanni MIGLIUOLO (Italy)

1. By a letter dated 1 October 1971 (A/8492), Ceylon requested the Secretary-General to include in the agenda of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly an additional item entitled "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace". On 6 October 1971 the United Republic of Tanzania asked that its name be added to the request for the inclusion of the item (A/8492/Add.1).
2. At its 1959th plenary meeting, on 8 October, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include this item in the agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. At its 1803rd meeting, on 11 October, the First Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on all seven agenda items relating to disarmament allocated to it, namely:
 - (1) General and complete disarmament: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (item 27);
 - (2) Question of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (item 28);
 - (3) Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests: report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (item 29);
 - (4) Establishment, within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control: report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (item 30);

(5) Status of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2666 (XXV) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco): report of the Secretary-General (item 31);

(6) Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security: report of the Secretary-General (item 32);

(7) Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace (item 98). The Committee also decided that, on the conclusion of the general debate, it would consider the draft resolutions or proposals under each item separately.

4. The general debate on these seven agenda items took place at the 1827th to 1842nd meetings, from 11 November to 1 December.

5. A draft resolution (A/C.1/L.590) was submitted on 30 November 1970 by Ceylon, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, and Zambia and was later co-sponsored by Burundi and Swaziland. The draft resolution was introduced on behalf of its sponsors by the representative of Ceylon at the 1842nd meeting, on 1 December. The text was later revised (A/C.1/L.590/Rev.1) and also sponsored by India and Yugoslavia. A further revision (A/C.1/L.590/Rev.2) was introduced on behalf of its 13 sponsors by the representative of Ceylon at the 1848th meeting, on 10 December.

6. At the 1849th meeting, on 10 December, the First Committee proceeded to vote on the revised 13-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.590/Rev.2). At the request of the Philippines, paragraph 1 of the draft resolution was voted upon separately. At the request of Madagascar, paragraphs 2 and 3, taken together, were also voted upon separately.

7. Paragraph 1 was adopted by 47 votes to none, with 46 abstentions.

8. Paragraphs 2 and 3 were adopted by a roll-call vote of 43 to none, with 55 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Ceylon, China, Colombia, Congo, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Malta, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Khmer Republic, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Zaire.

9. At the same meeting, the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.590/Rev.2) was adopted by a roll-call vote of 50 to none, with 49 abstentions (see paragraph 10). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Ceylon, China, Colombia, Congo, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Zaire.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

10. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the determination of the peoples of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to preserve their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to resolve their political, economic and social problems under conditions of peace and tranquility,

Recalling the Declaration of the Third Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Lusaka in September 1970, calling upon all States to consider and respect the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace from which great Power rivalries and competition as well as bases conceived in the context of such rivalries and competition should be excluded, and declaring that the area should also be free of nuclear weapons,

Convinced of the desirability of ensuring the maintenance of such conditions in the area by means other than military alliances, as such alliances entail financial and other obligations that call for the diversion of the limited resources of these States from the more compelling and productive task of economic and social reconstruction and could further involve them in the rivalries of power blocs in a manner prejudicial to their independence and freedom of action, thereby increasing international tensions,

Concerned at recent developments that portend the extension of the arms race into the Indian Ocean area, thereby posing a serious threat to the maintenance of such conditions in the area,

Convinced that the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean would contribute towards arresting such developments, relaxing international tensions and strengthening international peace and security,

Convinced further that the establishment of a zone of peace in an extensive geographical area in one region could have a beneficial influence on the establishment of permanent universal peace based on equal rights and justice for all, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Solemnly declares that the Indian Ocean, within limits to be determined, together with the air space above and the ocean floor subjacent thereto, is hereby designated for all time as a zone of peace;

2. Calls upon the great Powers, in conformity with this Declaration, to enter into immediate consultations with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to:

(a) Halting the further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean;

(b) Eliminating from the Indian Ocean all bases, military installations, logistical supply facilities, the disposition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and any manifestation of great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean conceived in the context of great Power rivalry;

3. Calls upon the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, the permanent members of the Security Council and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, in pursuit of the objective of establishing a system of universal collective security without military alliances and strengthening international security through regional and other co-operation, to enter into consultations with a view to the implementation of this Declaration and such action as may be necessary to ensure that:

(a) Warships and military aircraft may not use the Indian Ocean for any threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of any littoral or hinterland State of the Indian Ocean in contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Subject to the foregoing and to the norms and principles of international law, the right to free and unimpeded use of the zone by the vessels of all nations is unaffected;

(c) Appropriate arrangements are made to give effect to any international agreement that may ultimately be reached for the maintenance of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session on the progress that has been made with regard to the implementation of this Declaration;

5. Decides to include the item entitled "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace" in the provisional agenda of its twenty-seventh session.

REPORT
OF THE *AD HOC* COMMITTEE
ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 29 (A/9629)



UNITED NATIONS

REPORT
OF THE *AD HOC* COMMITTEE
ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 29 (A/9629)



UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1974

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly adopted on 16 December 1971 resolution 2832 (XXVI), by which it declared that the Indian Ocean was designated for all time as a zone of peace. In doing so, the Assembly inter alia called upon the great Powers to enter into immediate consultations with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to: (a) halting the further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean; and (b) eliminating from the Indian Ocean all bases, military installations and logistical supply facilities, the disposition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and any manifestation of great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean conceived in the context of great Power rivalry.
2. By resolution 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the General Assembly:
(a) decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, consisting of no more than 15 members, to study the implications of the Indian Ocean peace zone proposal, with special reference to the practical measures that might be taken in furtherance of the objectives of the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI), and having due regard to the security interests of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean and the interests of any other State consistent with the Charter of the United Nations; and (b) requested the Committee to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session. The General Assembly further decided that the Committee should consist of the following States: Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zambia.
3. In paragraph 14 of its report to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session, 1/ the Committee suggested, inter alia, that a study by the Secretary-General be prepared in 1974 with the assistance of consultant experts, providing authoritative information about the military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean, so that the Committee would be in a better position to assess the implications of that presence.
4. By resolution 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, the General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work, to carry out consultations in accordance with its mandate and to report with recommendations to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to prepare, with the assistance of qualified experts and competent bodies selected by him, "a factual statement of the great Powers' military presence in all its aspects, in the Indian Ocean, with special reference to their naval deployments, conceived in the context of great Power rivalry". Such a statement was to be transmitted to the Ad Hoc Committee for its consideration. By the same resolution the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-ninth session an item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/9029).

II. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

5. The Committee held 12 meetings (A/AC.159/SR.12-23) between 7 June and 15 October 1974.

6. The officers elected by the Committee in 1973, namely:

Chairman: Mr. Hamilton S. Amerasinghe (Sri Lanka),
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Raden Kusumasmoro (Indonesia),
Rapporteur: Mr. Moise A. Rakotosihanaka (Madagascar),

continued to serve in their respective capacities.

7. The factual statement prepared with the assistance of qualified experts appointed by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 3080 (XXVIII), referred to in paragraph 4 above, was submitted to the Committee on 3 May 1974 (A/AC.159/1). Subsequently, on representations made to him, the Secretary-General, after careful consideration of the need to clarify the basis of certain parts of the statement, made arrangements for the statement to be reviewed by the experts. They were joined in their review by a special consultant appointed by the Secretary-General.

8. Concerning document A/AC.159/1, communications were received by the Secretary-General from the following Member States, which were circulated as Committee documents, as follows: United Republic of Tanzania (A/AC.159/2); United States of America (A/AC.159/3); Somalia (A/AC.159/4); United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/AC.159/5); Yemen (A/AC.159/6); Madagascar (A/AC.159/7); France (A/AC.159/8); Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/AC.159/9); and Ethiopia (A/AC.159/11). These communications were transmitted to the experts to be taken into account in the preparation of the revised factual statement.

9. On 11 July 1974, the revised factual statement (A/AC.159/1/Rev.1) was submitted to the Ad Hoc Committee by the Secretary-General. In doing so he indicated that the new document replaced the previous text in its entirety. For their part the experts indicated that they had taken into account the communications mentioned above.

10. After the circulation of document A/AC.159/1/Rev.1, a letter dated 23 July 1974 was addressed to the Secretary-General by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and was circulated as a Committee document (A/AC.159/10).

11. The Committee considered the revised factual statement (A/AC.159/1/Rev.1) at meetings between 16 September and 15 October 1974 and decided to annex it to the present report. In the course of the consideration of the document by the Committee, the following views, inter alia, were expressed.

12. The representative of Madagascar stated that, in paragraph 11 of the revised factual statement, the sentence referring to naval vessels being based by France at Diego Suarez was ambiguous in the context of that paragraph. The reason was that the revised factual statement did not explain that, as envisaged in the French-Malagasy agreement of 4 June 1973 concerning the withdrawal of French forces from Madagascar (referred to in paragraph 13 of the factual statement), the French

vessels and staff which remained at Diego Suarez were there, on a temporary basis, for the sole purpose of training Malagasy personnel. The representative of Madagascar also stressed that the base at Diego Suarez, which was now under Malagasy sovereignty, would be transformed into a naval dockyard.

13. The representative of Madagascar also referred to the United States-United Kingdom project to expand military facilities on the island of Diego Garcia and recalled that the Government of Madagascar had issued a communiqué denouncing the project as being prejudicial to peace and security in the Indian Ocean (A/9585) and had also issued a statement on the same subject, which had been circulated as a Committee document (A/AC.159/L.6).

14. The representative of Australia stated that the revised factual statement was generally acceptable to his delegation, and the factual material it contained was useful. With regard to paragraph 47 of the factual statement, Australia would have preferred the last sentence to read: "On 9 January 1974 the United States and Australia entered into a new agreement under which the North West Cape station will be operated as a joint facility, and Australian servicemen will participate in the management and operation of the station". That was the wording which had been used in the statement issued by the United States and Australia Ministers.

15. The representative of Iraq held that, although the General Assembly had requested in resolution 3080 (XXVIII) that the factual statement should be based on available material, the statement drew only on certain limited sources of information. For example, most of the information given in the section concerning the USSR was attributed to United States sources. The representative of Iraq also noted that, as acknowledged in paragraph 7 of document A/AC.159/1/Rev.1, the factual statement did not deal with the question of foreign military alliances. In the view of his delegation, no study such as the one in question could be entirely satisfactory unless it covered the major question of foreign military alliances in the area, and not just the most visible elements of military and naval presence. In this connexion, the representative of Iran considered that if such a suggestion had been adopted, the Committee would have found itself involved in a long discussion, in an effort to define what actually constituted a foreign military alliance.

16. The representative of Pakistan considered that the factual statement would have been more useful if it had not been limited to the great Powers' military presence "conceived in the context of great Power rivalry", and hoped that in due course the Committee would be provided with a complete and unqualified picture of the great Powers' military presence in the Indian Ocean region. He also expressed the view that the increase in the great Powers' military presence in the Indian Ocean was attributable not only to the global strategy of the Powers concerned, but also to the political climate and military imbalance within the region. On the other hand, the representative of India considered that the question of the political climate and military imbalance in the region did not fall within the purview of the Ad Hoc Committee's terms of reference.

17. The representative of Indonesia expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General and the experts for the revised factual statement. At the same time, he took note of the reservations made by some delegations on certain aspects of that statement. Indonesia held that, since the Committee's main task was to prepare a report with

recommendations to the General Assembly, the report should be based on the result of consultations between the Committee Chairman and the great Powers, the revised factual statement and the Committee's own evaluation of the general situation.

18. The representative of Zambia said that the revised factual statement was a useful document, which fully justified the concern of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean about great Power rivalry in that area. He expressed the view that such rivalry did not serve the cause of détente, and he urged the great Powers to co-operate fully with the Committee in its efforts to ensure that the Indian Ocean remained a zone of peace. In that connexion, Zambia thought that the Chairman should pursue informal consultations with representatives of the great Powers that were not members of the Committee.

19. The representative of Malaysia said that the revised version was an improvement and his delegation had no serious reservations about its contents. However, Malaysia was rather perturbed over the inclusion of the phrase "in the Malaysia area" in paragraph 29 of the revised statement. The inclusion of that phrase, it felt, was not only totally incorrect but also injected an ambiguity which it considered very unfortunate. The representative of Malaysia, therefore, considered further clarification of that phrase to be necessary. At the same time, he categorically stated that there were no British forces stationed in Malaysia or in any part of the Malaysian territory.

20. Malaysia further held that, in preparing their factual statement, the panel of experts had been greatly handicapped by the lack of common terminology and definitions: it was vital for the Committee to agree upon a common terminology before proceeding to other matters. The Committee had as yet reached no understanding on the limits of the zone of peace, the States which were deemed to be the littoral and hinterland States, a definition of "foreign military bases" and a series of other related questions. When the Committee had agreed on terms and definitions, it could proceed to draw up the broad principles for the zone of peace and establish an annual action programme to promote conditions in which the proposal might be achieved. There were, broadly speaking, three groups of States interested in the Indian Ocean zone of peace: they were, in order of importance, the littoral States, the hinterland States and the other users of the Indian Ocean. Malaysia favoured consultations among the littoral States either informally or through a conference of littoral States with a view to establishing objectives and, if possible, drafting definitions. The consultations could subsequently be expanded to include the hinterland States and, at a later stage, other users of the Indian Ocean.

21. Malaysia also held that, until the Committee had clearly decided how to proceed further with its task, the sole aim of informal contacts with the great Powers should be to find out whether and in what form they were prepared to co-operate with the Committee.

22. Iran said that the revised factual statement, which fulfilled the mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 3080 (XXVIII), provided visible elements of the military and naval presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean, within the context of rivalry among them. If some dissatisfaction still remained with regard to the revised factual statement, part of the misgivings might be attributed to ambiguities in the mandate and, in particular, to divergent interpretations of the word "factual".

23. As to the question of consultations with the great Powers, Iran agreed with the suggestion that the immediate aim should be to see whether and in what way the great Powers proposed to co-operate with the Committee in accordance with resolution 3080 (XXVIII). If the presence of the representatives of those Powers in the Committee could be secured, a welcome development would ensue, as the development might gradually change the Committee from an interest group into a negotiating body. He also said that the revised statement was factual in the sense that it was devoid of any value-judgement and of analytical, conjectural and speculative material and elements.

24. The representative of China stated that, while the revised factual statement did not give a full picture of the military presence of the Soviet Union and the United States in the region, it did on the whole reflect the situation and could be taken as a basis for further examination of the matter by the Committee. It could be seen from the statement, China said, that the root cause of the absence of tranquillity in the Indian Ocean area lay in the military expansion of the Soviet Union and the United States, and the contention between them. In order to bring about the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, it was necessary to put an end to the two super-Powers' military expansion and contention for hegemony in the region, withdraw all foreign naval fleets from the area and dismantle all foreign military bases and installations there. The Committee should take effective measures to stop the super-Powers' activities and expansion in the Indian Ocean, and concrete proposals conducive to this goal should be put forward.

25. The representative of China also observed that the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace depended further on the countries in the region basing their relations on the principles of respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence, as well as on their closer unity against the big Powers' policies of hegemonism, expansionism and aggression. It ran counter to the objective of declaring the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace for any country in the region to pursue a policy of nuclear blackmail and threat and to annex a small neighbour. Such a country, China observed, would eat the bitter fruit of its own making.

26. The representative of India expressed the appreciation of his delegation to the Secretary-General and the experts for the revised factual statement, which was based on published material available to the experts and could serve as a useful basis for the Committee's discussions.

27. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania said that the revised factual statement contained the necessary corrections as far as his country was concerned. In requesting those corrections, his delegation had in no way underestimated the difficulty of producing a factual statement on such a sensitive question. The revised statement, however, did confirm the fact that the military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean - a presence which those Powers were attempting to rationalize - was increasing. The plan to enlarge the Diego Garcia base was an example of the increasing activities of the great Powers in the region. The efforts of the great Powers to impose a military hegemony in the Indian Ocean was a threat to the littoral and hinterland States and to peace in the area. The Ad Hoc Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it call upon the great Powers concerned to withdraw their forces immediately and enable peace to prevail. His delegation continued to feel that a meeting of the

littoral and hinterland States should be convened to prepare a common approach to the great Powers on the issue.

28. At the 14th meeting, on 17 September 1974, at the request of Somalia, a statement of its representative was heard by the Committee. The representative of Somalia said that the revised factual statement still contained some inaccuracies and misrepresentations. The Committee's attention was drawn to paragraph 22, which stated that the USSR deployed naval warships in the Aden-Somalia area, and to paragraph 26, which referred to the construction of a Soviet communications station near the port of Berbera, the increased use and expansion of that port's naval facilities by the USSR, and the construction of a new Soviet military airfield near Mogadiscio. The Somali Government considered those statements to be unsubstantiated and totally unfounded. It was unfortunate, the representative of Somalia stated, that the only sources of information used or quoted by the authors were official statements by a great Power, the United States of America, whose own military interests and presence in the area constituted a serious threat to peace and a source of tension and anxiety for the countries and peoples of the Indian Ocean. At a recent meeting of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held at Mogadiscio, the President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council of Somalia, commenting on the question at a press conference, had stated that foreign military bases had never existed in Somalia and would never be allowed to exist there. As the Permanent Representative of Somalia stated in a letter of 22 May 1974 to the Secretary-General (A/AC.159/4), the port of Berbera offered refueling and bunkering facilities to all ships without discrimination. Somalia, therefore, rejected the suggestion that a restricted area of Somali national territory was under the control of a foreign Power. Furthermore, it considered that the sentence which referred to the building of a new military airfield near Mogadiscio was irrelevant, since its subject-matter was not covered by the mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 3080 (XXVIII) or by the interpretation of that resolution contained in paragraph 5 of the revised factual statement.

29. Some delegations expressed concern about the Indian nuclear explosion of 18 May 1974. The representatives of Pakistan and China felt that this affected the peace and security of the whole region of the Indian Ocean. The representative of Pakistan stated that the Indian nuclear explosion had adversely affected the prospects of establishing a peace zone since it increased the risk of enhancing the great Powers' military presence and rivalry in the region. Referring to India's assertion that it had no intention to produce nuclear weapons, he asked India to give concrete and credible shape to these assurances by placing all its nuclear facilities and future nuclear explosions under international supervision and safeguards. The representative of India emphatically rejected Pakistan's view that the Indian nuclear explosion in any way affected the peace and security of the Indian Ocean region. He reaffirmed that the Indian nuclear explosion was for exclusively peaceful purposes and there was no question of placing all of India's peaceful nuclear activities under international supervision and safeguards. He pointed out that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean was not the appropriate forum for a discussion on this subject. He regretted Pakistan's attitude of introducing, for its own purposes, issues beyond the mandate of the Committee in its work.

30. One delegation expressed the view that the Indian explosion raised important questions about the use of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes and that any action which might encourage or facilitate the further proliferation of nuclear weapons was a matter of serious concern. In the view of that delegation, it was regrettable that a number of countries had not become parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In this connexion, the delegation of China reaffirmed its strong opposition to the non-proliferation treaty. In its view, the treaty served solely the interests of the two super-Powers in maintaining their nuclear monopoly and blackmail.

31. The Chairman was requested by the Committee to establish contact with the four permanent members of the Security Council which are not members of the Committee, in order to secure their co-operation with the Committee, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 3080 (XXVIII). This co-operation was to take the form of consultations between the Committee and those four permanent members of the Security Council, with a view to ascertaining their precise policy and position regarding the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. The consultations, however, did not materialize.

32. The representative of Australia said that Australia did not wish to see great Power rivalry in the form of military and naval escalation developing in the area. That objective could be realized only through concerted and co-operative action by the great Powers themselves, and Australia had accordingly made representations in Moscow and Washington urging that, in a spirit of mutual restraint, there should be a low level of military deployment in the Indian Ocean. In March 1974 approaches had been made at the ambassadorial level to the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the State Department, which had been followed up in April during a visit to the United States by the Secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs. The Secretary had raised the matter with the Soviet Ambassador to the United Nations and with senior State Department officials; he had also called on the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee. The response of both countries to these representations had not been discouraging.

33. There was a consensus in the Committee on the importance of considering the convening, as early as possible, of a conference of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean. In this connexion it was noted that the Committee had not yet reached an agreed understanding on which countries were deemed to be littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean. The view was also expressed that the participation, in such a conference, of (a) the permanent members of the Security Council and (b) other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, would be desirable.

34. The Committee considers it desirable, for the purpose of continuing its work, to give priority attention in 1975 to the definition of the following terms: (a) "limits of the Indian Ocean, in the context of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean, as a zone of peace"; (b) "littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean"; and (c) "foreign military bases". One member expressed the view that if specific reference was to be made to these terms, the term "foreign military alliances" should also be defined as it was relevant to the Committee's mandate. Another delegation differed from this view. Some other members held that, without indicating at this stage the terms to be defined, the Committee should undertake in 1975 the definition of all the basic concepts and terms relevant to the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

35. The Ad Hoc Committee submits the following recommendations:

(1) The Ad Hoc Committee should continue and intensify its efforts in accordance with its mandate, as stated in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 2992 (XXVII).

(2) The Ad Hoc Committee should proceed with its consultations with the four permanent members of the Security Council which are not members of the Ad Hoc Committee, as envisaged in paragraph 31 of this report.

(3) The Ad Hoc Committee should give priority attention in 1975 to the definition of terms, as indicated in paragraph 34 of this report.

(4) Consideration should be given for the convening, as early as possible, of a conference of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, as envisaged in paragraph 33 of this report.

ANNEX

Statement submitted pursuant to paragraphs 6 and 7 of
General Assembly resolution 3080 (XXVIII)*

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

By General Assembly resolution 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, the Secretary-General was requested to prepare, with the assistance of qualified consultant experts, a factual statement of the great Powers' military presence in the Indian Ocean.

The experts appointed were: Dr. Frank Barnaby, Director, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); Admiral Shams Safavi (Ret.), Imperial Iranian Navy; and Mr. K. Subrahmanyam, Director, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi.

The experts met at United Nations Headquarters from 23 to 25 January and from 8 to 12 April 1974 and, at the conclusion of their work, they submitted their agreed statement on 12 April 1974, which appeared as document A/AC.159/1 dated 3 May 1974.

After careful consideration of the need to clarify the basis of certain parts of the statement, the Secretary-General made arrangements for the statement to be reviewed by the experts. The Secretary-General requested Mr. William Epstein to participate, as Special Consultant, in the review. The review took place in London during the week of 27 to 31 May 1974 and in Geneva during the week of 1 to 5 July 1974.

The experts unanimously agreed upon the revised statement, contained in the present document (A/AC.159/1/Rev.1), which replaces the previous text (A/AC.159/1) in its entirety.

* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.159/1/Rev.1.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

5 July 1974

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

At your request we have completed a review of the factual statement submitted to you on 12 April 1974. In preparing the earlier version it was our understanding from the proceedings of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, that a comprehensive statement was required, based on our best assessment of the available data in open sources, and that we would take sole responsibility for this assessment. However, subsequent developments and the nature of your request have now clarified that a factual statement by the Secretary-General, in which all our references are specified, is required. The revised statement reflects these criteria. We have also taken into account the official statements made after the circulation of our earlier text.

The structure of our first version was based on our interpretation that the term "great Power rivalry" referred, in the first place, to the Soviet Union and the United States. In this statement, we have followed the traditional United Nations practice of dealing, alphabetically, with the five permanent members of the Security Council.

In conducting the review we were joined by William Epstein as Special Consultant. Our meetings took place in London during the week of 27-31 May 1974, and in Geneva during the week of 1-5 July 1974.

We have the honour to submit herewith, for your consideration, the text of our unanimously agreed revised statement, which replaces the previous text.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Frank BARNABY

Shams SAFAVI

K. SUBRAHMANYAM

His Excellency
Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General of the
United Nations
New York

INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted on 16 December 1971 resolution 2832 (XXVI), by which it declared that the Indian Ocean was designated for all time as a zone of peace. In doing so, the Assembly inter alia called upon the great Powers to enter into immediate consultations with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to: (a) halting the further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean; and (b) eliminating from the Indian Ocean all bases, military installations and logistical supply facilities, the disposition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and any manifestation of great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean conceived in the context of great Power rivalry.
2. By resolution 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the General Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean to study the implications of the Declaration.
3. By resolution 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a "factual statement of the great Powers' military presence in all its aspects, in the Indian Ocean, with special reference to their naval deployments, conceived in the context of great Power rivalry".
4. In the absence of any guidance as to the meaning of the expression "great Powers" we have, for the purposes of this statement, taken it to refer to the permanent members of the Security Council, which are dealt with in alphabetical order.
5. For the purposes of this statement, in addition to the geographical area of the Indian Ocean, we have taken into account those portions of the territory of littoral States which, because of the facilities they provide, are relevant to the mandate contained in the General Assembly resolution.
6. Resolution 3080 (XXVIII) also recommended that the statement "should be based on available material". We have accordingly used information contained in official reports and documents that were available, or in reputable publications and press.
7. It should also be noted that resolution 3080 (XXVIII) does not deal with the question of military alliances. In this statement, therefore, we deal primarily with those factors, such as the deployment of warships, the existence of military installations and naval bases etc., which constitute the most visible elements of a military and naval presence.
8. The visible elements of a military and naval presence in the Indian Ocean, for the purposes of this statement, are:
 - (a) The deployment of naval ships - both surface and submarine;
 - (b) The maintenance of naval and military establishments in the area;
 - (c) The military use of communications facilities; the use of military staging facilities; and the military use of air fields.
 - (d) The naval use of mooring buoys in the Ocean;

(e) The use of harbours and ports of littoral States for naval purposes, the use of naval fuelling facilities, the general use of bases and other military facilities etc.

CHINA

9. China has no bases in the Indian Ocean nor does it deploy any of its naval units there.

FRANCE

French naval deployments

10. According to information furnished by the Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff to the Senate Armed Services Committee on 12 March 1974, the deployment of French combatant naval vessels, excluding auxiliary and service ships, in the Indian Ocean area for the years 1968 to 1973 was as follows:

1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
3	4	5	6	8	7

11. According to Le Monde of 7 June 1973, following the agreement of 4 June 1973 whereby France agreed to withdraw its forces from Madagascar (see paragraph 13 below), the French Navy created a new naval command for the Indian Ocean operating from a fleet tanker converted into a command ship (La Charente). According to the Canberra Times of 20 March 1974, this ship has a flight deck for helicopters and short take-off and landing aircraft, sophisticated armaments and a high-powered communications system. According to Le Monde of 11 February, 7 March and 26 April 1974, in addition to La Charente the French Navy has three frigates as part of the naval command, and three coastal patrol vessels and some assault landing craft are based at Djibouti in the Territory of the Afars and the Issas which, together with a squadron of aircraft for long-range anti-submarine warfare, patrol the adjoining areas of the Indian Ocean; a coastal patrol vessel and a number of assault landing craft are also based at Diego Suarez. The naval units, landing craft and aircraft of the naval command are linked by radio relay station on Reunion.

French naval and military facilities

12. France has base and other military facilities at Djibouti in the Territory of the Afars and the Issas. According to The Military Balance 1973-1974 published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, the strength of the French garrison in 1973 was two battalions. According to The Statesman's Yearbook 1973-1974, there are in addition elements of the Navy and Air Force.

13. Under a 1960 defence agreement, France had the right to maintain base and other military facilities in Madagascar. A French-Malagasy agreement of 4 June 1973 provided for the withdrawal of French ground and air forces from Madagascar by 1 September 1973. As regards Diego Suarez, the agreement stipulated

that the base would pass under the control of Madagascar on 1 September 1973, but French military and civilian personnel would remain for a period of two years, during which time Malagasy units would be trained to run the installations. It was also specified that France was to have landing and harbouring rights for refuelling and repairing aircraft and ships, renewable every year by tacit agreement.

14. According to information provided by the Permanent Mission of Madagascar to the United Nations, on 1 September 1973 the following operations for the evacuation of French armed forces from Madagascar were completed:

- (a) The General Staffs and the military and ancillary services formerly based at Tananarive;
- (b) The third regiment of infantry parachutists at Diego Suarez;
- (c) The second regiment of marine infantry parachutists;
- (d) Air base 181 at Ivato (near Tananarive).

15. The Permanent Mission of Madagascar also indicated that the base at Diego Suarez, which is now under Malagasy sovereignty, will be transformed into a naval dockyard.

16. According to Keesing's Contemporary Archives (26011A), following the agreement to withdraw its forces from the Malagasy Republic, the French Government decided to establish the island of Réunion as the headquarters of French forces in the southern Indian Ocean, and also to reduce these forces from 4,000 to 3,000 men.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Soviet naval deployments

17. In a letter dated 18 June 1974 from the Permanent Representative of the USSR to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/AC.159/9) it is stated:

"The Soviet Union has never had, has not established and is not now establishing any military or naval bases in the Indian Ocean region. Soviet ships and vessels have never posed a threat to anyone in that region. In accordance with the existing rules of international law and with universally recognized international practice, they are engaged in training cruises and in the search for and recovery of Soviet space craft that splash down in the Indian Ocean. It must also be borne in mind that transit routes from the European part of the USSR to the Soviet Far East pass through the Indian Ocean and that accordingly, in order to ensure the safe passage of ships and vessels, the Soviet Union is conducting scientific investigations in the region."

The letter added that "normal duty calls by naval ships at various ports for the purpose of replenishing their supplies" should not be "tendentiously depicted ... as the establishment of Soviet bases in the Indian Ocean region". This is the only official information from Soviet sources. The information in the following part of this section is based on official United States and other sources.

18. There is no official evidence of the deployment of Soviet nuclear ballistic missile-firing submarines in the Indian Ocean.

19. According to the report from the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Indian Ocean Region of the Parliament of Australia, 1972, a Soviet nuclear-powered submarine (E-II class) was present in the Indian Ocean in April-May 1970.

20. According to the Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a statement on 12 March 1974 to the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Soviet naval forces in the Indian Ocean at present operate from Vladivostok.

21. According to the same source (in statements to the House Committee on Appropriations on 28 February 1974 and to the Senate Committee on Armed Services on 12 March 1974), before 1968 there was no regular Soviet naval presence in the Indian Ocean, but in recent years the Soviet Union has enhanced its presence there. The Soviet Union at present operates about nine combatants/submarines and a number of auxiliaries. Usually, it maintains a cruiser type, two or three destroyer types, four minesweepers and one or two submarines, and usually brings tenders for repair and bunkering in the area.

22. Ships are relieved at about six-monthly intervals. The deployment in the winter months (November to April) is higher (i.e. it includes a cruiser) than that of the rest of the year and the ships are usually deployed in the western part of the Ocean, in the Aden-Somalia area. (Geoffrey Jukes, Australian, 26 February 1974.)

23. This deployment pattern was changed twice. When the Bangladesh war started in 1971 there were four Soviet warships in the Indian Ocean (a destroyer, a submarine, a minesweeper and a tank landing ship). (McConnell, J. and Kelly, A. M. Super-Power Naval Diplomacy in the Indo-Pakistani Crisis, Center of Naval Analysis, Washington, February 1973.) According to a bulletin of the United States Information Service (Canberra, March 1974), this force was strengthened, and for a brief period in early 1972 there were 20 combatants (13 surface vessels and 7 submarines) present in the Ocean. According to the statement of the Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff to a Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations on 28 February 1974, extra Soviet ships were sent into the Ocean after the United States Navy had dispatched a task force there, headed by the aircraft carrier Enterprise. After the American ships had left the Indian Ocean the extra Soviet warships also left. (McConnell, J. and Kelly, A. M., op. cit.)

24. The second occasion when a larger number of Soviet ships was sent into the Ocean was in October 1973 during the Middle East crisis. The Soviet Navy then dispatched additional warships to increase its squadron in the Indian Ocean to 10 surface combatants and 4 submarines (Geoffrey Jukes, Australian, 26 February 1974).

25. A method for comparing the naval presence of the external Powers in the Indian Ocean is by calculating the number of ship-days a/ spent there by the naval vessels

a/ Ship-days comparison must, however, be treated with caution since they ignore the actual nature of the ships present and their combat capabilities. Another method for comparing naval presence is by calculating the number of port calls by naval vessels. However, official information in this regard is either not available or conflicting.

of the Towers. Considering only combatant ships and excluding auxiliary and support ships and mine-clearing operations in Bangladesh, the number of ship-days accumulated by the Soviet Navy was stated by the Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff on 12 March 1974 to the Senate Armed Services Committee to be as follows:

1960 through 1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Nil	529	1,138	1,670	1,480	2,387	2,487

Soviet naval and military facilities

26. On 20 March 1974, the United States Chief of Naval Operations stated to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives:

"They (the USSR) have built a communications station near the Somali port of Berbera to provide support for their fleet. At the same time they have increased their use of, and are expanding naval facilities at Berbera, which currently include a restricted area under Soviet control, a combined barracks and repair ship and housing for Soviet military dependents. In addition, they engaged in building a new military airfield near Mogadiscio, which could be used for a variety of missions."

The Government of Somalia stated on 22 May 1974 that "there are no foreign military bases on the territory of the Somali Democratic Republic and that the statements alleging the establishment of a foreign communications centre or naval and air bases are totally unfounded" (A/AC.159/4).

27. The following facilities have also been reported by the United States Chief of Naval Operations, in the same statement, to be available to the Soviet Union in the Indian Ocean area:

- (a) Fleet anchorages in several locations near the island of Socotra, and near the Chagos Archipelago;
- (b) Permanent mooring buoys at several sites in the Ocean; b/
- (c) Access by Soviet naval vessels to the naval port of Umm Qasr, Iraq, "where facilities are being built with the assistance of Soviet technicians";

b/ These buoys are off Mauritius, the Seychelles, the Chagos Archipelago and the east coast of Africa (Study prepared by the Congressional Research Service of the United States Library of Congress for a Subcommittee of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, 12 May 1974).

(d) The "use of port facilities at the former British base at Aden, and air facilities at the former Royal Air Force field nearby. They /the Soviet Union/ maintain personnel ashore in both locations". According to The Statesman (New Delhi) of 14 March 1974, Democratic Yemen has denied offering military facilities to the Soviet Union.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

British naval deployments

28. According to the United Kingdom Statement on Defence Estimates, 1972 (Cmd. 4891), the British Navy has a force of six frigates or destroyers stationed east of Suez, including Hong Kong, as part of its contribution to the ANZUK force, visiting the Persian Gulf area and providing a presence in the Indian Ocean. Other naval vessels also visit the area occasionally.

29. According to the report from the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Indian Ocean Region of the Parliament of Australia, 1972, the British contribution to ANZUK, stationed in the Malaysia area, includes a battalion group with an air platoon and an artillery battery, long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft, a number of helicopters and visits by combat units of all three services.

30. According to information by the Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff to the Senate Armed Services Committee on 12 March 1974, the deployment of British combatant naval vessels, excluding auxiliary and service ships, in the Indian Ocean and Far East areas (area breakdown not available) for the years 1968 to 1973, was as follows:

1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
43	33	19	18	12	10

British naval and military facilities

31. The United Kingdom has retained a number of staging posts in the Indian Ocean for the maintenance of communications between Britain and the Far East, as indicated below.

32. The British island of Diego Garcia (see paragraphs 49 and 50 below) is an uninhabited coral atoll 13 miles long and up to 4 miles wide situated almost at the centre of the Indian Ocean. As documented in many reference publications, the island of Diego Garcia, in the Chagos Archipelago, was originally administered as part of Mauritius. When Mauritius was granted independence, Diego Garcia and two other atolls in the Archipelago were bought by the British Government from Mauritius. They are part of "the British Indian Ocean Territory" (BIOT), which includes the islands of Aldabra, Farquhar, Desroches (detached from the Seychelles Group) and the Chagos Archipelago. A 1966 agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States made the islands comprising the BIOT available to both countries for military purposes for a period of 50 years (Cmd. 3231, April 1967). Agreements between the United States and the United Kingdom, signed

in 1966 and 1970, permitted the United States to build a naval communications station on Diego Garcia for joint use. (United States State Department Press Release, 15 December 1970.)

33. Under an agreement signed on 26 July 1965 (Cmnd. 2749, August 1965), the Government of the Maldives agreed to provide certain defence facilities to the United Kingdom up to 15 December 1986. The United Kingdom has an airfield on Gan Island and a radio communications station on Hithadoo Island, and has "unrestricted access by sea and air to the Agreed Areas" and adjacent territorial waters. The military facilities on the Maldives also include a lagoon in the Addu Atoll with a natural harbour, and the right to maintain armed forces within the Agreed Areas.

34. Under an agreement signed with the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman on 25 July 1958 (United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 312, p. 347), the United Kingdom's existing arrangements were extended for the use by the Royal Air Force of the airfields at Salalah and the island of Masirah.

35. A six-year mutual defence pact signed in March 1968 (Cmnd. 3629, May 1968), and terminable on one year's notice by either party after that time, between the United Kingdom and Mauritius provides for the continuation of existing British facilities on the island, including the use of the airfields for military aircraft, ports and harbours and the naval communications facility. (Statement on the Defence Estimates 1971, Cmnd. 4592.)

36. The United Kingdom has established a military communications system, called Skynet, between the United Kingdom and the Far East. Skynet, which operates in conjunction with the United States satellite network, consists of nine earth stations and two relay space craft. The Royal Air Force is in operational control of the project from its master control centre in England. In addition to the control base there are eight earth stations - four fixed stations at Singapore, Gan, Bahrain and Cyprus; two on board British naval ships; and two smaller air transportable stations operated by the British Navy and the headquarters station in southern England. The relay space craft, placed in stationary orbit 23,000 miles above the equator over the Indian Ocean, provides long-distance defence communications. (Statement on the Defence Estimates 1969, Cmnd. 3927, 1971, Cmnd. 4592; Burman, R. "Rivalry in the Indian Ocean", Vikrant, February 1974.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

United States naval deployments

37. According to several statements by United States officials to Congressional Committees, apart from MIDEASTFOR (see paragraph 39 below), United States naval forces in the Indian Ocean, which are part of the Seventh (Pacific) Fleet, operate from the Subic Bay base in the Philippines.

38. There is no official information concerning the deployment of United States nuclear ballistic missile firing submarines in the Indian Ocean. According to a joint statement issued by the Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for

Defence and the United States Secretary of Defense on 10 January 1974 regarding the United States naval communications station at North West Cape: "... the Ministers noted that one important function of the station was to serve as a key element in a complex system of communications supporting the global balance. They noted the importance of effective and reliable deterrence for the promotion of stable relations among the major Powers ..." (see also paragraph 47 below).

39. According to several statements by United States officials to Congressional Committees, the United States Navy has since 1950 stationed its Mid-east Force (MIDEASTFOR) under the command of a United States Admiral at Bahrain in the Persian Gulf (see paragraph 52 below). This force consists of:

(a) 2 destroyers or destroyer escorts;

(b) 1 amphibious ship (La Salle), converted to the flagship of the United States Middle East Force.

The flagship is stationed in Bahrain and the destroyer or destroyer escorts are on rotational assignments from other naval units of the Atlantic fleet.

40. According to the statement of the Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff to the Senate Armed Services Committee on 12 March 1974, apart from Bahrain the United States Navy has no free access to any port in the Indian Ocean and must make arrangements on a case-by-case basis.

41. According to a study prepared by the Library of Congress for a Subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the United States House of Representatives, dated 12 May 1974, United States naval warships have been conducting periodic patrols in the Eastern Indian Ocean. For example, a brief ASW exercise was conducted in April 1971 by the aircraft carrier Ticonderoga with five escorts, from the Seventh (Pacific) Fleet. In September 1971, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Enterprise, accompanied by the nuclear-powered frigate Bainbridge, conducted a short visit.

42. According to the same source, in December 1971, at the time of the Indo-Pakistani war, the aircraft carrier Enterprise headed a task force including an amphibious assault ship, Tripoli, with a battalion landing team, seven destroyers and an oiler, which entered the Bay of Bengal and was deployed in the Indian Ocean until January 1972.

43. On 1 January 1972 the operational area of the United States Seventh (Pacific) Fleet was extended into the Indian Ocean (The New York Times, 22 March 1972). According to various reports in the United States press, in March 1973 the United States aircraft carrier America was in that Ocean. Between October 1973 and December 1973, an Essex-class aircraft carrier, the Hancock, accompanied by four destroyers and an oiler, was deployed and between December 1973 and January 1974 the United States Navy deployed another aircraft carrier, the Oriskany, with four destroyers and an oiler, in the Indian Ocean. Simultaneously, the United States nuclear-powered frigate Bainbridge was also sent into the Ocean. In March 1974 the more modern and larger aircraft carrier, Kitty Hawk, was sent in along with four destroyers and some supply ships; the Bainbridge was then withdrawn.

44. United States Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger stated the following at a press conference on 22 April 1974:

"The Kitty Hawk is just moving out of the Indian Ocean, and it will not immediately be replaced. So for a period of time at least, there will be no American naval forces in the Indian Ocean (other than the Middle East Task Force), but we reiterate that the present plans call for occasional movement of such forces into the Indian Ocean on an intermittent basis."

45. According to the International Herald Tribune of 3 July 1974, the United States guided missile cruiser, Chicago, two destroyers and an oiler entered the Indian Ocean through the Straits of Malacca on 30 June 1974.

46. According to a statement of the Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff on 12 March 1974 to the Senate Armed Services Committee, the number of ship-days (see paragraph 25 above) accumulated annually by United States naval surface combat ships, excluding auxiliary and support ships, was as follows:

1960-1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
800 (approximately per year)	872	858	990	1,410

United States naval and military facilities

47. According to the Washington Post of 11 January 1974, the United States communication station at North West Cape, which was commissioned in April 1967 pursuant to an agreement signed between the United States and Australia in 1963, is capable of very low-frequency communication with submerged submarines. It is part of the United States world-wide communications system which includes stations at Honolulu, Guam, the Philippines, Diego Garcia and Asmara. On 9 January 1974 the United States and Australia entered into a new agreement for sharing control of the North West Cape station (see paragraph 38 above).

48. There has been a United States military communication station (the Kagnev Station) close to Asmara, Ethiopia, in use since 1942, when it was operated jointly with the United Kingdom. The base, now a relay and satellite tracking station, is also used for monitoring purposes (hearings before the Subcommittee on Security Agreements and Commitments Abroad of the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 1970).

49. The United States, pursuant to agreements with the United Kingdom (see paragraph 32 above), has built a naval communications station on the Island of Diego Garcia. A recent new agreement, announced in the British House of Commons on 5 February 1974, provided that the United States would establish support installations on the island for warships and aircraft. The United States Government has requested a supplemental appropriation of \$29 million for the planned facilities on the island.

50. According to numerous statements by United States officials to Congressional Committees, Diego Garcia has a good harbour and a site for a major airfield. The United States Navy is undertaking dredging of the harbour to create a turning

basin that will be 2,000 by 6,000 feet and able to accommodate submarines and aircraft carriers. The United States has constructed an 8,000-foot long coral runway on the island and United States C-130 and C-141 transport aircraft have been using the airstrip. At present there is a contingent of between 200 and 300 American servicemen at the base. The United States has announced plans to increase this contingent to between 500 and 600 men; to lengthen the airfield runway from 8,000 to 12,000 feet, which will make it available for use by KC-135 refuelling aircraft, but not B-52 bombers (statement of Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff to Senate Armed Services Committee on 12 March 1974); to build more fuel storage tanks; to expand the airfield parking area; to improve existing quarters (to accommodate 609 persons) and to deepen the lagoon so that it will be able to handle more ships than the current two or three. The United Kingdom will have equal access to the facilities of the base for its own ships and aircraft.

51. On 1 May 1974 the Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs stated in the British House of Commons: "The United States proposal to expand its facilities at Diego Garcia is still being considered. The question is relevant to the general background of the review of defence commitments and capabilities which has already been announced. This review will take full account of the needs for security and stability in the area. The views of Commonwealth and other interested countries will also be carefully considered".

52. According to statements made in hearings before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the United States House of Representatives on 12 March 1974, the United States, on 23 December 1971, signed an agreement with Bahrain to use the former British naval base there as a base for the American Middle East Force following the evacuation of the British forces from the Persian Gulf. Prior to this, the United States shared British facilities available at Bahrain (see paragraph 39 above). The American contingent at the base was increased in 1972 from about 200 to 260. The base is also used as a communications centre. In October 1973 Bahrain proposed to the United States the termination of the base rights in one year. The future status of the base is unclear.

53. The United States has tracking facilities at Mahe in the Seychelles (press conference of Prime Minister James Mancham of the Seychelles on his visit to the United Nations in May 1974).

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President: Mr. Rüdiger von WECHMAR
(Federal Republic of Germany)

Address by Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam,
Prime Minister of Mauritius

1. The PRESIDENT: This morning the Assembly will hear a statement by His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Internal Security and Minister of Reform Institutions of Mauritius. I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and inviting him to address the General Assembly.
2. Sir Seewoosagur RAMGOOLAM (Mauritius): First, permit me, Sir, to congratulate you most heartily on your assumption of the presidency of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.
3. The founding fathers of the United Nations reserved the presidency of the Assembly for Powers other than the big Powers, yet the Federal Republic of Germany, which is really a big Power, is using its strength and its power in the ways of peace, freedom and development. The remarkable victory for moderation in the elections of the Federal Republic of Germany is a pointer to the stable economic and social policy pursued by your Government. In fact it is in parallel with your personal initiative, in the short time you have served, of keeping your office open to contending States which seek peaceful negotiations through the channel provided by statesmanship, diplomatic skill and personal ability, which are your outstanding and recognized qualities.
4. I should also like your distinguished predecessor, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, to know how greatly his contribution to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly and the recently concluded eleventh special session is appreciated.
5. I should also like to pay a tribute on behalf of my country to the Secretary-General, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, who

in a difficult year of great turmoil, has maintained an almost unprecedented and sustained initiative in the art of peaceful negotiation and preventive diplomacy in a world caught up in a whirlwind of confusion, transition, violence, revolution and war. History will certainly record this one-man Herculean effort in the search for peace.

6. It is also with great joy that my country and my people greet the admission of Zimbabwe which joins the already impressive list of African States. Zimbabwe has rightly been hailed by all of us as a great achievement in the entire range of African liberation, having attained its freedom by a rare combination of armed struggle and outstanding leadership.
7. Above all, the triumph of the people of Zimbabwe has strongly asserted an indomitable will to liberation which will now move on to the complete liberation of the entire African continent. We in Mauritius can confidently state from this rostrum that it cannot and will not be otherwise. Those who are haggling over Namibia are wasting their time and losing a rare opportunity to cultivate the multiracial friendship of Africa.
8. We also warmly greet the admission to United Nations membership of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which, like Vanuatu, although situated in another sea far from us, is a sister State in the growing community of island nations.
9. With the admission of Zimbabwe and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the United Nations membership has attained the amazing figure of 154. This is a triumph of near-universality, which was the supreme goal of the United Nations from the very first days of its founding at San Francisco. The numerical goal we have reached is truly an astonishing figure when we recall that in 1945 the Organization was founded by only 51 nations—about the same as the membership of the League of Nations.
10. On this twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [*resolution 1514 (XV)*], we may recall how great empires have given place to new nations, thus enabling us to attain the supreme goal of total membership.
11. What was the objective of the historic achievement of universality of membership? Was it not the general assumption that the greater the membership, the greater would be the authority of the world Organization? Was there not the conviction that an Organization and a Charter deriving power from hundreds of millions of people liberated from the bonds of tutelage would serve to bring us much nearer to a more secure world? Was there not the unrefuted axiom that a joint effort of the totality of nations would facilitate an earlier achievement of world peace?

12. Surely those were the hopes, reflecting the deep convictions held by all, for an Organization that enjoyed recruitment from the world's total family of nations. All believed, and still believe, that our numerical strength must make for a stronger United Nations, more firmly secured by the prestige that comes from maximum possible support in the fulfilment of its high mission of dealing with conflicts and establishing a world order based on peace, security, justice, and human rights, including the right of all nations to development. In such a pyramid of nations and peoples we envisaged a world, nurtured for centuries amid interminable conflicts and endless wars, at long last approaching an era of concord, harmony and peace, all built in a spirit of unanimity.

13. We must admit that the unanimity is there; but, ironically, what a terrible and terrifying unanimity. All are agreed—East and West, North and South, big nations and small—that the past year has witnessed a world of violence, fragmentation, conflict and war. The number of refugees in flight from death and destruction threatens to exceed the number of those who fled before invading armies in the Second World War. The small beginning of a painfully achieved détente and coexistence collapsed seemingly overnight, and the big Powers, blind to the future, returned to the past with their cold war, plunging into an arms race that exceeded the furious rearming that attended the first cold war. The so-called deterrent of nuclear balance seemingly vanished with the accretion of new and more destructive weapons so sophisticated and complex as to cast doubt on the ability of Governments to control their policies. Leading scientists today bluntly predict that the forces of nuclear war may now be running beyond the control of men and Governments. The most powerful economies of the mighty industrial Powers are sliding into recession and inflation while the smaller economies are staggering under back-breaking deficits, with some on the verge of national bankruptcy.

14. To their sinking economies Governments are adding the greater and heavier load of some \$US 500 billion annually for more and more deadly armaments, while not less than 500 million people are estimated to be living in a state of malnutrition, starvation or famine.

15. Finally, in this climate of strife, came the Middle East war, with all the danger any war in the Middle East may entail.

16. If all this sounds harsh and abrasive, permit me to note that these are not my personal observations. Mauritius is not the first or the second speaker in the general debate; I only repeat and reaffirm what almost all those who preceded me have said and repeated with shuddering unanimity. The only addition I shall make is a comment on the supreme irony that this holocaust of the world peace effort has come on the thirty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, in the year when its new high membership of 154 brings it close to universality, the 35-year-old dream and aspiration of the Organization.

17. What conclusions may we draw from this analysis and diagnosis of the world situation? Are we to conclude that the United Nations has failed to fulfil its commitment to the

peoples of the world? That, I hasten to say, would not be true to the facts or to the Organization's achievements.

18. The conclusion we would draw is just the opposite: that in today's world peoples and their Governments must turn more and more to the only Organization dedicated to the attainment of a new world order. We must shun the common fallacy of the confusion of cause and effect that besets post-war history. It is not the United Nations that is the cause of the world malady but those which, exploiting its weaknesses and even responsible for its inadequacy, have littered the international scene with their warped national interests, their foreign policy drift and their mad drive for control and domination, utilizing in this drive for power political intrigues and pressure alliances without regard for the needs of the international community, and demonstrating what the Secretary-General in his brilliant annual report called a preoccupation with short-term interests at the expense of long-term aspirations.

19. When the storms become more furious those manning the ship must apply themselves to making the ship stronger, to riding out the waves and the winds and bringing their cargo safely to port, and certainly to preventing the catastrophe of sinking.

20. So must it be with the United Nations ship of state. It must be admitted that, while not the cause of the unhappy world situation, the United Nations has not been sailing through the problems of the world with foolproof navigation.

21. In a world of accelerating change the United Nations has been prone to procrastinate and mark time. In this sense, the familiar cliché that the United Nations is only a mirror reflection of the world is far from the truth. According to that stale imagery, contemporary society would not have moved an inch from the 1,000-year-long feudalism of Europe. When there has been a call to make peace, the United Nations has too often responded with a peace-making truce that has soon become a permanent substitute for peace. I might say that any truce more than one year old is merely a deferred war, or at best a festering foreign element in the world body.

22. The fiasco of disarmament was such a case. Just as the protracted truce was only a deferred war, so the so-called phased disarmament ended in the biggest arms race in modern history. While the United Nations was phasing, the scientists were churning out their new weapons at top speed, until today the per capita potential for killing is astronomically incalculable.

23. In the long years of disarmament negotiations, the great majority in the Assembly, the smaller and poorer nations, loudly berated for their allegedly unrealistic resolutions, have in reality only added to the arms race by voting for partial measures in the hope that, by preceeding at the dragging pace of the great military Powers, they could somehow achieve some kind of an eventual breakthrough. And so the hope of general and complete disarmament was sacrificed to the idols of puny and adulterated measures.

24. Failure in the field of disarmament must go down as perhaps the greatest of the United Nations failures. The race

for maximum armament as the means of national security is now being seen by leading military scientists as a boomerang resulting in greater insecurity than any that has ever befallen nations. And the glib argument that a super-strong military establishment is the only deterrent to a potential adversary has now reached a point at which the unlimited arms race and the rivalry for more and more deadly arms is generating a fear that is itself liable to cause rather than prevent war.

25. Similarly, in the economic struggle, economic action programmes sacrificed action to weakening compromises by surrendering to soft words until nations were bled white of action. This reached the climax of naive trust in the folly of the near-collapse of the eleventh special session, devoted to economic matters. Even if the old adage is true, that half a loaf is better than no bread, at that dismal session the developing nations were not given even the proverbial half.

26. So, just as the peace-keeping truce became the enemy of peace, and phased disarmament the spur to the arms race, so trusting compromises ended, as we are now told, in a world economic crisis.

27. It is said that the peoples of the world are disappointed in the United Nations, but no one has yet heard any people say they would therefore dispense with this formidable experiment in the achievement of an organized world peace. What people do not want and will not respect is a weak United Nations suffering from muscular dystrophy.

28. The development of the dramatic United Nations attempt to halt the Iraq-Iran war or even to issue a prompt cease-fire in an area where the sparks of that war could easily ignite other conflagrations is a signal to all of us that the Security Council may also have become a victim of this dystrophy. The complaints rise to a *crescendo* year by year that the Council is no longer the reliable custodian of peace and security—a responsibility assigned to it by the Charter. Its failure to act promptly or effectively, tolerating the bypassing of its resolutions and of the enforcement of its own decisions, and dubious use of the veto power have reduced the prestige of the Council to a sad point, as in the current situation, where the contending parties avoid the Council altogether. The tendency now is for regional, sub-regional and other groups to resolve their own differences.

29. These are commendable initiatives, but must necessarily fall short of the challenge when it takes on world proportions. They cannot stop a world war and it is doubtful whether they can effectively undertake the making of world peace. It is every year more obvious, and perhaps inevitable, that there should be a serious review of the Security Council; a study should be undertaken as to how it can be strengthened with a view to becoming an organ that commands the confidence of the nations and peoples of the world. Here my country agrees with the suggestions of President Senghor and of President Shagari that the Council be enlarged to make it more representative.

30. At the same time, there might be a similar review of the General Assembly with a view to strengthening its effectiveness, authority and moral leadership in the world.

31. There are nations in the world that pride themselves on the practice of self-criticism. For a nation this may be suffi-

cient. For the United Nations, which bears a greater responsibility even into the distant future, this cannot be enough: the United Nations does not want for criticism. For the United Nations to command the prestige necessary for the fulfilment of the aims of the Charter, self-criticism must be followed by self-correction. Given the stormy climate of the world today, the impatience of peoples with unresolved problems and the expression of their frustrations by resort to violence, rebellion, armed action, revolutions and civil wars, it is obvious that we have little time to lose. The gap between analysis and action must be narrowed. I respectfully submit that this process of self-correction, painful but creative, must begin at the current session.

32. In the international power relations, we must encourage restoration of the concept of *détente*. In this area, my Government is pleased with statements by leading countries in Western Europe that they are determined to return to *détente* rather than to cold war and the bitter power struggle.

33. Some, discouraged by such developments as those in Kampuchea and Afghanistan, would abandon other peace efforts as futile and dangerous. *Détente*, like all peace efforts, will encounter difficulties and even setbacks, but peace efforts should not be lightly thrown away at the first negative encounter. The peacemakers should not be discouraged. We now know that to abandon *détente* or any other peace effort means an interminable arms race that must, from the lessons of history, almost certainly lead to war.

34. I have already said enough to make it clear that a new approach is desperately needed to halt the arms race, which tends to involve us all in threats of war and economic crisis. It is our view that the General Assembly must develop a new approach to disarmament negotiations. Delegations and Governments must be less generous in underwriting half-hearted resolutions contrived by the great military Powers and military alliances. Non-military Powers must assume a greater responsibility for the arms race and match their responsibility with boldness in taking the initiative by strong and comprehensive draft resolutions, regardless of whether this suits the convenience of the armed giants, whose caution, while understandable, is no longer acceptable when warfare now kills more people by hunger than it does by bullets.

35. This Assembly must put the derailed special session on economic questions back on its track. In this connection, Mauritius, a member of the Group of 77, considers the resumption of negotiations in the Second Committee a major challenge to this Assembly. We are happy to hear that some of the Western Powers that failed in the efforts to achieve success are ready to resume consideration, we hope in a more promising manner, of the issue of global negotiations.

36. Positive results in these two not unrelated areas would go a long way towards restoring the self-confidence of the United Nations and rehabilitating the confidence of the peoples in the world Organization.

37. There are other areas for fruitful achievements but, in the interest of saving time, I shall refer only to the question

of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. In this area, as in other similar attempts to establish zones of peace, developments have been slow, completely out of step with the galloping course of world events. The General Assembly has a report from the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean [A/35/29] bringing up to date developments since the issue was first raised in 1971.

38. But let us see what has happened in the intervening years. Strategically, the Indian Ocean has completely changed its geopolitical dimensions. Reading the statements of some speakers in the general debate, we find that this Ocean has gradually expanded beyond its own waters: it is now linked to the States of South-East Asia and, by developments in Western Asia, to the most vital features of the Middle East. Naval ships are now mobilizing in its expanded waters and mighty air armadas are filling its skies in the accelerated strategy of acquiring military bases on the Horn and on the Saudi Arabian peninsula, surrounding the vital area of the Persian Gulf.

39. Given that situation, where are the optimists who would now seriously bank on the conversion of the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace? Ironically, time is gradually converting this intended zone of peace into a zone of war and mobilization for war, and is one more illustration of the point we have made that procrastination, long-drawn-out procedures, delay and deferment have served to erode the major peace efforts listed on the long and ponderous United Nations agenda, while world developments outrun and out-space our efforts.

40. Here it is necessary for me to emphasize that Mauritius, being in the middle of the Indian Ocean, has already— at the seventeenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity [OAU], held at Freetown from 1 to 4 July this year—reaffirmed its claim to Diego Garcia [A/34/463, *annex II, AHG/Res. 96 (XVII)*] and the Prime Minister of Great Britain in a parliamentary statement has made it known that that island will revert to Mauritius when it is no longer required for the global defence of the West. Our sovereignty having been thus accepted, we should go further than that, and disband the British Indian Ocean Territory and allow Mauritius to come into its natural heritage as before its independence. The United States should make arrangements directly with Mauritius for the continued use of the island for defence purposes. And then, there are the inhabitants of Diego Garcia who are domiciled in Mauritius and for whom better arrangements should be made. It must be the duty of both the United States and Great Britain to discuss with the Mauritius Government how best to give satisfaction to all concerned and at the same time provide better prospects for the islanders.

41. In conclusion, we repeat our major thesis that the shaky and dangerous world must be confronted by a stronger, better and more efficient United Nations. We hold that the thirty-fifth session can begin this laborious but challenging task in a number of ways, but begin it must, if it is to command the respect and the support of all the peoples of the world.

42. The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank His Excellency The Right Honourable

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, for the important statement he has just made and for the kind words which he addressed to my people, my country and myself.

AGENDA ITEM 9

General debate (*continued*)

174. Mr. HODOUL (Seychelles) (*interpretation from French*):

185. I turn first of all to the question of the Indian Ocean. The great Powers have been engaged in unbridled militarization of that region. The rate of growth of the number of warships—some of which carry nuclear devices—is intolerable. We are not in a position to assess this build-up in terms of striking power, but from June 1979 to June 1980 the

number of warships present in the Indian Ocean more than doubled.

186. Those foreign Powers, when they do not benefit from the complicity of certain Governments in the region in order to install themselves there, simply occupy territory which is subject to the sovereignty of coastal States. Thus, the Chagos Archipelago, including the island of Diego Garcia, which is an integral part of the territory of Mauritius, has been occupied by Great Britain and the United States; the island of Tromelin is administered by France; the island of Mayotte is still juridically separated from the rest of the Comoros. As for the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, it remains stripped of the Glorieuses islands, Juan da Nova, Europa and Bassas da India.

187. The reasons for this militarization of our region are well known to all, even if more often than not they are unspoken. They are both economic and political in nature.

188. A large proportion of the oil being sent to North America, Western Europe and Japan passes through the Indian Ocean. The resources of that Ocean, the raw materials and commercial potential of the coastal countries and the energy resources of the Middle East and the Far East are all greedily coveted.

189. Of course, the great Powers prefer to speak of a protective mission, the defence of a so-called "free world", the restoration of a balance of power, the Afghanistan affair, the events in Iran and so forth.

190. However, when we realize how easily the great Powers today are exporting their conflicts to the third world countries and setting up in them proving grounds for their weapons, silence on our part would be censurable. Furthermore, we need peace in order to concentrate all our efforts on the development of our country instead of having to devote some of our efforts to protecting ourselves against constant threats aimed particularly against progressive régimes which are characterized by some as being "refractory".

191. Seychelles wishes once again to associate itself with those countries that have already done so, in appealing to the international conscience and calling for the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean. This entails the dismantling of military, air and naval bases and the withdrawal of foreign troops from the region.

192. Of course, the process of demilitarization must be accompanied by the decolonization of the Indian Ocean, that is to say, by the return to the sovereignty of their respective countries of all islands being used or liable to be used as bases for foreign Powers. So the Chagos archipelago, including the island of Diego Garcia and the island of Tromelin, must be returned to Mauritius; the island of Mayotte to the Comoros, and the Glorieuses, Juan da Nova, Europa and Bassas da India islands to Madagascar, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and OAU. The island of Réunion must be demilitarized and the right of the people of Réunion to self-determination must be respected.

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GENERAL
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THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

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PLENARY MEETING

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President: Mr. Rüdiger von WECHMAR
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*In the absence of the President, Mr. Katapodis (Greece),
Vice-President, took the Chair.*

AGENDA ITEM 9

General debate (concluded)

348. The PRESIDENT: Several representatives have asked to be allowed to exercise their right of reply. May I remind members that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, statements in exercise of the right of reply should be limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second intervention and should be made by representatives from their seats.

359. Sir Anthony PARSONS (United Kingdom): The Prime Minister of Mauritius and some other speakers in the general debate have referred to Diego Garcia. The Prime Minister of Mauritius referred in particular to a statement by my Prime Minister, Mrs. Thatcher, in the House of Commons.

360. I wish to make it clear that the United Kingdom has sovereignty over Diego Garcia and has not accepted that the island is under the sovereignty of Mauritius.

361. When the Council of Ministers of Mauritius agreed in 1965 to the detachment of the Chagos Islands to form part of the British Indian Ocean Territory it was announced that those islands would be available for the construction of defence facilities and that in the event of the island no longer being required for defence purposes they should revert to Mauritius. What that means is that if the islands were no longer so required the British Government would be willing to consider ceding sovereignty over them to Mauritius.



President: Mr. Ismat KITTANI (Iraq)

AGENDA ITEM 8

General debate (*continued*)

157. Mr. RAMPHUL (Mauritius): I should like to join all the previous speakers in congratulating President Kittani and our esteemed Secretary-General.

158. Four years ago the Assembly reached the consensus that enduring international peace and security cannot be built by the accumulation of weaponry by military alliances or sustained by a precarious balance of deterrence or doctrines of strategic superiority. Genuine and lasting peace can be created only through effective implementation of the security system provided for in the Charter of the United Nations and by the speedy and substantial reduction of arms and armed forces through international agreement and mutual example, leading ultimately to general and complete disarmament under effective international control. At the same time the causes of the arms race and the threats to peace must be reduced, and to this end effective action should be taken to eliminate tensions and to settle disputes by peaceful means.

159. In adopting this consensus, which is part of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the States Members of the United Nations solemnly reaffirmed their determination to work for general and complete disarmament and to make further collective efforts to strengthen peace and international security; eliminate the threat of war, particularly nuclear war; implement practical measures to halt and reverse the arms race; strengthen the procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes; reduce military expenditures and utilize the resources thus released in a manner which will help to promote the well-being of all peoples and to improve the economic conditions of the developing countries.

160. In view of that, the tenth special session and the Final Document it adopted aroused legitimate expectations among the people of the world that early and significant progress would be made towards achieving the objectives agreed upon.

161. Now, four years later, we have to admit with profound regret that developments since the tenth special session have moved in a direction opposite to those hopes and aspirations of all the peoples of our planet. Almost without exception, none of the objectives, priorities and principles invoked in the Final Document has been either faithfully respected or observed.

162. In this context, I should like to refer to the area in which my country is situated, the Indian Ocean. There is growing fear that the Indian Ocean is becoming the focus of a new cold-war rivalry between the two super-Powers. Around the Indian Ocean there exist conflicts and tensions in South-East Asia, in and around Afghanistan, on the Iraq-Iran border, in West Asia and the whole of North Africa, as well

as in southern Africa. The United States base on our own sovereign territory of Diego Garcia—I repeat, our own sovereign territory—is to be further strengthened. The Indian Ocean, which is the smallest of the three major oceans of the world, has 36 littoral nations and 11 hinterland nations, with a population of approximately 1,270 million, constituting 30 per cent of the world's population. With very few exceptions, these nations are non-aligned and still in the process of development.

163. The Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 9 through 13 February 1981, expressed grave concern at the buildup of great-Power military presence in the Indian Ocean area and noted that, despite the expressed wishes of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, the military activity of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean, in all forms and manifestations, had intensified and that there has been a marked deterioration in the climate of peace and security of that area. The Foreign Ministers further noted that the concept of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace was being systematically nullified by the preparations of the great Powers. They were also seriously concerned at the dangerous tension in the area caused by the expansion of existing foreign bases, military installations, logistical supply facilities and the disposition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, as well as by the search for new base facilities. Furthermore, they warned of the dangers of any actions that would provide pretexts for the intervention of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean region. The situation in terms of harsh facts is far more disturbing, as is illustrated by an Indian scholar, Mr. Supramanyan, in a research paper soon to be published by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research [UNIDIR].

164. That is just one of the many factors that make my country highly interested in disarmament and in the success of this special session. Disarmament is not an aim in itself. Disarmament is a means, and one can say the most important one, of safeguarding international peace and security. As one of the security-building factors—along with political, economic, technical, scientific, juridical and others—disarmament injects more force into all those factors, which in turn condition and support it.

165. Without exception, all the speakers in the general debate at this special session have shown a preoccupation with the situation now prevailing in the field of nuclear disarmament. My country fully shares those preoccupations, and it is particularly worried about the interruption of a meaningful dialogue on nuclear disarmament. I should like to stress that in our view the very existence of nuclear weapons directly and fundamentally jeopardizes the security interests of all States, in particular non-nuclear States, and that negotiations on the limitations and reductions of such weapons should therefore not be hostage to the state of relations between the major nuclear-weapon States and their allies. Non-nuclear-weapon States have a right to participate in multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament. However, the Committee on Disarmament, the single multilateral body for negotiations on disarmament, has been prevented from effectively discharging its responsibilities in the

field of nuclear disarmament. The proposals of the non-aligned and neutral countries in the Committee for the setting up of an *ad hoc* working group to deal specifically with the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament have been opposed by some nuclear-weapon States.

166. Nuclear disarmament is without doubt the number one issue in the world today because of the consequences that it might have for the very survival of mankind on this planet. Sane thinking calls for the destruction of the whole body of the present global military order. War has been the permanent feature of the period since the Second World War. It is no secret that almost 130 conflicts have erupted in the world since 1945, 50 of which have occurred during the past ten years. While quoting such figures, we should certainly never forget that however devastating some of the wars in that period have been, their scope and amount of violence are limited—and even insignificant—if compared with what a nuclear war might entail.

167. While not suspecting that any of the present nuclear-weapon States intend to launch a nuclear war by design, I would bring to the attention of members of the Assembly the analysis of the risks of an unintentional nuclear war contained in a very recent UNIDIR publication on this subject.⁷ It is my delegation's earnest hope that some of the proposals contained in that study will be included in the active agenda of the Committee on Disarmament and other disarmament bodies for negotiation.

168. Among the many issues with which this session has to deal, my delegation would particularly like to stress the following.

169. First, the situation prevailing now in the Indian Ocean emphasizes the need for the early convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean. Regrettably the Conference, originally scheduled for 1981, could not be held because of the negative attitude adopted by certain States and has now been rescheduled for 1983. It is recommended that a firm decision be taken at this session on convening the Conference in the first half of 1983 and that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean be enabled to complete its preparatory work before that date.

170. Secondly, vigorous action should be started to bring about the freezing and reduction of military expenditure. It is to be recalled that the General Assembly, at its tenth special session, stated that gradual reduction of military budgets on a mutually agreed basis—for example, in absolute figures or in terms of percentages or points—particularly by nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States, would be a measure that could contribute to curbing the arms race and increase the possibilities for the reallocation of resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries.

171. In spite of that consensus, since 1978 the world total military expenditures have shown a steady increase and have now reached an estimated figure about \$600 billion per annum, representing an extraordinarily heavy burden for the economies of all nations and having extremely harmful effects on international peace and security. If, for the attain-

ment of an agreement on the reduction of military expenditures, it is felt necessary to accelerate work on the common reporting instrument developed within the United Nations framework and designed to enhance comparability of military budgets, I would propose that such activity, which should be in the nature of a study, should be carried out further by a research organization, namely, UNIDIR, which could also sponsor the conference proposed by President Ronald Reagan of the United States a few days ago here in the General Assembly [16th meeting].

172. Thirdly, the growing importance of scientific information and of the studies in the context of disarmament efforts should lead to a decision that would give UNIDIR a definitive status. It should also be given the means necessary for fulfilling its task, particularly as an institution for independent research, especially in so far as long-term problems are concerned. In general the United Nations role in this area should be substantially increased and the means for carrying out its functions should be strengthened.

173. In concluding, I should like to read paragraph 18 of the Final Document, which seems to me not only extremely important but also more relevant today than at any time in the past:

“Removing the threat of a world war—a nuclear war—is the most acute and urgent task of the present day. Mankind is confronted with a choice: we must halt the arms race and proceed to disarmament or face annihilation.”

Because we are rational human beings, we should state unequivocally that today we have no choice, and we should start that long overdue process of real and meaningful disarmament. This should be the main preoccupation of all of us who meet here as representatives of our people at this second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

174. I have concluded my statement on the issue before us. However, since I am here at the rostrum, I should be grateful to you, Mr. President, and the members of the Assembly if you would all be kind enough to bear with me for a little while so that I may read out a brief statement by the Mr. Jean Claude de Lestrac, the Minister of External Affairs in the newly elected Government of Mauritius, which sets out the broad foreign policy of my country, especially as parts of it cover the issue of disarmament. The following policy statement was made on 18 June 1982 to representatives of foreign countries and international organizations accredited to Mauritius:

“Mauritius as a member of the international community will abide scrupulously by the principles of the United Nations Organization so as to enable the Organization to fulfil its purposes, namely, the maintenance of international peace and security; the development of friendly relations among nations; and the encouragement of international co-operation in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedom.

“Our support of the Organization will be wholehearted, since the Government is determined to work for the establishment of a world order distinguished by equality, freedom and justice.

“In furtherance of these goals the Government will work assiduously for the development of friendly relations with all the members of the international community, irrespective of their social and political systems. However, the Government will zealously practise a policy of non-alignment with regard to the two super-Powers and to other foreign Powers. This dedication to the tenets of non-alignment springs from our conviction that every nation should be allowed to determine its own social, economic and political system, free from outside interference. The Government will dedicate itself to the reinforcement of the non-aligned movement.

“In working for the establishment of a world of freedom and justice, the Government will develop a closer relationship with the nations of the third world still a prey to injustices endemic in the present system of relationships between nations and peoples with a view to creating a new international order in which a life of dignity and well-being becomes the inalienable right of all. A more just and peaceful world can only be established if the existing injustices are rectified.

“The Government will reinforce its solidarity with the third world, especially in the context of global negotiations for the establishment of a new international order. The friendly and privileged relations which Mauritius already enjoys with the individual members of the developed world will be concurrently maintained and strengthened. The bonds of friendship based on historical and cultural association with France and the United Kingdom will be further strengthened. No less important to the new Government will be the development of closer relations with the traditional friends of Mauritius, such as the members of the European Community, the United States, Canada and Australia. As a member of the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, Mauritius attaches great importance to the co-operation between the Group and the Community under the second Lomé Convention and particularly to the Sugar Protocol.

“Greater emphasis will be given to strengthening economic and commercial relations with African sovereign States, and an early ratification of the treaty establishing a preferential trade area for eastern and southern African States will be considered. The Government is determined to play an active role at the Organization of African Unity [OAU] and support that Organization's efforts to achieve the complete decolonisation of the continent and the eradication of racism and neo-colonialism. More particularly the Government will work for the accession of Namibia to independence, the acceptance of majority rule in South Africa and the recognition as a sovereign State of the Sahraoui Arab Democratic Republic. The liberation movements concerned—namely, the African National Congress and the South West Africa People's Organization—will be recognized by Mauritius as the legitimate representatives of the South African and Namibian peoples respectively. Abhorring *apartheid* and supportive of the oppressed people of South Africa, and in conformity with the resolutions of the OAU, the United Nations and other inter-

national organisations, the Government will work towards the gradual reduction of our economic links with the citadel of racism in the African continent.

“The Government would wish to affirm its determination to widen the field of co-operation with the whole of the Arab world, which should be allowed to use its economic and strategic importance for the social and economic development of its peoples and contribute to the promotion of international peace and security. The Government is convinced that the recognition by the international community of the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and of the inherent right of the Palestinian nation to statehood is one of the essential preconditions for the restoration of peace to the region.

“Regional co-operation will be given a boost under the present Government. The Government will afford priority to developing a close working relationship with India in the economic, commercial and industrial fields. Relations with the neighbouring countries of the Indian Ocean will be reinforced and consideration will be given to forging, along with the Governments concerned, mutually profitable commercial and economic ties. The support of these countries and the countries bordering the Indian Ocean and the other peace-loving countries of the world will be actively sought by Mauritius in its determination to work for the complete demilitarization of the Indian Ocean. We shall spare no efforts in seeking the dismantling of all foreign military bases in the regions.

“True to its commitment to preserve jealously the integrity and sovereignty of its territory, the Government will spare no efforts to secure the return to Mauritius of the Chagos Archipelago and Tromelin Island.”

210. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): The representative of the United Kingdom has asked to speak in exercise of the right of reply, and I now call on him.

211. Sir Anthony PARSONS (United Kingdom): With reference to the statement made this afternoon by the representative of Mauritius, I warmly reciprocate the desire of the Government of Mauritius further to strengthen the bonds of friendship between Mauritius and my country. But I must take issue with Mr. Ramphul on the question of sovereignty over the island of Diego Garcia. The United Kingdom, not Mauritius, has sovereignty over that island. Our position on all these questions of sovereignty over certain small islands in the Indian Ocean is well known and has been explained at previous sessions of the General Assembly. It remains unchanged.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.



President: Mr. Imre HOLLAI (Hungary).

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Nze (Congo),
Vice-President, took the Chair.*

AGENDA ITEM 9

General debate (*concluded*)

51. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now hear an address by the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Internal Security and Minister of Reform Institutions of Mauritius. I have great pleasure in welcoming Mr. Anerood Jugnauth and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

52. Mr. JUGNAUTH (Mauritius): I bring to the General Assembly and to the United Nations the greetings of the people of Mauritius and of their newly elected Government. I wish to convey to the President my warmest congratulations on his election to preside over our deliberations. I am confident that under his wise and able leadership the Assembly will, in the superior interests of mankind, give concrete shape to the aspirations of the peoples of the world. I seize this opportunity to express to his predecessor, Mr. Kittani, our warmest appreciation for the highly impressive manner in which he presided over the deliberations of the previous session of the Assembly.

53. It is indeed a moment of intense emotion for me to address the Assembly for the first time in my capacity as the head of a new Government overwhelmingly mandated by the people of Mauritius to take the destiny of the country firmly in hand, to make it play the role it should play in mankind's search for enduring peace in the world and to make it

contribute its share, however modest, to the eradication of all forms of injustice at home and abroad.

54. I wish here to record our appreciation of the work done by the Secretary-General. It takes great courage, Mr. Secretary-General, to undertake on behalf of humanity the difficult tasks that your office carries with it. The international community has seen you at work in the past year in some of the most trying situations, where your tact, your moderation and your perseverance have inspired universal admiration. The year ahead, unfortunately, does not promise to be any easier for you than the year that has elapsed. In your first report on the work of the Organization you have focused on the need for an urgent review of the United Nations and, in particular, of mechanisms set up for collective action for international peace and security. You have argued for a more forthright role for your office of Secretary-General and you envisage for the Security Council a kind of diplomatic early-warning system. Finally, you say you would like to see more concrete follow-up action to debate in the Assembly. Many of the proposals you have made could be put into effect immediately if the political will of Member States was galvanized for the purpose. You can therefore rest assured that my delegation will co-operate fully with your office and with the other Member States for an early implementation of any resolution arrived at in respect of the reorganization envisaged.

55. It is a matter of deep regret that the principle of the universality of United Nations membership does not yet actually prevail. Unilateral action and exclusive alliances have in fact not been disowned. Spheres of influence and considerations of balance of power, regrettably, continue to actuate the policies of many nations, despite the fact that they fail to produce the desired results. Added to this is the considerable and formidable interference in the internal affairs of many countries, the powerful making their presence felt in many ways, relentless in their endeavour to enlarge their spheres of influence. Countries like Mauritius, which have only recently acquired freedom, have a strong attachment to the United Nations and inevitably a special stake in its functioning. I have come here to reiterate my country's deep commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter.

56. I believe that we come here not to save face but to save and protect life. We come here not to deliver speeches only and then make our exist but to make action follow our words. We come here not as a matter of mere formality and to pay lip service to the ideals of peace and justice but to show how serious we are in our intentions to work for the superior interests of the whole of mankind. We come here not out of selfish motives but to show how willing and prepared we are to forgo a little bit of our own ego for international good in a spirit of compromise, so that the world may live and the human race survive. We come here not to add to problems but to find solutions satisfactory to all parties. We come here because we believe in man and in all the inherent good there is in him which, if it prevails, will be the safety valve of the human race.

57. What is urgently needed is a unified view of the world's resources and the world's experience and of man's power of invention. The change we desire, the

change which must come, is one not of pace, quantity or manner but of the basic quality of what man is and can be. We all need to make earnest and well-considered efforts to subdue and check national ambitions and rivalries in the superior and wider interest of the preservation of civilization and the survival of humanity.

58. It is in the context of what I have just said that I invite representatives present here to bear in mind the human dimensions of the issues we shall be deliberating upon. The average man does not ask for much; he is not interested in leading a life of frivolous affluence and frenetic consumption. We are gathered here to give substance to the yearnings of the average man, to give voice to the wishes of the voiceless, for that is the primary responsibility of those who govern. The great tragedy of the present situation is that the world order as it now exists has been unable to satisfy the basic universal aspirations of man—dignity, peace and security.

59. In June the people of Mauritius gave an overwhelming mandate to those whom they perceived to be the champions of the dignity of man. We have given a solemn undertaking to our people to defend the oppressed and the weak and we will be true to that undertaking. It is equally in this spirit that we want to add our voice to that of this concert of nations in our denunciation of all forms of injustice and to work to better the lot of suffering mankind.

60. The major and continuing threat to the dignity of man comes from the prevailing economic order, characterized by built-in self-perpetuating inequality which results in an unjust distribution of the world's limited resources. Year by year the inequality grows, the injustice of the system becomes ethically more revolting and at the receiving end deprivation and misery become more unbearable. It is patent that this system cannot be allowed to continue. Change may be too gradual in the developing countries for our liking but we realize that it can come only out of patient dialogue. We are today faced with the Herculean task of restructuring an economic order which has been shaped by four centuries of colonialism. This cannot be done quickly, it cannot be done painlessly, but it has to be done and it will be done. The real question before us is whether we want to continue frittering away our energies in useless disagreements and quarrels or whether we want to look seriously into the future of mankind and act to make people really prosperous.

61. Both the rich and the poor nations have pressing unparalleled problems which cannot be solved independently. The present crisis is a crisis of international structures. The present system needs fundamental institutional reforms, based upon the recognition of a common interest and upon mutual concern in an increasingly interdependent world. New vitality and urgency have to be imparted to the North-South dialogue. The very survival of both developing and developed countries depends on the success of this dialogue. We have to moderate the shrillness of the demands made, as well as the obdurate arrogance with which those demands have so far been rejected. I believe that we have in the Lomé Convention⁷ given the world a small but significant example of what co-operative North-South relations could be like.

62. My Government also calls upon the members of the international community to direct its efforts to the equally important transformation of the international order relating to the oceans. The traditional legal order in that field has been eroded by technological and political developments and must be replaced by a new legal order which would permit the exploitation of the ocean space—the largest and most valuable region of our planet—in the interests of all mankind. After many years of intense and very complex negotiations, in which over 150 States have regularly participated, the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea has produced a Convention which ought to be hailed as a triumph for mankind in laying the foundation for international co-operation in the use of the oceans.

63. All the major industrialized Powers played a very active role in the shaping of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,⁴ which largely reflects their interests, concerns and preoccupations. It is on account of this that we fail to appreciate the attempt being made by certain major Powers to scuttle the Convention by their decision to opt for a mini-treaty among like-minded States, a mini-treaty which inevitably will create new areas of tension in international relations likely to lead to a situation which endangers international peace and security.

64. We call upon all States to sign the Convention in order to make the concept of the common heritage of mankind a reality. The Convention on the Law of the Sea should be treated as a special convention and we urge the major industrialized States to forgo their fears about the precedent-setting nature of this Convention. All States should embark on this enterprise in a spirit of trust and good will.

65. Quite apart from its determination to work with other countries of the third world for the elimination of the poverty curtain that divides our planet into a world of the affluent and a world of the poor, Mauritius militates against the equally pernicious division of the world into two hostile camps dominated by the so-called super-Powers, which, in their pursuit of world domination, threaten the security of States the only concern of which is the social and economic development of their people, free from external interference. Mauritius is committed to a policy of active and determined non-alignment. We intend jealously to protect and guard our hard-won independence; we intend to condemn unequivocally all aggression, all forms of imperialism and all hegemonistic ambitions. We aspire to a world of true interdependence of genuinely free and equal States, whose relations are based on co-operation rather than on confrontation.

66. The Government of Mauritius, in pursuit of its policy of strict non-alignment and in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI), the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, will work with other peace-loving members of the international community for the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean. During the years which have elapsed since the adoption of the resolution, we have witnessed the expansion of the Ocean's geopolitical dimensions and the conversion of this intended zone of peace into a zone of war and mobilization for war, with all the attendant dangers for the countries of the region. The Ocean has gradually expanded beyond its own

waters; it is now linked to the States of South-East Asia and to developments in West Asia and the Middle East. The so-called modest communications facility in Diego García has been converted into the formidable and horrendous nuclear base which threatens the security of all Indian Ocean States, and there has been a scramble to secure port facilities along the so-called arc of crisis, that is, the Horn of Africa, the Arabian peninsula and the vital Persian Gulf area.

67. With the alarming increase in a foreign military presence in the Indian Ocean, the fervent hope of the States of the region for the holding of the Conference on the Indian Ocean has receded. Mauritius and the other States of the region are not hoodwinked by the tactics and ploys adopted by some States, which are designed primarily to cause confusion, postpone indefinitely the holding of that Conference and create a smoke-screen to hide their warlike designs. We solemnly appeal to all the members of the international community to give their full support to the United Nations so that the Conference on the Indian Ocean can take place in the very near future. We also call upon the foreign military Powers present in the Indian Ocean to exercise mutual restraint and to initiate a gradual and balanced withdrawal of their forces from the region, which would then be open exclusively to commercial navigation. It is our conviction that the security of the sea lanes in the Ocean can best be protected by the States of the region.

68. At this juncture I should like to dwell on an issue which affects the vital interests of Mauritius; I mean the Mauritian claim of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, which was excised by the then colonial Power from the territory of Mauritius in contravention of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2066 (XX). This dismemberment of Mauritian territory, the violation of our territorial integrity, has been made all the more unacceptable by the fact that one of the islands of that very Archipelago, Diego García, is now a full-fledged nuclear base, which poses a constant threat to the security of Mauritius and to that of all the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, the very Ocean declared to be a zone of peace by this Assembly in 1971.

69. I solemnly appeal to the peace-loving Members of the Organization to extend all their support to the legitimate Mauritian claim of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. In helping Mauritius to regain its national heritage, the United Nations will be living up to its own principles and proclaiming loud and clear that it expects its resolutions to be implemented by its Members. As the Diego García issue involves two fundamental principles of the United Nations, namely respect by the administering Power for the territorial integrity of its colony, and the right of peoples to live in peace and security, I venture to say that the return of the archipelago to Mauritius will bring the Organization the respect that is so indispensable to its continued existence.

70. Times are bad, very bad. The world economy in fact teeters on the brink of a depression that could be wider and deeper than that of the 1930s. For the weakest national economies, and therefore for hundreds of millions of people, little short of catastrophe looms. Such a situation, wherein the world is perilously poised on the brink of an economic

precipice, is not conducive to peace. An extended recession, excessive interest rates, highly unstable exchange rates, widespread protectionism—all these constitute threats to peace in a world of inescapable interdependence. Our political and economic systems should provide conceptual space for the reality of an interdependent world economy. Regrettably, the search for the world economic recovery that is so desperately needed remains stalled and we drift towards the abyss of economic disaster.

71. As far as Mauritius is concerned, we shall participate fully in the North-South dialogue and, indeed, have great expectations of progress resulting from that dialogue, but we believe that much can also be achieved through South-South co-operation. The island States of the south-west Indian Ocean are actively engaged in promoting co-operation at the regional level. We hope in the near future to set up an Indian Ocean commission which will provide the institutional framework for co-operation among the States of the region. It is no mean measure of our firm belief in the concept of an interdependent world economy that we are already looking beyond the immediate present to the day when the grouping of the south-west Indian Ocean States can be associated with other regional groupings.

72. Violations of human rights constitute another serious threat to the dignity of man. In too many countries do people live under constant threat of arbitrary arrest, torture, disappearance and execution after trials that are a travesty of civilized norms of justice. We unequivocally condemn all violations of human rights wherever they occur, under whatever social or political system they occur.

73. We have a special abhorrence for *apartheid*. A system so inhuman, so immoral, would be unimaginable but for the shameful fact that it exists. This odious system of institutionalized racism will eternally tarnish the claim of our epoch to a place of honour in the history of civilization. We have a duty to our brothers in South Africa. We also owe it to ourselves to eliminate all vestiges of this iniquitous system; otherwise the judgement which posterity will pass on our times will be indeed very harsh, and deservedly so.

74. We believe that freedom is indivisible, that peace is indivisible. One of the first foreign policy decisions of my Government was formally to recognize ANC. Mauritius will stand by ANC in its hard struggle to secure the emancipation of the people of South Africa; ANC can depend on the unflinching support of the people and Government of Mauritius.

75. We shall give the same unconditional support to SWAPO in its struggle for the decolonization of Namibia. It is unacceptable that the Republic of South Africa should continue in its illegal occupation of Namibia in defiance of the basic tenets of international law and of international opinion. This defiance has to be opposed by united and determined action. We should not permit economic considerations to hinder our action when the basic norms of universal morality are being trampled upon, and we should vigorously condemn the tactics adopted by the South African régime, tactics designed to modify the terms of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Mauritius,

moreover, sees no linkage between the presence of Cuban troops in Angola and the withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia and demands that the South African régime should no longer be allowed to invoke such a linkage to delay the accession of the Namibian people to independence.

76. We in Africa will, we hope, soon be rid of the last vestiges of colonialism, and the emancipation of the South African people will inevitably be accomplished in the near future. Racist domination in southern Africa is the major, immediate problem we face, but it is by no means our only problem.

77. I should like to impress upon the Assembly that the African peoples want to dispel the image that the African continent is only a rich source of raw materials and nothing more; nor is it fertile ground for the manoeuvres of outside Powers and it is now determined not to tolerate such manoeuvres. Africa calls upon all outside Powers to keep out and to let Africans get on with solving their problems. Naturally, the genuine and objective assistance of well-meaning countries in the solution of these problems is not to be ignored, provided there are no sinister ulterior motives. We in Africa are in urgent need of technology, of capital, of know-how. We welcome the transfer of technology, but we shall not tolerate conflicts and rivalries which are alien to our culture and mode of life encroaching on our continent. Our problems, both economic and social, call for the concerted, sustained effort of all of Africa. Our greatest challenge is the maintenance of African unity and the consolidation of our independence.

78. I come now to an area relatively distant from Mauritius. The issue at stake, however, is close to the heart of every Mauritian. The PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people has our unreserved support; our identification with the Palestinian cause is total. We believe that peace in the Middle East will remain elusive until Palestinian aspirations are fulfilled. Mauritius has studied the various peace proposals with great attention and we are ready to give our backing to any peace plan put forward that is acceptable to the PLO.

79. We call upon all those who can do so to bring pressure to bear on Israel to stop forthwith its aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. Prospects of peace in the area suffered a severe setback with the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the unspeakable, cold-blooded carnage of innocent civilians in Beirut.

80. The fratricidal war between Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran drags on, to the satisfaction of those who would wish to see the third world in a perpetual state of turmoil and underdevelopment. We call upon both parties to the conflict to cease hostilities and to stop the death and destruction this war is inflicting on the peoples of Iran and Iraq.

81. This war has led to the postponement of the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries. This postponement comes at a time when our movement is faced with problems requiring immediate solutions. Afghanistan, a member of the movement finds itself under foreign occupation for the third year. It is imperative that foreign forces withdraw from Afghanistan, that all foreign inter-

ference in its internal affairs cease and that its non-aligned status be restored.

82. The conflicts, the inequalities and the injustices of the world scene could easily lead us to be disheartened at the precarious state of the world. But we cannot allow ourselves to be disheartened, for that would be an abdication of our responsibilities towards our children and towards posterity. An important aspect of my Government's socialist creed is faith in the innate goodness of man. Man fights the forces of evil and darkness, conscious that, however long and arduous the struggle may be, the victory of good over evil is assured.

83. I believe that the Charter is the concrete embodiment of one of the instances where good has triumphed against tremendous divisive odds. The Charter is our yardstick by which are judged the acts of nations. I can assure the Assembly that my Government's actions find their inspiration in the Charter.

84. The world has always faced one crisis or another, but today's crisis is deeper and more far-reaching. No thinking, sensitive and right-minded nation can remain silent. But it is not enough merely to speak out: we should speak out when the occasion for speaking out comes, but, above all, we should act, because the occasion for action is here and now.

85. On behalf of the people of Mauritius and on behalf of their newly elected Government, I pledge our continuing and unflinching support for the United Nations and our respect for its Charter.

86. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): On behalf of the General Assembly, I thank the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Internal Security and Minister of Reform Institutions of Mauritius for the important statement he has just made.



President: Mr. Jorge E. ILLUECA (Panama).

AGENDA ITEM 9

General debate (*continued*)

156. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Internal Security, Minister of Information, Minister of Reform Institutions and Minister of External Communications of Mauritius, the Honourable Anerood Jugnauth. I have great pleasure in welcoming him and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

157. Mr. JUGNAUTH (Mauritius): I am grateful to the Assembly for according me the honour of addressing this important body. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Illueca on his election to the high and distinguished office of President of the General Assembly. It is a tribute to his country and to his own magnificent personal qualities. With his inspiring guidance, patience and tact, I am sure that our deliberations will lead to positive and meaningful results.

158. May I also thank the outgoing President most warmly for the moderation and diplomatic skill with

which he presided over the thirty-seventh session of the Assembly.

159. The basic objective of the United Nations at the time of its creation 38 years ago was the maintenance of peace and security in the world. To a large extent the United Nations has lived up to this—there has been no global conflict.

160. We are thankful to the Secretary-General for carrying out his overwhelming task with faith and dedication to the cause of peace and justice. He has won our admiration for the efforts he has exerted. We in Africa are particularly appreciative of his diplomatic initiative aimed at securing the independence of Namibia in the very near future. We wish him to know that Mauritius will support whatever initiative he undertakes with a view to achieving that goal.

161. The year that has elapsed since I last addressed the Assembly has been an extremely difficult one for my country. We have gone through a period of political uncertainty; our Constitution was threatened and our democratic institutions imperilled. I am pleased to inform the Assembly that my people have been able, through scrupulous respect for our democratic process of government, to overcome the dangers that we faced. What might have been a politically traumatic period has proved to be a period of rapid development of our national identity and consciousness. I address the Assembly today as the representative of a nation proud of its institutions, confident of its future and determined to face the formidable challenges of development.

162. We are acutely aware of the fact that economic development does not come easily; it is not to be had for the asking. In their desire to protect their system, the developed nations are taking decisions which have a direct and grave impact on the economies of developing countries. The sentiment that what is good for the developed countries is necessarily good for developing countries demonstrates a certain indifference to the economic problems facing the latter. However, it is only fair that the developed countries should share with their less fortunate brothers in the third world the economic and other resources at their disposal. Such assistance should not, however, preclude relentless efforts in the third world countries themselves towards economic uplift and progress. We in the third world are conscious that ultimately our future lies in our own hands.

163. I wish to recall that Mauritius is an island State with a population of 1 million and that we are, by force of circumstances, an outward-looking people. Interdependence is for us a stark fact of daily life. Price changes on world commodity markets and exchange-rate fluctuations have a direct material effect on each and every Mauritian household. Internally, our policy is to favour the rapid growth of a fairly liberal market economy.

164. The pattern of trade relationships between the developed and the developing worlds is unfair, and we have to build a system which guarantees to the producers of raw materials and basic commodities remunerative prices which will make it possible to raise the living standards of the poor half of the world. The industrialized world tends to think that all the problems of the developing countries are of their own making and are the result of inappropriate domestic policies. Yet, we all know that many developing countries which like Mauritius have unhesitatingly adopted tough and unpopular economic measures and economic policy changes have still not made great progress because of external constraints. Our efforts at industrialization have been thwarted by protectionism in the developed countries. Agricultural exports do not

obtain a remunerative export price, thereby discouraging agricultural production. High freight charges imposed by shipping companies belonging to the developed countries also make our exports uncompetitive. Faced with these difficulties, it is surprising that some developing nations have managed to avoid total bankruptcy. I would therefore like to appeal to the developed countries to adopt a more realistic approach to the problems of development in our part of the world.

165. The flow of aid being mostly tied to projects, is slow and does not tackle the basic problems of balance-of-payments deficits in our countries. Hence most developing countries have had to seek assistance from IMF, the World Bank and other specialized financial institutions, which do not always take into consideration the social fabric of our countries. While we appreciate the assistance that my country and others have received from these institutions, we have found the conditions imposed by them difficult to meet. We have adopted a structural adjustment programme opening our economy to free competition, but unfortunately protectionism and the abuse of safeguard clauses in various international agreements have impeded our development.

166. The primary objective of foreign assistance is and must be to help the economic and social development of low-income countries, which in turn will promote stability globally. We would like to see a more liberal and understanding attitude from these institutions, especially in the case of small countries where policy options are limited. Donor countries should make a special effort to revise their aid policies so as to ensure a greater transfer of resources to the developing countries, especially bearing in mind the interdependence of the world economy.

167. While our major preoccupation is economic development, we in Mauritius are very much concerned with the numerous problems and conflicts that beset the world. The ideal of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace seems to develop day by day into a mere dream. Were it not for the dogged perseverance of the nations most directly concerned, the General Assembly's call for the Indian Ocean to be a zone of peace would have been buried under the combined weight of the arsenals of the super-Powers in and around our ocean. From Cam Ranh Bay through Diego Garcia to Socotra, the Ocean is criss-crossed by sea lanes of terror that threaten our peace and security.

168. My Government hopes that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean will in the near future complete the task of harmonizing views on the Conference on the Indian Ocean. We are aware that certain countries have adopted dilatory and obstructionist tactics on this subject and that others support the holding of this Conference for propaganda purposes only.

169. We will not allow the ideal of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace to be devalued into an empty slogan. We will support all moves to prohibit any military use of the peace zone by non-Indian-Ocean States which arrogate to themselves the right to threaten the nations of the region or to interfere in their internal affairs.

170. As a first step towards the realization of the zone of peace, we call upon the international community to ensure that no new bases are established and to impose a freeze in the existing military facilities in our region. As a further step we would wish to see a balanced and mutual downgrading of super-Power military presence in the Indian Ocean.

171. In conformity with our anti-militarist aspirations for our own region, we would like to see a reduction of armaments on a global scale. As Indian Ocean States we

have the distinct impression that the Geneva disarmament talks are being utilised as a propaganda arena. We urge all parties concerned, in the interests of humanity at large, to imbue these talks with a greater degree of earnestness. Quite apart from the utter immorality of the nuclear arms race, we of the developing world deplore the senseless waste of resources in the deployment of nuclear weapons. The senseless competitive arms race is draining the world of vital resources that would have gone a long way towards alleviating the misery of millions who live below the poverty line.

172. I would like at this juncture to impress upon the Assembly the just and legitimate claim of my country over the Chagos Archipelago, which was excised from our national territory in contravention of General Assembly resolutions. I hope that in our endeavours to recover this part of our national territory by diplomatic and political means we shall continue to enjoy the unstinted support of all peace-loving countries.

173. We note with sadness that the world is still bedevilled by aggressions, conflicts and wars in such countries as Chad, Kampuchea, Afghanistan and Namibia, in the Middle East and in Latin America. The international community cannot remain insensitive to the untold sufferings of the peoples of these areas. The international community has a moral obligation in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to ensure that the inalienable rights of these peoples are not blatantly trampled upon and their problems aggravated by foreign interventions. It is their sacred right to determine their own future free from any external interference.

174. As we live in a world of shrinking dimensions whereby interdependence is the *sine qua non* of the survival of mankind we must all strive tirelessly for lasting peace.

175. We in Africa cannot dissipate our energies in internecine conflicts and mindless fratricide while the illegal occupation of Namibia continues. We should focus our attention and our struggle on helping to liberate our brethren in South Africa. We wholeheartedly share the aspirations of our African brethren and will give them our full political and moral support in their struggle against racist domination.

176. I would like here to reiterate our full support for the front-line States which daily bear the brunt of South African aggression. They too are victims, victims of the racist régime's effort to destabilize them.

177. We reject outright the spurious linkage between the presence of Cuban troops in Angola and the independence of Namibia. South Africa cannot perpetuate its illegal occupation of Namibia in complete disregard of United Nations resolutions and world public opinion.

178. We are dismayed and saddened by the senseless and fratricidal carnage taking place in Lebanon. We are convinced that the sectarian violence in that war-weary country would come to an end if all foreign intervention was to cease. The Lebanese people should be allowed to exercise their right to self-determination under international supervision.

179. The Palestinian cause has suffered a serious setback with the invasion of Lebanon and the cynical manipulation of factions within the Palestine Liberation Organization. It would be illusory for the invaders and manipulators to imagine that the Palestinian cause could be weakened by such manoeuvres. The Palestinian people will not be denied their identity as a nation and their inalienable right to a homeland.

180. In South-East Asia we are witnesses to ruthless cultural destruction in which the proud Khmers continue

to suffer the occupation of their country. A rich and ancient civilization, nurtured patiently over several centuries, is being mercilessly destroyed and the genius of the Khmer people is being regimented out of existence. We are appalled by the lack of concern shown by the world for what has become an endangered people and a civilization facing extinction. The fact that this sore has festered for eight years does not in any way attenuate the urgency of finding a solution to it. We call for the immediate termination of the foreign occupation of Cambodia, the restoration of its non-aligned status and the re-establishment of the Cambodian people's right to self-determination in a truly independent country.

181. It saddens me to have a place on record the shock and sadness of the Government and people of Mauritius at the reported shooting down of the Korean Air Lines 747 plane. We deeply mourn the tragic loss of life and share the grief of the bereaved families. We deplore the total disregard of established norms of international civil aviation demonstrated in this incident. It is my country's earnest hope that the international community will adopt safety measures that will ensure that such a violation which imperils civilian air traffic and jeopardizes the lives of innocent passengers is not allowed to recur.

182. It is our belief that the Korean question should be taken up and resolved by Koreans themselves, through dialogue and negotiations. We believe in a peaceful solution to this question and in non-interference from outside in the search for that solution.

183. An end should be put to the sufferings of millions of persons separated from their families, and, in this connection, humanitarian considerations should guide all genuinely peace-loving nations of the international community.

184. Equally guided by purely humanitarian considerations, we have expressed sadness at the unfortunate events in Sri Lanka and have also expressed our confidence that the Sri Lankan authorities will successfully put an end to the risks to life and property to which a section of the population has been exposed.

185. The world is becoming increasingly interdependent, and although there are some areas where peace still eludes millions of people, there have been developments in the recent past which indicate an awareness on the part of the international community of the need to co-operate globally on specific issues.

186. The signing of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in December 1982 at Montego Bay is just one example of this process, and I am sure that the concept of the common heritage of mankind will become the cornerstone of co-operation in other areas of great concern to the international community. It is the wish of my country that a broader international body be set up to govern the immense ice-bound land mass known as Antarctica.

187. I have today addressed the Assembly as the newly elected socialist representative of an independent, non-aligned, democratic country. My Government is pledged to a foreign policy based on strict non-alignment, support for democratic ideals, advocacy of the right of peoples to self-determination and respect for the letter and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and that of the OAU.

188. The United Nations is a unique organization of developed and developing countries. It has a special role to play in the harmonious development of relations between the two groups of countries which is vital to the common interest. I earnestly hope that the United Nations

will mobilize its resources to promote greater international understanding and help free mankind from the scourges of war, gruesome poverty and economic insecurity. With the exercise of its collective will, this supreme world body can prove to be more effective for the sake of the welfare and future happiness of mankind.

189. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Internal Security, Minister of Information, Minister of Reform Institutions and Minister of External Communications of Mauritius for the important statement he has just made.

United Nations

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records



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**23rd
PLENARY MEETING**

*Friday, 7 October 1983,
at 10.35 a.m.*

NEW YORK

President: Mr. Jorge E. ILLUECA (Panama).

AGENDA ITEM 9

General debate (*continued*)

40. Mr. GURINOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (*interpretation from Russian*):

75. As for the Indian Ocean, the Soviet Union has consistently supported the efforts of the States of that region to prepare for and hold an international conference to reach agreement on the creation of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, and it is in favour of the return of the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego García, to Mauritius.

76. Seeking as it does an overall reduction in tensions across the seas and oceans, the USSR has proposed, among other things, that naval activities be restricted on a mutual basis, that naval armaments be limited and reduced, that Soviet and United States missile-carrying submarines be withdrawn from their present vast combat patrol zones and that their navigation range be limited by mutually agreed lines, and that confidence-building measures be extended to the sea and ocean areas; that is, the USSR is working towards transforming the largest part of the world's oceans into a zone of peace.

77. The United States, having unilaterally suspended the Soviet-American negotiations on the limitation and reduction of military activities in the Indian Ocean, is escalating its military activities both in the Indian Ocean and in other maritime areas, consolidating its Diego García base, hindering the convening of a conference to transform the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace and attempting to undermine the very notion of a zone of peace.

United Nations

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records



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**26th
PLENARY MEETING**

*Monday, 10 October 1983
at 3.35 p.m.*

NEW YORK

President: Mr. Jorge E. ILLUECA (Panama).

AGENDA ITEM 9

General debate (*continued*)

169. Mr. CABRAL D'ALMADA (Guinea-Bissau)
(*interpretation from French*)*:

*Mr. Cabral D'Almada spoke in Portuguese. The French version of his statement was supplied by the delegation.

209. We sincerely hope to see the final settlement of the territorial questions still outstanding, in particular the Comorian island of Mayotte, the Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India islands, belonging to the Democratic Republic of Madagascar and the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego García, which is under the sovereignty of Mauritius.



General Assembly

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Thirty-eighth session
Agenda item 9

GENERAL DEBATE

Letter dated 17 November 1983 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to the address made to the General Assembly on 27 September 1983 (A/38/PV.8, p. 71) by His Excellency the Prime Minister of Mauritius in which he referred to his country's "just and legitimate claim over the Chagos Archipelago".

I have been instructed to draw to Your Excellency's attention the fact that sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago is vested in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. At no time has Mauritius had sovereignty over the Chagos Islands. In 1968, when Mauritius became an independent sovereign State, the Islands did not form part of the colony which then gained independence. Prior to 1968 the Chagos Islands were legally distinct from Mauritius, although they were for convenience administered by the (British Colonial) Government of Mauritius until they were incorporated in the British Indian Ocean Territory in 1965. Notwithstanding the above, the British Government has undertaken to cede the Islands of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius when they are no longer required for defence purposes.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 9.

(Signed) J. A. THOMSON

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**



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THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

*Official Records**

FIRST COMMITTEE
48th meeting
held on
Friday, 2 December 1983
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway)

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AGENDA ITEM 59: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

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7 January 1984

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 59

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN (A/38/29; A/C.1/38/L.85)

The CHAIRMAN: Regarding the representative of Poland's request for a separate vote on two of the operative paragraphs, we will revert to that procedural motion on completion of the list of speakers and before we take action on the draft resolution in document A/C.1/38/29.

Mr. JEICHANDE (Mozambique) (interpretation from French): Today there is general awareness that the outbreak of nuclear war in any region of the world would lead to a catastrophe with unimaginable consequences for all of mankind. That is why we are concerned by the growing militarization and nuclearization of the Indian Ocean region. Diego Garcia, a territory arbitrarily wrenched from the national whole of Mauritius, has now become the most threatening base of aggression against the peoples and countries of the Indian Ocean region.

(Mr. Jeichande, Mozambique)

When in December 1971 the General Assembly adopted resolution 2832 (XXVI), the peoples of the area thought that the Assembly had succeeded in removing the threat of armed confrontation in that region. But their disillusionment has been great. Year after year we see delaying tactics preventing the transformation of the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

The opponents of the freedom of peoples and of peace are always looking for the most treacherous and scornful ways of thwarting the will and the deepest aspirations of peoples. They introduce linkage everywhere: just like Namibia, the Indian Ocean has its linkage. That is why the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean has made no progress. Twelve years have passed since the Assembly adopted resolution 2832 (XXVI), and we are still far indeed from taking steps to put into effect an international agreement on the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. For us, a zone of peace means a zone free from foreign military bases and installations, and free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

The holding of a conference on the Indian Ocean - which since 1981 has been scheduled for convening in Sri Lanka - is always being questioned by certain countries which, on the pretext of the existence of a new situation in the region have the audacity not only to postpone the conference, but even to question the very notion of a zone of peace as defined by resolution 2832 (XXVI). But why did those same countries not accept the convening of a conference before those so-called new events took place? Just as they are doing in the case of Namibia, these countries are attempting to link the question of the demilitarization and denuclearization of the Indian Ocean to matters which have nothing to do with that question. Such linkage is unfounded and amounts to an argument which permits militaristic Powers to increase the tensions and dangers in the region.

In the Ad Hoc Committee, we joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/AC.159/L.56/Rev.1, despite our reservations on paragraphs 5 and 6. If that draft resolution is put to the vote in this Committee, my delegation will abstain on those two paragraphs.

We hope that the conference on the Indian Ocean will finally take place in 1985, as provided for in the draft resolution before this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take action on the draft resolution contained in document A/38/29 and its financial implications, contained in document A/38/C.1/38/L.85.

We shall return to the request put forward by the representative of Poland in his statement to have a separate and recorded vote on operative paragraphs 5 and 6 of the draft resolution in document A/38/29. If I hear no objection, we shall proceed accordingly.

A roll-call vote has been requested.

A roll-call vote was taken.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Angola, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Viet Nam

Operative paragraph 5 was adopted by 97 votes to none, with 16 abstentions.*

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now vote on operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution in document A/38/29.

A roll-call vote has been requested.

A roll-call vote was taken.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda,

* Subsequently the delegations of Morocco and Somalia advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.

Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Angola, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mozambique, Poland, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Upper Volta, Viet Nam

Operative paragraph 6 was adopted by 94 votes to none, with 20 abstentions.*

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to the draft resolution as a whole. It appears in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean (A/38/29), and the financial implications are in document A/C.1/38/L.85.

The representative of Sri Lanka, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, requested in his statement at the outset of this meeting that the draft resolution as a whole should be adopted without a vote; and in his statement asking for separate votes on operative paragraphs 5 and 6 the representative of Poland said that he would have no objection to the Committee's adopting the draft resolution as a whole without a vote. Therefore, I would suggest to the Committee that we proceed accordingly and adopt the draft resolution without a vote. If I hear no objection I shall take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly.

The draft resolution as whole was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on those delegations which have asked to speak in explanation of vote.

Mr. SHUSTOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The question of implementing the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace has a rather lengthy history, starting in 1971 when the General Assembly adopted a resolution aimed at that goal. Frequently - and even last

* Subsequently the delegations of Guyana and Morocco advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.

(Mr. Shustov, USSR)

year - the General Assembly has confirmed the necessity of convening a conference on declaring the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and has even adopted approximate dates for such a conference. Frequently those dates have been extended and at this session also we are adopting a decision to hold a conference not in 1984, as previously contemplated, but in 1985.

Such a practice has now become routine and if we follow it we may anticipate that next year also we shall agree to postpone the convening of the conference once more - that is to say, from 1985 to 1986 - and then once again, and so forth.

In recent years, the Soviet delegation has regretted this very greatly. We have noticed a sort of "fakery" in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean. Every year the Committee holds three sessions. The first session deals with general political debating procedural issues; the second with the discussion of the issue of when and how the Conference on the Indian Ocean is to be convened; and the third with preparing the Committee's report to the General Assembly. In the Assembly we adopt a rather ambiguous and watered-down resolution which determines a similar order of discussion for the following year.

Can one consider such a situation satisfactory? Of course not, inasmuch as it indicates that a decision on the question of declaring the Indian Ocean a zone of peace is not making any progress.

One of the obstacles is that from year to year the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly contain no precise indications of what has to be done to prepare the conference and how it has to be done. At the same time the resolutions, on the insistence of some States, include preconditions for the convening of the conference, and those preconditions fall into two categories: one demanding that during the course of the preparation issues of substance should be decided, the second that some agreement should be reached or some harmonization of views. As has already been indicated by a number of speakers, to carry out these preconditions is practically impossible. Questions of substance should be resolved at the Conference itself, since the harmonization or agreement of views on a broad range of international political problems is also practically unattainable. Despite appearances, the Ad Hoc Committee has made no discernible progress in its work.

At the same time, in the Indian Ocean region itself we see events occurring which are evidence that that vast area of our planet is increasingly becoming

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transformed into an arena for an accelerated arms race, with the accumulation of the most up-to-date weapons of war, including nuclear weapons, and an increase in the number of military bases.

Let me cite some examples: In Diego Garcia, which was torn away from Mauritius, we find the consolidation of a major United States military and air base. In the region of the Indian Ocean the United States has created an entire military structure headed by the so-called Central Military Command, whose sphere of activities includes a very large number of Asian and African countries. An example of the action of this Command and of the rapid deployment forces of the United States was the organization in August of this year of the Bright Star 1983 military manoeuvres which involved certain Indian Ocean countries. Those manoeuvres were carried out ostensibly to "protect" the vital interests of the United States in regions which are far distant from Washington, including the Indian Ocean itself. Their sphere of activities included the territories of many Afro-Asian countries and practically the entire airspace of the Indian Ocean. During the course of the manoeuvres B-52 bombers were used, as were F-107 fighter bombers, which are capable of carrying nuclear weapons, as well as F-16 pursuit planes and bombers. United States nuclear aircraft carriers also participated in the manoeuvres.

Therefore, all the countries adjacent to the Indian Ocean, and all peace-loving countries, have every right to be concerned, as was reflected in the decisions of the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries which took place in New Delhi in March of this year - in particular, that the creation and consolidation of military bases on Diego Garcia are a threat to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of Mauritius and other States. The Heads of State or Government also appealed for a rapid restoration of that Island to Mauritius. The Conference expressed the view that any military presence, military bases or military objectives in the Indian Ocean, as well as military and other weapons of mass destruction, are a crude violation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. The Declaration of the Non-Aligned Countries adopted in New Delhi called upon the United Nations Special Committee to complete its preparations for a conference on the Indian Ocean, in strict conformity with its mandate. We fully support this position of the member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement. Their concern at the actions taken against declaring the Indian Ocean a zone of peace was reflected in the draft resolution of

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the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, which they proposed be submitted to the present session of the General Assembly.

In our view, this draft resolution, which the Soviet delegation is ready to support in full, is an adequate basis for progress in preparing the Conference. It states that the continuing deterioration in the military and political situation in the Indian Ocean makes the most rapid convening of the conference an urgent necessity. It gives a specific date for the conference, 4 July 1984, and provides for further work on developing the agenda and agreeing to the organizational and procedural aspects of the conference, participation, order of work, rules of procedure, representation and so forth. However, those opposed to convening this conference continue their obstruction in the Ad Hoc Committee. They stubbornly refuse to permit a decision to be taken which would direct the Committee to do any practical work to convene the conference. As a result, the very positive proposals of the non-aligned countries on this issue could not be adopted.

Once again the Ad Hoc Committee has been pushed around in the same vicious circle. Unfortunately, we have to note that some of the paragraphs in the draft resolution submitted to the General Assembly by the Ad Hoc Committee, particularly paragraphs 5 and 6, detract from the fulfilment of its task with respect to the Indian Ocean and, in fact, serve the purposes of those who would use those paragraphs to substitute pointless discussion for active work in preparing the conference.

For that reason, the Soviet delegation abstained from voting on this draft resolution. We cannot be associated with provisions which do not give a definite and precise mandate to the Special Committee to undertake practical work to prepare the conference. In this connection, we fully support the explanations given by our friend, the representative of the Polish People's Republic.

The Soviet delegation feels that if concrete steps can be taken in certain regions of the world, such as Europe, despite political, military and other complexities, to reduce tension - evidence of which can be seen, for example, in the Madrid Conference, which recently concluded its deliberations, and the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and on Disarmament in Europe, the same steps can also be taken in the Indian Ocean region.

The Soviet delegation, in conclusion, wishes to declare its willingness to co-operate with all countries - non-aligned and others alike - that are interested

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in working out measures to promote the convening of an international conference on the Indian Ocean. We also hope to see an end to attempts to thwart the Special Committee's preparation of that conference. My delegation will continue to lend every effort to achieve those goals.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of the United Kingdom, who wishes to speak in exercise of his right of reply.

Mr. SLINN (United Kingdom): My delegation had not intended to speak this morning, but we have now heard two delegations refer to the "wrenching" or "tearing away" of Diego Garcia from Mauritius. I therefore beg the indulgence of the Committee while I set the record straight.

The United Kingdom is in no doubt about its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago of which Diego Garcia is the principal island. The Archipelago was ceded, along with Mauritius, the Seychelles and other islands, to Great Britain from France under the Treaty of Paris in 1814. The Chagos Archipelago remained a Dependency of Mauritius until 1965, but it was loosely administered. The Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, was detached from Mauritius in 1965 with the full agreement of the Mauritian Council of Ministers to form part of the British Indian Ocean Territory.

The CHAIRMAN: We have now completed action on agenda item 59.



President: Mr. Jorge E. ILLUECA (Panama).

AGENDA ITEM 18

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples:

- (a) 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;
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the Rapporteur 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, Mr. Mohamed Farouk Adhami, to present the report of the Special Committee.

2. Mr. ADHAMI (Syrian Arab Republic), Rapporteur 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: I have the honour to present to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 1983 [A/38/23]. The report, which relates, *inter alia*, to item 18 of the agenda, is submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of resolution 37/35, by which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in all Territories that have not yet attained independence and, in particular, to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism.

3. An account of the Special Committee's examination of the situation in individual Territories is set out in chapters VIII to XXVIII of the report. An account of its consideration of the other specific items referred to it in the relevant General Assembly resolutions is set out in chapters I to VII.

4. Having met between May and September and held both official and unofficial consultations among members throughout the period, the Special Committee gave adequate consideration to, and submitted recommendations on, all the items on its agenda.

5. In the course of its work during the year, the Special Committee, bearing in mind in particular the specific request addressed to it by the General Assembly in resolution 37/35, reviewed the implementation of the Declaration, as well as the various United Nations resolutions relating to the remaining Territories. On the basis of the review, and in the light of developments, the Committee formulated recommendations for the application of further measures by States, by competent United Nations organs and by specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system, with a view to

accelerating the pace of decolonization and to facilitating the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples concerned.

6. During the year, the Special Committee continued its study of the activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration in Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination in southern Africa.

7. In the light of the relevant decisions and resolutions of the Assembly's thirty seventh session, the Special Committee continued its consideration of the military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration.

8. Further, under the terms of the relevant provisions of resolution 37/32, the Committee continued its examination of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

9. On all these items, the Fourth Committee has endorsed the related recommendations of the Special Committee, on which the Assembly will take action at its meeting tomorrow.

10. As members will have noted from the relevant chapters of the Special Committee's report, the Committee also devoted considerable attention during the year to the decolonization of the small Territories and approved a number of concrete recommendations and proposals concerning individual Territories. The Fourth Committee also approved these recommendations, which I hope will be endorsed fully by the Assembly tomorrow afternoon.

11. In the same connection, the Special Committee once again noted with satisfaction the continued readiness of the administering Powers to receive visiting missions of the Committee. It is the firm view of the Committee that these missions constitute an invaluable method of securing first-hand information on the situation prevailing in the Territories concerned, as well as on the aspirations of the people regarding their future.

12. Within the context of the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable, the Committee took up separately an item entitled "Special Committee decision of 4 August 1982 concerning Puerto Rico". In this regard, the Committee, following the hearing granted to representatives of a number of organizations, took a decision on the item [*ibid.*, chap. I, para. 67], in which it, *inter alia*, reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the full applicability of that resolution with respect to Puerto Rico.

13. Finally, the Special Committee carried out a number of other tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly in various resolutions, as well as those arising from its own previous decisions, including specific activities relating to the questions of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization.

14. Subject to any directive it may receive from the Assembly in this connection, the Special Committee

intends to organize in Europe in 1984 a seminar with the national and international non-governmental organizations concerned, as part of its continuing efforts to enlist their support in the dissemination of the relevant information and in the mobilization of world public opinion for the cause of decolonization.

15. During the year the Committee took part in a number of international conferences and meetings convened by these organizations. It is the Committee's intention, in keeping with the related decisions of the Assembly, to continue to dispatch groups of members to hold consultations with the organizations concerned and to participate in conferences, seminars and other special meetings dealing with decolonization arranged by those organizations as well as by the United Nations bodies concerned.

16. Having regard to the general aspects of the process of decolonization, I express the hope, on behalf of the Special Committee, that the proposals outlined in the section of the report entitled "Future work" [*ibid.*, paras. 157-168], will meet with the Assembly's approval, so that the Committee may proceed with the tasks it proposes to undertake.

17. The Special Committee also recommends that the General Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers concerned to take immediately all the necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions. In this connection, the Special Committee, in the light of the useful results achieved as a consequence of the active participation in its work of all the administering Powers, recommends that the General Assembly again request the administering Powers concerned to participate actively in its work relating to the Territories under their administration.

18. Further, bearing in mind the affirmation by the General Assembly that direct association of Non-Self-Governing Territories with the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies is an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of those Territories towards a position of equality with States Members of the United Nations, the Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussion in the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee on the items relating to their respective countries.

19. The General Assembly might also wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the United Nations in its resolutions on the question of decolonization.

20. As representatives will have noted, the Special Committee followed the procedure adopted at its 1982 session in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its current session, in pursuance of paragraph 31 of decision 34/401, by which the Assembly recommended that subsidiary organs reporting to the General Assembly should make every effort to submit draft resolutions in order to facilitate the consideration of the items. Taking into account the achievements of the Fourth Committee in this connection at the thirty-seventh session and at the current session, I can state with confidence that this practice has worked very well in facilitating the work of the Assembly and the Fourth Committee in particular.

21. In conclusion, the Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined in the Committee's report, the General Assembly also make adequate financial provisions to cover the activities

envisaged by the Committee for 1984. In addition, the Committee requests that the Assembly make financial provision as deemed appropriate to meet the possibility of the Committee's holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters, as stated in its report [*ibid.*, para. 166]. Finally, the Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate.

22. On behalf of the Special Committee, I commend the report to the serious attention of the General Assembly.

23. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the Chairman 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, Mr. Koroma.

24. Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone), Chairman 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: The General Assembly has just heard an account of the work of the Special Committee during 1983 by the Rapporteur of the Committee. I shall therefore, as Chairman of the Special Committee, confine myself to a few observations concerning some of the developments that have taken place during the year in the field of decolonization.

25. First, let me express on behalf of the Special Committee our satisfaction at the admission to membership of Saint Christopher and Nevis on 23 September at the outset of the current session. With Brunei acceding to independence at the end of this year, there will remain some 19 dependent Territories, with a total population of over 3 million, which have yet to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

26. Of these Territories, Namibia, with the grave situation still prevailing there, is, of course, our foremost concern. As I had occasion to elaborate on 28 November, in my statement to the Assembly [*72nd meeting*], during the debate on Namibia, this ominous threat of a massive escalation of violence in the area exists because South Africa has chosen to defy the world. I wish only to repeat the often-stated position of the Special Committee that, in the light of the continuing defiance by South Africa of its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and its persistent use of force to perpetuate its illegal domination of the Territory, as well as its repeated acts of aggression against neighbouring independent African States, the full and effective application of measures under Chapter VII of the Charter should be the key by the use of which the United Nations can obtain South Africa's compliance with the decisions of the Security Council.

27. Our duty is clear. We must continue to resort to every available means to ensure that the oppressed people of the Territory are finally enabled to exercise their legitimate right to freedom and independence. The Special Committee will not be deterred in its efforts to assist the people of Namibia in their struggle to achieve sovereign statehood.

28. During the year under review, the Special Committee has also given close attention to the problems affecting the other colonial Territories, particularly those in the Caribbean and in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Because of their small territorial size and population, and frequently because of their isolation and limited resources, these territories, as we are aware, are facing different and often highly complex problems. These special circumstances notwithstanding, the peoples of the Territories

concerned must be enabled to exercise all the rights and privileges set out in the relevant provisions of the Charter and in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples—in particular, the right to make their own decisions in respect of their future status.

29. The obligation of the administering Powers concerned to comply faithfully with such decisions cannot be over-emphasized. In the discharge of their primary responsibilities, as defined in the Charter, the administering Powers should do their utmost to ensure the well-being of the inhabitants of these Territories. The protection and safeguarding of the best interests, both present and future, of the peoples of the Territories concerned should be a paramount consideration.

30. Some of these and other important recommendations of the Special Committee, as approved by the Fourth Committee, will be considered by the Assembly, and I wish to express my confident hope that these recommendations will receive the Assembly's endorsement.

31. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the situation in the small Territories, the Committee continues to receive the co-operation of the administering Powers concerned. Bearing in mind the clear position taken by the General Assembly in this regard, I need hardly stress the importance of such co-operation if the Special Committee is to be able effectively to assist the peoples of the Territories and to facilitate the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in those Territories.

32. In connection with visiting missions to dependent Territories, I wish once again to reiterate what the Committee has so often asserted, namely, that the sending of such visiting missions is the most direct, as well as the most effective, means of securing information on the social, political and economic conditions prevailing in the colonial Territories and of ascertaining at first hand the real wishes and aspirations of the peoples concerned. We are delighted to note the statement by the representative of Australia in the Fourth Committee [*15th meeting*] to the effect that the people of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands had formally advised his Government that they were now ready to participate in an act of self-determination to decide their future political status, under observation by a United Nations visiting mission. The Special Committee fully intends, with the necessary co-operation of the administering Powers, to continue to dispatch such missions as and when appropriate.

33. The Rapporteur of the Special Committee has already pointed out that the relevant chapters of the Committee's report [*A/38/23*] contain a number of concrete recommendations concerning the various problems existing in the remaining colonial Territories. It is my firm belief and hope that the General Assembly will give its most serious attention to the recommendations made by the Special Committee. I am confident that the Assembly's approval of those and other important recommendations will enhance the capacity of the United Nations to deal more effectively with the remaining colonial issues.

34. As will be noted in the Special Committee's report, it has been a long-standing practice of the Committee to attempt to arrive at decisions on the various matters of which it is seized with the broadest possible degree of consensus. In the past, that method has always served well not only the Special Committee, but also the Fourth Committee, and has facilitated the Assembly's consideration of the related recommendations of the Special Committee.

35. I am confident that members will continue to do their utmost to avoid contentious and divisive procedures and will thus continue to demonstrate their commitment to the cause of those for whom we have been entrusted with the task of ensuring the right to self-determination and independence. In this context, I wish to pay a particular tribute to Mr. Ali Treiki, the Chairman of the Fourth Committee, for his outstanding leadership and for his contribution in enabling the Fourth Committee to arrive at a consensus draft resolution relating to one of the most complex issues under the present item.

36. I should also like at this stage to make a few personal comments. I should like first to express my sincere appreciation to all the members of the Special Committee for the co-operation they accorded me as Chairman during the year. My particular thanks go to my friends and colleagues, the other officers of the Committee: Mr. Raúl Roa Kourí, of Cuba, Mr. Ole Peter Kolby, of Norway, and Mr. Jiří Pulz, of Czechoslovakia, our three Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. Mohamed Farouk Adhami, of the Syrian Arab Republic, our Rapporteur. For me, as Chairman of the Special Committee, it has been an honour and a privilege to work with such dedicated colleagues. To each one of them I owe a personal debt of gratitude for his devoted service in the cause of decolonization.

37. I should like on behalf of the Special Committee to express our profound thanks to the delegation of Norway for its co-operation and for the invaluable contribution it has made to the Special Committee's work during the past two years. I am fully confident that its successor, which I understand will be Sweden, will continue the great tradition of the Nordic countries and assist in carrying out the important tasks entrusted to the Special Committee.

38. The Secretary-General has shown consistent interest in the field of decolonization. We are grateful to him for his interest, which has ensured the maximum co-operation and assistance on his part.

39. Before concluding, I should like also to pay a particular tribute to the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization, Mr. Rafeuddin Ahmed, for his assistance and continued collaboration; through him, my gratitude goes also to all the members of his Department.

40. Having briefly reviewed some of the principal developments in the field of decolonization, I should like on behalf of the sponsors to introduce two draft resolutions submitted under this item [*A/38/L.33 and L.34*]. As these two draft resolutions reflect both the developments and the problems I have just outlined, I need not, I am sure, elaborate on their substance.

41. Draft resolution A/38/L.33 deals with general aspects of decolonization. By this draft resolution, the Assembly would, among other things, renew the mandate of the Special Committee.

42. Draft resolution A/38/L.34 deals with dissemination of information on decolonization. By this draft resolution, the Assembly would once again reiterate the importance of publicity as an instrument for furthering the aims and purposes of the Declaration on decolonization.

43. Speaking on behalf of the sponsors, I wish to commend these draft resolutions to the members of the Assembly for their serious attention and unanimous approval.

44. Mr. PULZ (Czechoslovakia) (*interpretation from Russian*): The debate in the Organization on the question of the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization

clearly shows how grave and acute the problem of decolonization continues to be. As before, the peoples of Namibia, Micronesia, Puerto Rico and a number of other so-called small Territories remain under colonial rule. Besides the colonies, the United Nations list of dependent Territories includes 15 or so archipelagos and islands in the Pacific Ocean and a number of other islands and Territories in the western hemisphere which remain under the rule of the colonial Powers in the guise of "overseas possessions", "overseas departments" or "freely associated Territories".

45. There are in the world at present a little more than 40 dependent Territories—and this at a time when we are approaching the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations, at a time when almost a quarter of a century has passed since the adoption, on the initiative of the Soviet Union, of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [*resolution 1514 (XV)*]. There can be no justification for the preservation of colonialism. It is absolutely incompatible not only with the fundamental instruments of the United Nations, but also with the whole system of legal, philosophical and ethical values of our civilization.

46. Certain colonial Powers vainly attempt to paint a glowing picture of the state of affairs in the decolonization sphere, alleging that we should be proud of the results achieved. They attempt also to deny the gravity of the existing manifestations of colonialism by claiming that there is really an insignificant number of remaining dependent Territories and that the peoples of those Territories are not ready to exercise, or even capable of exercising, the right to self-determination.

47. The continued existence of colonialism is a deplorable anachronism, inherited from past centuries. It is an ignominious phenomenon of obsolete, outmoded social systems. Colonialism is a source of international tension and a threat to the peace. The United Nations and the whole of mankind must give unfailing attention to the problem of colonialism until the last dependent Territory has been freed from the colonial yoke.

48. What is the reason for the feverish attempts by the colonial Powers to perpetuate colonialism? What is it that is driving them on in their determined efforts to spin out for as long as possible their control over dependent territories, whether by keeping them under the colonial yoke or by imposing neo-colonialist development models? It is the unchanged policy of the colonial Powers, a policy of exploitation of the human and natural resources of the colonies, as is evident in particular in the case of Namibia. In addition, there is an ever clearer desire to turn the colonies into strategic outposts of imperialism. The colonial Powers have established military bases in a number of dependent Territories. That is not at all in keeping with the interests and aspirations of the colonial peoples. A striking example of these practices of colonialism is the militarization of Puerto Rico and the use of Micronesia and Guam as outposts in United States strategic planning in the Pacific. The idea is to use these colonies as springboards for acts of aggression against countries of the Far East and of other parts of the world. Another example is the establishment of a broad network of military installations on the Malvinas Islands. The administering Power, the United Kingdom, did not hesitate to use large military forces to restore its colonial rule over the islands. Another example is the misuse of a part of the Territory of Micronesia as a firing-range for testing American intercontinental missiles. As a result of United States atomic and hydrogen weapon testing, the people of that part of the Territory were obliged to leave their homes, which had become unfit for habitation. I would

refer also to the involvement of the dependent Territories in the military manoeuvres conducted by the armies of colonial and imperialist Powers and their allies, as has been the case, for example, in Puerto Rico. The misuse of the occupied Territory of Namibia for the military-strategic aims of imperialism was resolutely condemned from this very rostrum by a number of speakers during the Assembly's debate on the question of Namibia a few days ago.

49. It has been repeatedly stated that the principal reason for the existence of colonialism and for its survival is the economic exploitation of the colonies and their use for military purposes. The efforts made by the colonial Powers in pursuit of those aims are reflected also in their approach to the fulfilment of their own obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on decolonization. The work of the Special Committee on decolonization, and also that of the Fourth Committee at the current session, has clearly demonstrated that there is justification for alarm about the state of affairs in the discharge of these obligations. In a number of cases the conduct of the colonial Powers is in clear contradiction with their obligation to promote the development of the peoples of the colonial Territories and to lead them to self-determination and independence. This is true, for example, of Micronesia, in respect of which the United States has chosen a strategy of gradual absorption and annexation. It has pursued this aim by, in particular, ensuring a state of catastrophe in Micronesia's economy, thereby making that economy increasingly dependent on supplies from the United States, and by dividing the Territory of Micronesia into four parts, disregarding the provision of the Charter that any change in the status of strategic Trust Territories shall be made only with the agreement of the Security Council.

50. The measures that have led to a profound economic crisis in Puerto Rico ensure that the country will be exclusively dependent on the administering Power, the United States. Disregarding decisions of the Special Committee, the United States is doing nothing in Puerto Rico that could lead to the full and effective exercise by the Puerto Rican people of their right to self-determination.

51. The lack of compliance with the obligation to guarantee the political, economic, social and cultural development of other colonies is also confirmation of the fact that the administering Power has been deliberately delaying and sometimes even calling in question the possibility for the colonial peoples to exercise their right to self-determination. The militarization of certain colonies, to which I have already referred, also leads to the creation of a significant threat to international peace and security.

52. At the same time, the colonial Powers are at the forefront of the forces that are attempting to discredit the national liberation movements, for example, by trying to equate the lawful struggle of colonial peoples for self-determination and independence with terrorism. They try to cover up the existence of certain colonial problems by annexing or preparing to annex the territory of colonies. They try to picture their interference in the economy of the colonies as indispensable assistance for the economic development of the dependent Territories. They try to dispute the fact that because of their economic activities there is increased dependence by the colonies on the colonial Powers in all spheres, which undermines the viability of the economies of the colonies, and that the primary purpose of their monopolies is to secure profits for themselves, even in small Territories where the living conditions, and the possibilities of economic development are extremely difficult.

53. We consider it a positive factor that these affirmations are meeting with an ever-smaller response today. Doubtless the measures taken by the United Nations in the dissemination of information on decolonization contribute to this.

54. We should also refer to the positive decisions of the General Assembly on the activities of economic and other circles and the military activities of the colonial Powers, which impede the process of decolonization.

55. The work of the Fourth Committee at the current session has confirmed, and sometimes even enhanced, these decisions, in full accordance with the Declaration on decolonization and in the interest of completing the process of decolonization. The United Nations has always played an important role in supporting the efforts of the colonial peoples to attain self-determination and independence. It has been acting and continues to act as a powerful force inspiring and urging on the peoples of the colonial and dependent Territories in their struggle for freedom. These efforts have been crowned with success whenever the peoples of the former colonies have combined their forces in a powerful front of anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist forces.

56. The thrust of the efforts of the United Nations to strengthen the unity of all anti-colonialist forces and to broaden the moral, political, diplomatic and even material support for the national liberation movements in southern Africa, and in the so-called small Territories, continues to be highly relevant today. From the point of view of strengthening the unity of the anti-colonial forces, the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March 1983, was an exceptionally important political event. We support the important decisions adopted by that Conference against colonialism and neo-colonialism [see A/38/132 and Corr.1 and 2].

57. Support for the struggle of the oppressed peoples for freedom, self-determination and independence was spontaneously expressed also at the world assembly entitled "For peace and life and against nuclear war", which was held in June of this year in the capital of my country, Prague. Within the framework of that assembly's dialogue on questions of Africa, Asia and Latin America, attention was also given to the anti-colonial struggle of the non-self-governing peoples and the broadest support for that struggle was expressed. The existence of colonialism was described as a major problem leading to the heightening of international tension and to the creation of a threat to international peace.

58. One way of mobilizing broad support, assistance and solidarity is the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 35/118. We regard this plan as a guide to action, showing how it is possible, by the adoption of concrete measures, to put an end to colonialism and rid humanity and the dependent peoples of this obsolete phenomenon.

59. In this respect, the United Nations has been playing an irreplaceable initiating, co-ordinating and monitoring role. Allow me to express our conviction that excellent prerequisites for the fulfilment of this mission have been created for a number of years now by decisions of the Special Committee on decolonization, of which the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is an active member.

60. This year, again, the Committee has successfully dealt with the tasks facing it and has achieved positive results. In this connection, I wish to pay tribute to the

Chairman of the Special Committee, Mr. Koroma, of Sierra Leone, for his competent conduct of the work of the Committee.

61. The Czechoslovak delegation supports the draft resolutions and decisions prepared on the basis of decisions of the special Committee and in response to the urgent tasks in the field of decolonization, as indicated by the Charter of the United Nations, and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. By taking an active part in the work of the Special Committee, we are prepared to make our contribution to the further development of those decisions, in order to bring an end to colonialism as soon as possible.

62. Mr. KUTSCHAN (German Democratic Republic): This year's renewed debate by the General Assembly on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples accords fully with the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. The Organization's pertinent activities, particularly those undertaken since the adoption of the historic Declaration, have contributed significantly to the process of liberation of peoples subjected to colonial oppression, and we are fully confident that the time will come when the last colonial territory will be freed and there will be no further need for the Assembly to include this item in its agenda.

63. At present, however, there are still imperialist countries and monopolistic corporations which, mainly for military-strategic reasons and out of greed for profits, are unwilling to cease colonial oppression and exploitation and therefore oppose the further implementation of resolution 1514 (XV). Worse still, the confrontation and arms-building course of the most aggressive forces of imperialism, particularly those in the United States, leads to an ever-increasing recourse to the threat or use of force against the sovereignty of independent States and the right of peoples to self-determination.

64. This policy is jeopardizing peace and security all over the globe. The brutal aggression against Grenada, for which the United States has been condemned worldwide, has shown this very clearly. It was part of a strategy of arresting and if possible reversing the process of the liberation of peoples from imperialist oppression and exploitation, which the most aggressive imperialist circles are pursuing on a global scale. In a bid to subject peoples forcibly to situations of renewed political and economic dependency, the ill-famed imperialist gunboat diplomacy is being revived and huge naval forces are being massed off the coasts of North Africa, in the Caribbean, in the Indian Ocean and in other regions of the world. Furthermore, imperialism's strategy includes a stepped-up expansion of military bases, perilous military manoeuvres near the borders of other countries or off their coasts, extensive military aid to aggressor States and the *apartheid* régime and the sending of spy planes and combat aircraft to crisis areas. On the pretext of defending its own national interests, whole regions are being declared United States "spheres of interest" and unbridled recourse is being had to interference in the internal affairs of other countries. No one will be able to explain how to reconcile such actions with the verbal declarations which the representatives of that policy are making in avowing commitment to the right of peoples to self-determination and to the sovereignty and independence of States.

65. Imperialist Powers have increasingly made it part of their policy to misuse colonial Territories as military bases. Therefore, we speak out vigorously against all attempts to dismember the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, that is, Micronesia, and virtually complete its

annexation under such labels as “free association” and “community” with the United States. The granting of independence to the people of Micronesia is one of the world Organization’s current tasks in the process of decolonization under the provisions of resolution 1514 (XV).

66. Similarly, my Government supports the demand of Mauritius for the immediate return of the Chagos Archipelago, including the island of Diego García. The establishment of a naval and air force base on that island and the plans to direct operations of the rapid deployment force from there constitute a threat to the security of States in that as well as in other regions. They are diametrically opposed to the peoples’ aspirations to transform the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

67. We also wish to recall that the attempt to perpetuate the colonial status of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) led to a dangerous military conflict. Bearing this in mind, we resolutely advocate a settlement of that conflict on the basis of resolution 38/12, to which we gave our full and unqualified backing when it was adopted by the Assembly on 16 November.

68. Reference has been made over and over again to the fact that the people of Puerto Rico continues to be prevented from exercising its right to self-determination. The so-called free association can hardly conceal the total subjugation of Puerto Rico and the role it is forced to play as an object of profitable exploitation and as an important military base. Therefore, in August the Special Committee very justly adopted a resolution [see A/38/23, chap. I, para. 67] which reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence and calls on the United States to grant all sovereign rights to that Territory.

69. A particularly flagrant violation of international law exists in the form of South Africa’s illegal occupation of Namibia. In making this assessment we are at one with the overwhelming majority of those who spoke during the debate on the question of Namibia.

70. Pretoria’s stepped-up acts of aggression against the People’s Republic of Angola confirm the accuracy of the conclusion that it is indispensable to eliminate the colonial, Fascist rule exercised over Namibia if peace and security in southern Africa are to be restored. We feel very strongly about the urgent need to achieve a speedy solution of the question of Namibia on the basis of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). In this endeavour, as was also reaffirmed in the decisions of the International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence, held in Paris from 25 to 29 April 1983,¹ the United Nations must live up to the responsibility entrusted to it. We likewise support Security Council resolution 539 (1983), which rejects the unwarranted insistence on linking the independence of Namibia to the withdrawal of internationalist Cuban troops from Angola and calls upon South Africa to co-operate with the Secretary-General. However, recent remarks by leading representatives of the *apartheid* régime indicate Pretoria’s intention to persist in its blatant defiance of the stated will of the great majority of States Members of the United Nations. Such defiance, quite obviously, is possible only with the backing of Western countries, particularly the United States. The contact group’s manoeuvres have repeatedly enabled the racist State to gain time and have contributed to maintaining the occupation régime in Namibia. They have also served the goals of those same imperialist forces in their bid to solidify far-reaching politico-military and economic interests in the region.

71. The German Democratic Republic condemns any collaboration with the *apartheid* régime and demands the

imposition of mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. At the same time, our all-round solidarity and support are with the Namibian people, under the leadership of the South West Africa People’s Organization [SWAPO], its sole, authentic representative, with the front-line States and with the people of South Africa, led by the African National Congress, in their just struggle against the racist régime.

72. In the political declaration adopted at the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty held at Prague on 4 and 5 January this year, the States parties reaffirmed their conviction that “it is essential, in the interest of removing the causes of many conflicts, to eliminate once and for all every vestige of colonialism and racism, and to renounce the policy of neo-colonialism, oppression and exploitation of other peoples” [see A/38/67]. Therefore the speediest possible implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples must be pursued as a matter of the highest priority. Hence, the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 35/118, must be put into effect without delay.

73. Mr. SHERMAN (United States of America): Most of the Members of the United Nations have felt the effects of colonialism, as colonizers or as colonized. The states of the United States began their history as colonies, like the other nations of this hemisphere. Ours was one of the modern world’s first struggles for independence. Between 1775 and 1783 the 13 colonies from New Hampshire to Georgia fought a war of independence against the nation that has since become our close ally, the United Kingdom. We also had a brief experience with being a colonial Power when, at the end of the nineteenth century, the United States acquired a small number of territorial possessions, the most populous of which, the Philippines, acceded to independence in 1946.

74. I began with these brief comments upon the extremes of the United States experience with colonialism because I hope that they illustrate one basic fact, often lost amidst the highly charged ideological posturing on the matter to which we are too frequently subjected here. That fact is that the United States has close political, cultural and human ties with both the colonizer of our experience, the United Kingdom, and the colonized, the Philippines. Although both experiences left scars not easily healed, in each instance those statesmen who saw the importance of the mutual ties created during the colonial era triumphed over those who sought to perpetuate prejudices born of the colonial experience.

75. This, then, is the first critical question which both colonizers and those who have been decolonized should ask themselves as we emerge from the first modern colonial era. Should we allow those nostalgic for an earlier era, or demagogues anxious to prey upon the resentments of the past conflicts, to prevent the construction of healthy relationships? Or should we take advantage of the common overlapping languages and destinies provided by the colonial period? Countries throughout Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Caribbean and Pacific have answered these questions with the Commonwealth, the Lomé accords and a variety of associative statuses. I believe experience shows overwhelmingly that those countries which seek to build upon the ties of the past rather than annihilate them are enjoying the highest rates of economic growth and have the best opportunities for the bright social and economic future their peoples seek.

76. In its resolutions and in the Organization, we hear a great deal about the “colonial Powers”, the “imperialists”, or sometimes another nebulous group of countries referred to as “the imperialist countries led by the United States”. This phraseology is particularly favoured by representatives of the Soviet Union and its allies. According to the General Assembly’s list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, the United States has four such Territories, with a total population of 370,000. The United Kingdom has 10, excluding the soon-to-be-independent Brunei, with a population of 147,000. New Zealand has one, with a population of 1,572. The fourth member of this band of “reactionary imperialists”, Australia, has one, with a population of 546. The only other so-called Territories on the list are East Timor, Western Sahara and Namibia, of which only Namibia retains a colonial character.

77. So, excepting Namibia, we are talking about a “vast” colonial empire retained by the “imperialist countries led by the United States” with a total population of 519,118 throughout the world. This is, by way of comparison, about two thirds of the population of Latvia’s capital of Riga, occupied by the Soviet Union in the wake of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, and approximately the population of metropolitan Kabul, Afghanistan, occupied by the Soviet army against the will of a people struggling to re-establish its independence.

78. In view of these numbers, which reflect the reality of the winding-down of the first colonial era, why is it that the Soviet Union and its allies continue to prattle on about the “imperialists”? The Soviet Union is, as we know, the only contemporary empire with areas of the world firmly integrated into it. But colonialism is outdated. Peoples in our times desire to govern themselves. The winds of freedom which swept over Africa and Asia after the Second World War have also swept over Eastern Europe in the last three decades. But while the countries of the West responded in the areas they controlled by granting independence to countries whose combined population now exceeds a billion people, the Soviet Union responded by maintaining, and in some cases strengthening, its mechanisms of repression. By fomenting the illusion, with relentless propaganda and name-calling, that there is a vast Western-dominated empire, the Soviet Union seeks to distract attention from its own manifestly imperial conduct in Europe and elsewhere. The Soviet Union has realized that appeals to anti-colonialism provide it with a rallying cry in this forum, under the cover of which it seeks to build majorities for whatever anti-Western cause it is pushing at the moment. It is thus crucial for Soviet purposes here to sustain the image of a larger-than-life “imperialist” menace for its own purposes, having nothing to do with the welfare of the world’s half-million people, again excepting Namibia, living under colonial administration.

79. The draft resolutions which we are to consider are an excellent illustration of the phenomenon I have been describing. Let us first consider the draft resolutions which the Fourth Committee has passed on to the plenary Assembly. The report on foreign economic interests is a demagogic attack upon multinational companies under the guise of an appeal for independence for Namibia and other Territories. I doubt that more than a handful of countries in this body would allow its shrill, distorted characterization of the activities of multinational corporations to affect their own relations with these companies. The accompanying report on military facilities allegedly impeding independence of colonial Territories is a gratuitous, one-sided attack upon Western defence installations, with the most transparently feeble link to the

supposed motivation for the report, the independence of colonial Territories. It provides a pretext for the Soviet Union and its allies to denounce Western military facilities outside their soil, while ignoring the presence of the troops of the Soviet Union and its allies outside their borders, in Europe, Asia and Africa, engaged in truly colonial enterprises. The report on specialized agencies is noteworthy for its targeting of a Member State, the United States as chance would have it, for a campaign “to mobilize and inform public opinion” against its policy on IMF credits for South Africa. When one finds a report supposedly dealing with decolonization, which is instead encouraging selective intervention in the internal affairs of a Member State, taking advantage of that Member’s free institutions and media in a way which no one would dream of doing in the closed societies which sponsor such language, then one wonders, have we not completely lost sight of the issue before us?

80. As for the two draft resolutions which we are to consider today and which did not pass through the Fourth Committee, they are equally defective. The omnibus draft resolution on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [A/38/L.33] is replete with extremist and inaccurate rhetoric and solutions to colonial problems. For example, it recognizes the legitimacy of peoples under “colonial domination” to use “all the necessary means at their disposal” to achieve self-determination. This comes perilously close to providing an endorsement for murder and terror. The penultimate preambular paragraph refers to the “illegal occupying régimes”, in the plural, of colonial Territories. Has this body now determined through this draft resolution that other colonial Territories besides Namibia are administered by “illegal occupying régimes”? My Government is curious where these other “illegal occupying régimes” might be. We can find nothing in the record of the United Nations or in international law supporting this description of any Territories other than Namibia.

81. The other draft resolution, on dissemination of information on decolonization [A/38/L.34], while generally avoiding the overheated rhetoric of other draft resolutions, still conjures up the image of a colonialist menace, whose “evils and dangers” require “the widest possible dissemination of information” to combat. We regard such activities, outside the Namibian matter, as a gross misuse of limited United Nations resources.

82. In discussing the blatantly partisan uses to which the decolonization issue has been put by some Members, and I regret to add, several of the draft resolutions, I do not wish to draw attention away from what should be the focus of our attention in the decolonization era. On the contrary, I would hope that we could concentrate on the real issue, namely, the wishes and aspirations of those peoples still living in old colonial Territories. The most important of such areas, in terms of the responsibilities of the international community, is Namibia. We have just completed a lengthy debate in the General Assembly on the Namibian question, and I do not propose to prolong our session by repeating the comments of my delegation on it. Suffice it to note here that this is clearly an important decolonization question still facing the world community and this body. My Government intends to do all within its power to hasten the accession to independence of the people of Namibia through pragmatic diplomatic efforts rather than shrill rhetoric.

83. With regard to the Territories and peoples under the administration of the United States, we take our responsibilities most seriously. We seek to ensure that the peoples of those Territories are able to establish freely their

own democratic political institutions and regularly express views about their political status. We respect the right to self-determination of the peoples of Guam, American Samoa, and the United States Virgin Islands. The wish of the peoples of those Territories to continue their association with the United States, under a variety of constitutions reflecting their own political conditions, is welcomed but not dictated by the United States. There should be no doubt in the mind of anyone that the United States will continue to respect these freely expressed wishes of free peoples, regardless of whether they seek to continue present arrangements or to choose a different status.

84. In closing, I would like to reaffirm my Government's desire to work with all States seriously seeking to eliminate all vestiges of colonial domination by allowing the process of self-determination and conciliation the widest possible application. This Organization must not allow the decolonization and self-determination cause, central to the existence of so many States here, to be hijacked by the world's sole surviving colonial empire in pursuit of its strategic goals. Let us begin to bring the rhetoric of our speeches on decolonization here, and of these draft resolutions, away from sterile name-calling and recrimination, towards a process of real dialogue and co-operation.

85. Mr. VASILYEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) [*interpretation from Russian*]: In contemporary international political affairs, and also in the activities of the United Nations, the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples occupies an important place. This is understandable because colonialism continues to exist in various forms and manifestations, constituting a source of tension and conflict.

86. The triumph of the great October socialist revolution in Russia became the guiding light for a broad movement of all oppressed peoples and for the elimination of all forms of colonial dependence. The workers' and peasants' State born of the October revolution became from the very beginning a reliable ally of national liberation movements.

87. It is perfectly logical that it was indeed the Soviet Union which proposed the adoption of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which has become a concrete, militant programme of the peoples struggling for freedom and independence. The Declaration thus adopted has played, and will continue to play, an important role in the struggle of the oppressed peoples for freedom and independence and in the mobilization of world public opinion against the remnants and recurrences of colonialism.

88. The Declaration on decolonization set forth the basic principles for United Nations activities for the elimination of colonialism. Guided by these principles, the United Nations has adopted a number of important resolutions and decisions, the most significant of which are the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV), and, above all, the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration, contained in resolution 35/118.

89. The Declaration, and subsequent United Nations decisions which further developed it, demanded the elimination of all colonial régimes, proclaimed lawful the struggle of the peoples of the colonies for national liberation, including the use of armed force, and called upon all States to give them material and moral support in that struggle. The United Nations thereby elevated the task of the complete elimination of colonialism to the status of one of main problems of current political affairs.

90. In recent decades, the world colonial system of oppression has been dealt some crushing blows. On the African continent there have been changes which have radically altered the political map of Africa. Now one of the most urgent and important tasks on our agenda is that of the prompt and complete elimination of the most ignominious phenomenon of our age, the remaining focal points of colonialism and racism in their most repulsive form, *apartheid*, based on terror and violence directed against the indigenous African population.

91. This is also the purpose of many other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at this session which contain demands for the prompt granting of independence to the people of Namibia and condemn the plunder by the transnational corporations in Namibia and the so-called small colonial Territories. They also condemn the use by the Western countries of colonial Territories for military and strategic purposes and emphasize the need to implement the Declaration on decolonization with regard to small colonial Territories, and so on.

92. The situation in southern Africa is fraught with unpredictable consequences. The reason for this explosive situation is the existence of the ultra-reactionary fascist régime of South Africa. If this last racist bastion, a remnant from the age of colonialism, has not collapsed so far, then it is the Western countries, primarily the United States, which are to blame. Washington has done its utmost to prevent the application against South Africa of comprehensive United Nations sanctions, to undermine the international political and economic boycott of *apartheid* and to save South Africa from international isolation and strengthen its political standing abroad. The United States has blocked the solution of problems which create tension in southern Africa. Washington has taken steps every inch of the way which conflict with United Nations decisions and with the demands of the Organization of African Unity and the entire international community.

93. The position of the United States and other Western Powers on questions of decolonization has come in for some harsh criticism at this session of the General Assembly, as reflected in many of the resolutions adopted. In resolution 38/36 A, for example, the Assembly condemns the increased assistance given to South Africa by the major Western countries and Israel in the political, economic and, above all, the military spheres. It strongly condemns "the collusion by the Governments of certain Western and other States, particularly those of the United States of America and Israel, with the racist régime of South Africa in the nuclear field".

94. In resolution 38/36 B the Assembly firmly rejects and condemns the persistent attempts by the United States and South Africa to establish any linkage or parallelism between the independence of Namibia and any extraneous and irrelevant issues, in particular the presence of Cuban forces in Angola, and emphasizes unequivocally that such attempts are designed to delay the decolonization process in Namibia and constitute interference in the internal affairs of Angola.

95. The Byelorussian delegation considers that it is essential to compel the racists of Pretoria to halt their criminal policy and comply with United Nations decisions and the opinion of the international community. For that purpose the Security Council must as a matter of urgency adopt comprehensive mandatory sanctions against racist South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

96. The Byelorussian delegation has always advocated the exercise by the peoples of southern Africa of their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence,

and the prompt and unconditional withdrawal of the troops and administration of South Africa from Namibia, including Walvis Bay and the offshore islands. We have always advocated the transfer of full power in Namibia to SWAPO, the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people, and the elimination of the shameful system of *apartheid* in South Africa.

97. The ultimate aims of the Declaration have not yet been achieved in certain so-called small colonial Territories in the wide expanses of the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic oceans and in the Caribbean. The continuation of colonial exploitation of the small Territories by the imperialist monopolies, and their use by the administering Powers as military bases, is the principle obstacle to the attainment by the population of those Territories of self-determination and independence and to the implementation of the aims of the Declaration.

98. The military bases of the imperialist Powers in Guam, Puerto Rico, Diego García, Bermuda, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Micronesia and other colonial and dependent Territories and the military activities of those Powers, no matter what cosmetic attempts are made by the Western Powers here at the United Nations to mislead us on this issue, are directly contrary to the vital interests of the people of those Territories and the aims of decolonization proclaimed in the Declaration and hinder the fulfilment of the Declaration.

99. Particular attention should be given to the situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which has come about as a result of the activities of the administering Power, the United States. For 36 years the administering Power has not only failed to fulfil the goal of trusteeship but, circumventing the Security Council and violating the Charter, the trusteeship agreement, the Declaration on decolonization and other United Nations decisions, has been pursuing a policy of the fragmentation of Micronesia and the virtual piecemeal absorption of the Territory. Any alteration of Micronesia's status as a trust territory under the Charter can be made only by decision of the Security Council. Unilateral acts by the administering Power in respect of the whole trust territory or individual parts of it are unlawful and can have no legal validity.

100. It is urgently necessary for the United Nations and its competent organs to take the measures provided for in the Charter to thwart the efforts of the United States to turn Micronesia into its own colonial possession. It is essential to guarantee the unimpeded exercise by the people of Micronesia of its right to genuine freedom and independence.

101. In this connection, I should like to touch on the remarks of the previous speaker, who tried to introduce issues wholly unrelated to the problem we are discussing, which is the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization. Our delegation rejects these attempts to divert the Assembly from the important questions of substance which it must resolve. Despite the arguments advanced by some, resolution 1514 (XV) is fully applicable to all the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, and it is a most important obligation of the United Nations to ensure the use of all possible ways and means to guarantee to the colonial peoples the opportunity to exercise their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence.

102. In conclusion, our delegation pays a tribute to the Special Committee for the immense amount of work done under the leadership of the representative of Sierra Leone, Mr. Koroma. Our delegation hopes that the Special Committee will in the future continue to make its significant contributions to ensuring the full implementation of the Declaration on decolonization.

103. Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria): The delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria holds in high esteem the activities 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, as exemplified by its report [A/38/23].

104. The Bulgarian delegation also extends its gratitude to the Chairman of the Special Committee, Mr. Koroma, of Sierra Leone, for his able guidance of the Committee's work.

105. In keeping with the steadfast efforts of the international community, the People's Republic of Bulgaria has always attached particular importance to the struggle for the immediate and total implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and for the final eradication from the face of our planet of all forms of colonialism, racism and *apartheid*.

106. More than two decades have elapsed since the adoption of the Declaration, submitted at the initiative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, a time span which has demonstrated the extraordinary significance and validity of this outstanding document. The Declaration has left a profound imprint on United Nations work for the realization of the highly humane principles enshrined in its Charter. As a result of the efforts of the international community, and above all of the heroic national liberation struggles of the oppressed colonial peoples, today more than 100 newly liberated States have assumed their legitimate place amidst the States Members of the United Nations. The majority of these countries and peoples are now, along with the countries of the socialist community, in the vanguard of the world Organization's constant struggle to do away with the last vestiges of colonialism and neo-colonialism and to maintain international peace and security.

107. Despite the unremitting efforts of the international community, the colonialist States and their strategic allies, the racists of Pretoria, continue to raise obstacles on the road to decolonization. The imperialist forces are trying, under various pretexts, to perpetuate by all possible means their domination over the colonial Territories, whether in southern Africa, the Caribbean region or in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. For scores of years the colonialist States have consistently made their presence in these Territories consonant with their political, economic, financial and military-strategic interests and goals. These actions are in complete contravention of the letter and the spirit of the Declaration on decolonization, as well as of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration [*resolution 2621 (XXV)*], and particularly of the Plan of Action adopted in resolution 35/118.

108. In the present strained international situation, the efforts of the imperialist forces to prolong their domination in various regions of the world are particularly noteworthy. Thus, for example, the racist Pretoria régime continues to receive their all-round support and protection in the economic, financial, diplomatic and military fields. The racist régime of South Africa has been turned into a military and political ally of the United States and into a bastion of imperialism in Africa, designed to check the progressive transformations under way on the continent and to safeguard, in the final analysis, what are called the vital strategic interests of imperialism in that part of the world.

109. With the help and protection of the United States and other Western States, the régime in Pretoria has forced the Namibian people and the majority of the

South African people to live under the degrading conditions of *apartheid*.

110. Also evident is the unwillingness of Pretoria and its Western allies to permit the mineral-rich Territory of Namibia to be administered freely by the people of that colony that has suffered for so long. The mineral wealth of occupied Namibia has enabled more than 3,000 corporations, the majority of them based in the United States, to amass fabulous profits through ruthless exploitation of the native population. The quest of monopoly capital for super-profits and the geostrategic ambitions of the leading imperialist State are the root causes of the continual emergence of conditions blocking the implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibia's independence. The procrastination in the implementation of this plan, as a result of the active resistance of the imperialist forces, only creates new opportunities for the South African racists to undertake various cosmetic operations to find a neo-colonial solution for the future of Namibia, in violation of the United Nations plan.

111. There can be no doubt who is behind such actions to perpetuate the inhuman exploitation of the natural and human resources of southern Africa. We are firmly convinced that the resolute determination of the heroic people of Namibia to gain independence, under the leadership of its sole authentic representative, SWAPO, will thwart all the devious machinations of the racists in Pretoria and will bring about Namibia's liberation.

112. The inalienable right of self-determination and independence still remains unrealized in a number of so-called small Territories. The principal obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration in those Territories is the lack of political will on the part of the administering Powers to grant immediate and unconditional independence to those countries and peoples, as the Declaration on decolonization demands, and to prepare the colonial peoples for independence and self-determination. At the same time, the administering Powers have been undermining the implementation of the Declaration within the framework of United Nations activities and have offered only a semblance of self-determination and independence to the colonial peoples, in order to enable them to keep these Territories in imperialism's hold and to turn them, *de facto* or *de jure*, into new colonial dependencies.

113. One of the major instruments of the administering Powers, along with the increasing economic dependence of the colonial Territories, is their military activities in those small Territories. The maintenance of military bases and facilities and the stepped-up military activities of the administering Powers in the small Territories constitute one of the main obstacles to the immediate and comprehensive implementation of the Declaration. The administering Powers have even brazenly stated that their military presence in the small Territories is necessary since that presence contributes to the livelihood of the local population, thus concealing their true objective, which is to dominate those parts of the world.

114. The administering Powers have defied the persistent demands of the international community and the world Organization for the immediate termination of their military activities in the colonial Territories, the dismantling of all their military bases and facilities and a halt to the creation of new military bases and facilities in those Territories. Such activities not only raise new obstacles to the process of decolonization but also pose a threat to world peace and security, as, for example, in the South Atlantic, where a new and powerful military base is being established.

115. The colonial Territories in the Caribbean region, especially Puerto Rico, where the right to self-determination and independence of the Puerto Rican people has been persistently denied, have also been used for continuing military exercises and for the construction of military bases and facilities, recently utilized as a springboard for carrying out an armed intervention against an independent sovereign State in that region.

116. Military installations in the Pacific Ocean and in Micronesia have been expanded, while the testing of new missile launchers has continued. The island of Guam, which became notorious during the United States aggression against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, has witnessed the expansion of the United States military base there. It goes without saying that the same type of activities are continuing unabated on the island of Diego García in the Indian Ocean.

117. All this has been carried out on the spurious pretext of defending the so-called vital interests of imperialism. But then, in which region of the world today does imperialism have no vital strategic interests?

118. The colonialist States maintain military bases and facilities in Guam, Micronesia, Puerto Rico, Diego García, Ascension, Bermuda, the Falkland Islands and other places. When necessary, as demonstrated by the latest events in the Caribbean region, these bases and facilities can be used as a springboard for preparing and carrying out armed aggression against independent sovereign States.

119. At the same time, we must note another new element in the tragic history of imperialism and neo-colonialism, namely, the use of newly liberated former colonial countries as smoke-screens for intervention against sovereign independent States.

120. The international community must condemn all military activities of the administering Powers in the colonial Territories as being a major impediment to the realization of the inalienable right of self-determination and independence and a serious danger to world peace and security. We should also deplore the manoeuvres of the colonialist States to cover up their military activities and should map out measures to inform the international community about such activities in the colonial Territories.

121. Analysis of this year's report of the Special Committee on decolonization shows that the Declaration is still vehemently opposed by the colonial and administering Powers.

122. How long do the people of Namibia have to wait to have the opportunity to exercise freely, without South African and Western pressure or the influence of the multinational corporations, their right to self-determination and independence? What kind of qualifications and conditions do the people of Namibia, for example, have to meet in order to become eligible, in the eyes of the United States, South Africa and other Western States, for self-determination and independence? What qualifications and conditions have the Namibian people not met in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on decolonization?

123. Have not the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions long stipulated that the people of Namibia have the right to immediate and full self-determination and independence? The same holds good with respect to the other colonial Territories.

124. By what legal authority recognized under the Charter of the United Nations and under the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions do the imperialist and other Western States which are allies and protectors of

South Africa deny the right of self-determination and independence to the people of Namibia and the other colonial peoples?

125. When will the colonial Powers and the racist régime of South Africa finally realize that they can no longer defy the overwhelming will of the international community and begin to implement the Declaration on decolonization with respect to all colonial countries and peoples?

126. If it is not their political will to oppose totally the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization—because, in their essence, imperialism and imperialist States are opposed to the process of decolonization, and because they view the granting of independence and the exercise of the right of self-determination as contrary to their vested interests—why then do these forces procrastinate in giving independence to all the remaining colonial Territories?

127. The answers to all these questions are known to the international community. The blame should be apportioned—and rightfully so—to those who bear the complete responsibility for this state of affairs; imperialism and the imperialist States. The responsibility is theirs to bear, and no one can, at this stage, absolve them of it.

128. It has often been said that colonialism is an anachronism in the present-day world. It is not this designation of the phenomenon that is to be condemned, but rather those forces which today sustain that anachronism and which covertly and overtly defy the right to self-determination and independence of colonial countries and peoples.

129. The United Nations, the international community and the world as a whole must not and cannot compromise either with the principle of, or the right of colonial countries and peoples to, self-determination and independence. This certainly does not come very close to endorsing terror and murder, as one of the preceding speakers said today. It actually comes closer to endorsing the inalienable right of colonial peoples to self-determination and independence and entitling them, in the face of adamant racist, colonialist and imperialist opposition, to achieve that right by using all the means at their disposal.

130. As a member of long standing of the Special Committee, my country, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, has always made and will continue to make its contribution to the immediate and unconditional implementation

of the Declaration on decolonization. I should like to reiterate here, from this rostrum, on behalf of the Bulgarian delegation, our whole-hearted support for the struggle of all colonial peoples for the realization of their inalienable right of self-determination and independence.

131. Mr. WAYARABI (Indonesia): Indonesia, as a member of the Special Committee, has participated actively and positively in the deliberations and the work of the Special Committee and has restated its position with regard to decolonization issues during the debate in the Fourth Committee. At this juncture, my delegation wishes only to reiterate, if indeed it is necessary, its commitment to the principles of decolonization and self-determination and its support for all genuine liberation movements struggling against colonial bondage. In this regard, my delegation cannot but take strong exception to that part of the Special Committee's report which contains a reference to the so-called question of East Timor [*ibid.*, chap. X].

132. Since this non-issue does not even appear on this year's agenda, I shall merely remind the Assembly that the people of East Timor have already exercised their right to self-determination in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and 2625 (XXV) and in conformity with their traditional democratic institutions. The will of the people was fully demonstrated by their decision to achieve their independence through integration with the Republic of Indonesia on 17 July 1976.

133. My delegation will always regard any consideration of the political and constitutional status of East Timor by the Special Committee, or any other body, as an unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of Indonesia. We therefore categorically reject the inclusion of a reference to East Timor in the report of the Special Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

NOTE

¹ See *Report of the International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence, Paris, 25-29 April 1983 (A/CONF.120/13)*, part three.



President: Mr. Jorge E. ILLUECA (Panama).

AGENDA ITEM 18

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (continued):

(a) 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;

(b) Report of the Secretary-General

1. Mr. RASON (Madagascar) (*interpretation from French*): A study 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 on its work during its last session [A/38/23] shows that the praiseworthy efforts to achieve the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [resolution 1514 (XV)] have continued unremittingly in spite of all the delaying tactics and obstacles which the forces opposed to the emancipation of peoples have resorted to, for reasons that have not been admitted but are obvious to everyone, thus obstructing the smooth implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the Organization relating to the Declaration.

2. This year we have welcomed the accession to independence of Saint Christopher and Nevis, which has just joined the Organization, and we hope, on 31 December, to welcome Brunei with the same pleasure as one of the territories enjoying full sovereignty and independence.

3. We take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the determination of the peoples under colonial domination, which with their respective liberation movements are conducting a tireless struggle at great sacrifice to fulfil their aspirations for freedom, dignity and independence. We should like to take this opportunity also to express our great appreciation to Mr. Koroma, of Sierra Leone, Chairman of the Special Committee, and to the members of that Committee, who have spared no effort to defend and support the just causes of the peoples still under colonial domination. Furthermore, we must not forget the Secretary-General and all the Secretariat staff associated, closely or from afar, with the work of the Special Committee. Without their assistance the Committee would have been unable to carry out its tasks.

4. A quick review of the world situation shows that 23 years after the adoption of the Declaration, notwithstanding undeniable successes achieved in the decolonization process, the crises and stalemates with regard to the major international problems are to a great extent the more or less direct consequences of colonialism. The situation in southern Africa, in particular Namibia, in north-west Africa, in particular Western Sahara, in the

Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and other islands, in the Pacific, of no less concern and in other regions of the world are clearly manifestations of problems that have yet to be solved. There is still resistance to the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration, and in certain Territories the peoples are still fighting for the fulfilment of their legitimate aspirations, their right to self-determination and independence.

5. Namibia remains, quite rightly, one of our primary concerns. We have had occasion to recall at the current session [23rd and 74th meetings] the position of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar on this problem and especially the need for a united Namibia to accede to independence as soon as possible, in conformity with Security Council resolutions 385 (1976), 435 (1978) and 439 (1978); for recognition of the legal and political responsibility of the United Nations concerning that Territory and in particular to bring it to sovereignty and independence; for unconditional support for the armed struggle of the Namibian people, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization [SWAPO], its sole authentic representative; for the unconditional implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibia, endorsed in resolution 435 (1978); for categorical rejection of the attempts to link the implementation of this plan to other questions not related to the Namibian problem, which, we would recall, is a question of decolonization; and, finally, for the adoption of measures under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to force South Africa to comply with the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

6. The search for a peaceful solution to the question of Namibia is undoubtedly one of the major and most urgent problems of our time, but it does not cause us to lose sight of the fact that there are still almost 20 Territories whose inhabitants are impatiently awaiting the effective implementation of the Declaration.

7. We shall not revert to the situation of Western Sahara, except to reaffirm that a definitive, equitable solution with regard to the decolonization of that Territory depends on the success of the negotiations between the parties to the conflict, namely, Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO,¹ and that the withdrawal of the Moroccan troops and administration from Saharan territory is the only way to guarantee a free, authentic and democratic referendum.

8. As regards the other small Territories, we reaffirm the inalienable rights of all peoples to self-determination and independence, without distinctions as to the location, demographic composition or the economic development of their Territory.

9. We remain convinced that foreign economic and other activities, the permanent presence of military bases in certain Non-Self-Governing Territories, military and nuclear co-operation with the racist régime and *apartheid* are all obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration.

10. History has taught us that the decolonization policy of certain administering Powers has not varied appreciably. That policy has always been to keep control over

the Territories for as long as possible. This negative attitude involves recourse to political, legal and other subterfuges in order to delay independence. The result of all this finally has been that violence has been used against violence. Refusal and resistance to the peaceful process of decolonization in the face of ever more urgent and justified demands of the inhabitants under colonial domination have produced frustration and friction which, as they become worse, inevitably bring on the usual brutal repression by the colonial authorities.

11. The experiences of the past should cause the colonial Powers to realize that they cannot forever stifle the aspirations of the peoples and continue to oppose the trend of history. Will their strategic and economic interests be more secure if built on violence, bloodshed and hatred? Countries which are still responsible for colonial Territories must have a clear view of the future and therefore embark forthwith on the peaceful process of decolonization of the Territories under their authority.

12. Mr. DASHTSEREN (Mongolia) (*interpretation from Russian*): Since 1960, when the General Assembly adopted an historic document, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, really striking successes have been achieved in the decolonization process. The world colonial system as such has ceased to exist. Dozens of liberated States with a population of hundreds of millions have now embarked on the course of independent development and have become Members of this Organization in order to bear their measure of responsibility in world affairs. Together with other peace-loving States, they are now actively struggling to avert the threat of war, to end the arms race and bring about disarmament, to improve the international atmosphere and to develop peaceful co-operation and social and economic progress.

13. Nevertheless, unfortunately, we see today that colonialism in one form or another still exists in some parts of the world. Those forces which try by all means in their power to perpetuate this historical anachronism have not yet desisted in their efforts. Millions of Africans in the southern part of the continent continue to be subject to the cruel racist, colonialist oppression of the Pretoria régime. Several islands, particularly in the Pacific and the Caribbean, have not yet rid themselves of foreign domination. Altogether, around 0.3 per cent of the world's population and about 1 per cent of its territory are in a state of colonial dependency today. These "black spots" on the political map of the world quite clearly confirm that the full and complete elimination of colonialism continues to be one of the priority tasks of the international community. They serve as a constant reminder that the noble aims and principles in the Declaration are relevant even under present-day conditions.

14. The international community is particularly disturbed by the situation in southern Africa. This is shown specifically by the discussions successfully concluded a few days ago on the questions of the *apartheid* policy of the Government of South Africa and on Namibia, an international Territory illegally occupied by the racist régime. The vast majority of Member States of the Organization once again spoke strongly in favour of the swift elimination from southern Africa of this dangerous source of colonialism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* which represents a serious threat to peace and security not only for that region but for the whole world. They did not mince words in condemning the unsavoury policies of those States which, in complete disregard of the relevant United Nations resolutions, continue stubbornly to co-operate with the South African régime in various spheres, including the nuclear field, thus encouraging it

to step up further its colonial and racist repression of millions of Africans, particularly in Namibia, and to take an even more adamant position in connection with the efforts being made by the international community to put an end to the illegal occupation of that Territory.

15. A solution to the Namibian problem has long been necessary, and the way to it is known. It has been set forth in Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and has been repeatedly reaffirmed at various forums in the Organization. The International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence, held in Paris from 25 to 29 April 1983, once again forcefully demonstrated our firm commitment to the national liberation of the Namibian people and gave a sharp rebuff to South Africa's underhanded manoeuvres to impose a neo-colonialist decision. It also categorically rejected the attempts of the South African racists and their protectors, the United States in particular, to "link" the presence of Cuban troops in Angola with the settlement of the Namibian question as completely unacceptable and a totally unwarranted and artificial obstacle to Namibia's independence.

16. The Mongolian delegation believes that the strongest possible steps should be taken to put an end to the South African racists' and their allies' disregard of the will of the international community repeatedly expressed in United Nations resolutions. In this connection, we support the demand of the majority of Member States to apply against the Pretoria régime the comprehensive mandatory sanctions provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Steps should be taken to ensure that all States comply strictly with the embargo imposed by the Security Council on the supply of arms to South Africa and that all co-operation with the criminal South African régime be ended unconditionally.

17. The final objectives of the Declaration on decolonization have not yet been achieved in the case of the so-called small Territories, which are spread over vast areas of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, and also over the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean. The predatory colonial exploitation of dependent and Non-Self-Governing Territories by transnational corporations and the recent sharp increase in their use for the military-strategic purposes of the administering Powers are the main obstacles to the attainment by the populations of those Territories of their inalienable right to self-determination.

18. The United Nations has frequently had occasion to condemn the plundering of these small Territories by foreign economic and other elements and has demanded that the militarization of the colonial Territories be halted and the military bases and installations on them be dismantled. However, unfortunately, those to whom these condemnations and demands are addressed have so far turned a deaf ear to them.

19. At the same time, it should be noted that the continuing colonial system and the further militarization of dependent and Non-Self-Governing Territories represent a serious threat to peace and international stability. The military bases of imperialist Powers on numerous islands in colonial Territories are intended to serve as a means of crushing the national liberation movements of peoples and carrying out aggression and intervention in the internal affairs of other independent sovereign States. For example, the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Ascension Island was used by the British to transfer military forces to restore their supremacy in the Malvinas Islands, which have now been turned into a military base of Great Britain, thus threatening peace and stability in the South Atlantic.

20. The most recent example of the high-handed deeds of the imperialist Powers with regard to the norms of international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, although in words they favour freedom, independence, democracy and justice, was the armed intervention by the United States against Grenada, the purpose of which was to impose a social and political régime of its own choice on the people of that small non-aligned country.

21. The ensuring of peace and stability in the region of Asia and the Pacific is a vital concern of our country, the Mongolian People's Republic. For that reason, we cannot but be concerned at the increased militarization of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands by the administering Power, which seriously threatens peace and security in that part of the world and is leading to the formation of a new source of tension there.

22. My delegation believes that the unfortunate actions and manoeuvres undertaken by Washington in order eventually to annex Micronesia fly in the face of the Charter of the United Nations and the trusteeship agreement between the Security Council and the United States. They trample under foot the vital interests of the Micronesians and the relevant provisions of the Declaration and other decisions of the United Nations on granting colonial peoples their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. It is our view that any attempt to alter the status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands by circumventing the Security Council should be resolutely rejected and that the United Nations should assume responsibility for Micronesia, as part of the overall question of decolonization, until it finally attains independence in accordance with resolution 1514 (XV).

23. We believe that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should be fully implemented in the case of all other colonial peoples and dependent Territories, including Diego García, the Malvinas, Puerto Rico and other so-called small Territories. The international community must not acquiesce in colonialism in any of its forms or manifestations. It has long been essential to put an end to the final vestiges of colonialism, and it is time that these peoples were granted the right to take their future and their destiny into their own hands.

24. In conclusion, our delegation would like to compliment the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on the work it has done and to express our complete support for the recommendations in its report.

25. Mr. SOMOGYI (Hungary): The adoption of the historic resolution 1514 (XV) by the General Assembly more than two decades ago gave a new impetus to the process of decolonization. Since then many new States have emerged in the former colonial Territories and have taken their place in the international community as fully-fledged Members of the United Nations. For many countries the colonial period lasted for centuries. The colonial Powers, relying on their superior military force, suppressed any attempt by the peoples under their domination to win freedom and independence. During the centuries of the colonial period millions of people in Africa, Asia and Latin America were toiling hard for the benefit of the colonizers, whose greed knew no limit. The riches of whole continents were grabbed by a handful of imperialist Powers.

26. The struggle of peoples in colonial Territories began to bear fruit after the Second World War. The socialist countries, including my own, have always been fully in solidarity with the colonial peoples in their struggle for

freedom and independence. We have always considered the process of decolonization to be an inevitable and most important historical development. That is why we support all actions by the United Nations to accelerate this historical process.

27. During the debates in the Fourth Committee attention was focused once again on the last remnants of colonialism. It was pointed out that the most acute case of colonialism today is that of Namibia. The importance of the question of Namibia is shown by the fact that it was taken up by the Security Council last October and by the General Assembly in plenary a few days ago. The record number of speakers in the Assembly was also indicative of the great interest of Member States in the question of Namibia.

28. In connection with Namibia it was emphasized that in spite of all the efforts of the United Nations, colonialism still exists in that Territory. In spite of all the United Nations resolutions and in violation of international law, the racist régime of South Africa continues its military occupation of Namibia, using the same methods as those employed by the former colonial Powers—the brutal repression by military force of any aspirations of the Namibian people and the plundering of the Territory's human and natural resources. South Africa would not be able to continue its policy of colonial domination over Namibia without the support of its Western allies.

29. In the debate on the question of Namibia at various United Nations forums it has also been pointed out that the linkage between the presence of Cuban troops in Angola and the independence of Namibia, artificially introduced by the racist régime of South Africa with the encouragement and support of the United States, has been the main obstacle to the independence of Namibia. That linkage was rejected almost unanimously by Security Council resolution 539 (1983), but the racist régime continues to disregard the resolutions of the world Organization. It has become obvious that South Africa will not voluntarily terminate the illegal occupation of Namibia, except under international pressure. The application of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter is the only way to make South Africa respect the will of the international community. The main economic collaborators of South Africa have this leverage; they could prevail on the racist régime to change its attitude and make it respect the resolutions of the United Nations.

30. The military force of the colonizing Powers played a crucial role in the subjugation of peoples in the colonial Territories. Today, military bases and installations are a major impediment to the process of decolonization. The bases in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, the Caribbean and the South Atlantic not only impede decolonization but also constitute a threat to international peace and security and add to the tensions all over the world.

31. Foreign economic interests in the Non-Self-Governing Territories likewise have a negative effect on decolonization. The plundering of human and natural resources of colonial territories out of greed for profits has remained the major motive of the imperialist Powers. My delegation maintains that foreign economic and military interests should stop impeding decolonization and that the process should be completed soon. At the same time, we place on record our firm opposition to neo-colonialism, which in all its forms threatens the sovereignty and independence of former colonial countries. We resolutely oppose any attempts by the imperialist Powers to intervene in the domestic affairs of those countries by economic or any other means. For this

reason we voted for all the resolutions in the Fourth Committee.

32. General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) cannot be considered implemented as long as peoples and countries are still under colonial domination. The United Nations should redouble its efforts to eliminate the remnants of colonialism. In these efforts the colonial peoples can count on the support of the vast majority of Member States.

33. My delegation believes that the attitude of individual Member States to the independence of Namibia is a real test of true intentions concerning the most fundamental political and moral questions of our time. What is happening in Namibia today amounts to flagrant violations of the most sacred rights of peoples: the right to independence and self-determination.

34. Furthermore, developments in Namibia constitute the most flagrant violation of democracy and human rights by any political or moral standards. Nevertheless, there are States Members of this Organization which do not use every means at their disposal to put an end to this situation. What is more, they are making attempts to obstruct the independence of Namibia in different ways, direct and indirect. Some States are posing as champions of democracy and human rights while supporting the racist régime of South Africa in maintaining its colonial oppression of Namibia and perpetuating its *apartheid* system. My delegation sees an unacceptable inconsistency in the attitude of these States. The international community rightly questions whether any State can pursue both courses of action without seriously risking its own credibility.

35. My delegation believes that the General Assembly should discuss the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in practical terms, pointing to the need for specific actions. We have an urgent task before us—that of achieving Namibia's independence. The people and government of the Hungarian People's Republic are ready to support all actions by the United Nations to this end. I take this opportunity to assure the people of Namibia and all peoples under colonial domination of the firm support and solidarity of my people and Government.

36. Mr. VERMA (India): Few historical forces have exercised so predominant and negative an influence on world affairs in the last few centuries as the phenomenon of colonialism. By the same token, in the last few decades of this century few factors have been responsible for such revolutionary change in the world order as the process of decolonization. The blossoming of incipient nationalism in the erstwhile colonies around the globe, and their emergence into the comity of nation States as equal and sovereign members, have not merely transformed the political map of the Earth, but have also had a fundamental impact on international politics, the world economy and, indeed, every other aspect of human endeavour. Nowhere is this more in evidence than here at the United Nations, whose membership has grown by leaps and bounds in recent decades. The newest of them is Saint Christopher and Nevis, which we have already welcomed into our midst. Within a few days Brunei will similarly join the community of free nations. We shall also wish a happy and prosperous future to its Government and people.

37. The impressive achievements of the decolonization process are undoubtedly due to the irrepressibility of the human spirit, to man's innate yearning for freedom and his determination to secure it by every means at his disposal. In our own case, the freedom movement

followed the Gandhian path of non-violence; in many others it has adopted a violent and bloody course. Whatever the means, it has been proved most convincingly that mankind's quest for freedom cannot be suppressed.

38. The successes of decolonization are also due, in no small measure, to the efforts of the United Nations and, I might add, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which has since its very inception championed the cause of peoples under colonial domination.

39. Over the years, and particularly since the adoption in 1960 of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), which embodies the momentous Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the United Nations has served to keep decolonization in the forefront of world attention, and it can claim an impressive record in actually promoting it all over the world. Particular credit in this connection must go to the Special Committee on decolonization, which has striven tirelessly for more than two decades to safeguard the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination and independence. Under a succession of distinguished and able Chairmen—the latest being the dynamic representative of Sierra Leone, Mr. Koroma—the Committee has successfully fulfilled its mandate and seen its jurisdiction dwindle significantly over the years. As a founder member of the Special Committee, my delegation has shared the privilege and joy of seeing our agenda items of yesteryear, as it were, transform themselves into free and sovereign States.

40. If I have dwelt at some length on the successes of the decolonization process, it is only to find justifiable satisfaction where it can be found; it is not for a moment to suggest that the task is complete or that we can now rest on our laurels. That is something which we cannot, in all conscience, afford to do. For, even while the community of sovereign States has multiplied rapidly in number and the classical form of colonialism is being consigned to history, forces are still at work which attempt to stem the tide of progress. In southern Africa an arrogant racist régime continues not only to maintain its illegal hold over Namibia, but also to repress the vast majority of South Africans themselves. Similarly, in the Middle East, the valiant people of Palestine remain without the homeland that is their right, buffeted about in a sea of uncertainty and suffering.

41. My delegation has had occasion to address itself to both those issues separately. Suffice it to observe here that the continued bondage of the Namibian people, for which the United Nations bears special responsibility, is an affront to the world conscience. So, indeed, is the persistent failure to resolve the Palestinian issue, which, even if it is not on the decolonization agenda of the United Nations, cannot, we believe, be completely divorced from the colonial context.

42. The report of the Special Committee on decolonization [A/38/23] provides us with the reassurance that continuing efforts are being made to tackle the remaining problems, which, though small in number, are complex in nature. The examination of the situation in various Non-Self-Governing Territories undertaken by the Special Committee has helped to identify the particular issues which relate to different Territories and the measures which the administering Powers should take to facilitate the speedy implementation of the Declaration on decolonization, with particular reference to those Territories. We believe that no single formula can be applied indiscriminately to all Territories. The people of each must determine the nature of their future status and the time-frame within which it is to be achieved. What is of paramount importance is that the will of the people

concerned be freely and fearlessly expressed and that it be respected.

43. It must be recognized that the people of Non-Self-Governing Territories need to be fully informed of the options available to them with regard to their own future. The Special Committee has rightly underscored the importance of this, after examining the situation obtaining in the various Territories by means of assessments gained through visiting missions and a stock-taking on the basis of information supplied by the administering Powers. It is also incumbent upon the administering authorities as long as they function in that capacity to promote the welfare of the local populations and to refrain from engaging in such exploitative economic, military or other activities or arrangements as impede the decolonization process.

44. The Government and people of India have a deep-rooted and unshakable commitment to the cause of decolonization. It is a commitment that pre-dates even our own independence and is born of our fundamental belief in human freedom and dignity as well as our own experience under the colonial yoke.

45. Support for the liberation of colonial Territories and peoples has also been one of the principal tenets of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, of which India is a founding member and the current Chairman. Permit me to reiterate on this occasion that India's sympathy, understanding and support for liberation struggles will remain unflinching until the last vestiges of colonialism are eradicated from the world.

46. Almost a year before India attained its independence Jawaharlal Nehru addressed the nation, as head of the then Interim Government of India and Prime Minister designate. A short excerpt from that statement still rings in our ears and is of direct relevance for us here today. Nehru said, "We believe that peace and freedom are indivisible, and the denial of freedom anywhere must endanger freedom elsewhere and lead to conflict and war". That profound thought will remain of eternal relevance and should continue to guide us in our efforts.

47. Mr. LE KIM CHUNG (Viet Nam) (*interpretation from French*): At the outset, the delegation of Viet Nam wishes to thank 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 its exhaustive and well-founded report on its work in 1983. The report is of high quality and serves as an excellent basis for our discussions. We warmly congratulate the Chairman and the other officers of the Special Committee.

48. This year the General Assembly is considering the question of decolonization in an international atmosphere replete with threats to world peace and to the independence and freedom of peoples in various parts of the world. Although the principle of equal rights and the self-determination of peoples was inscribed in the Charter of the United Nations in 1945, it was in 1960 that the General Assembly, by adopting the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, resolutely took the responsibility for the application of that principle by proclaiming the necessity, in order to avoid serious crises, of bringing colonialism in all its forms and manifestations to a speedy and unconditional end. Resolution 1514 (XV), containing this Declaration, was a milestone in the movement for the emancipation of colonial and dependent peoples, a movement that had been launched in the midst of the Second World War and which quickly took concrete form in the upsurge of the national liberation struggles which

were vigorously pursued when that war ended and whose success was duly reflected in the Declaration.

49. The Declaration marked a turning point in the process of the collapse of the international system of colonialism and imperialism. It has become a legal instrument of crucial importance, setting forth concrete measures for implementing the Charter principle and at the same time encouraging the colonial peoples and countries to intensify their struggle to liquidate the last vestiges of colonialism and eliminate neo-colonialism.

50. During the 23 years of its existence, the Special Committee has made sustained efforts to settle, step by step, the difficult and complicated problems arising from the decolonization process. My delegation greatly appreciates these efforts of all kinds, which have certainly greatly assisted the struggle of the colonial peoples throughout the period. The emancipation of more than 70 million persons who have acceded to independence since 1960 is closely related to the Special Committee's activities. Equally, the fact that in less than four decades the number of States Members of the United Nations has almost tripled is the result of the struggle of those peoples that have been encouraged by the proclamation in the Charter of the principle of the equal rights of peoples and of their right to self-determination.

51. The success thus achieved by the peoples has demonstrated that the days of colonialism in the world are numbered and that relations between States have undergone great changes, particularly during the past two decades, both within the United Nations system and on the international scene to the benefit of oppressed peoples.

52. Nevertheless, many obstacles remain on the path to the complete liberation of peoples. Imperialism is desperately clinging to its selfish interests, to the old, anachronistic international order, using every means and all its forces, economic and military. In this era, it prefers to have greater recourse to its arsenal of all kinds of neo-colonialist means to maintain its domination over the dependent Territories and even to reconquer those that have slipped from its grasp. To that end, it does not hesitate, when it feels certain of easy success, as was the case recently in Grenada, to bare its teeth and achieve its ends by military means.

53. The report of the Special Committee demonstrates very persuasively, with facts and evidence, that foreign economic, financial and other interests are impeding the application of the Declaration in Namibia and all the other Territories under colonial domination, as well as the efforts to eliminate colonialism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination. The Special Committee has also concluded that another considerable obstacle to the application of the Declaration is the military activities of the colonial Powers and the military measures taken by them in the Territories under their administration.

54. Namibia is a typical case in this respect. From no matter what point of view — legal, political or moral — the conditions are more than ripe for granting independence to the Namibian people. Yet, despite the fact that the United Nations itself has for a long time now been directly responsible for that Territory and its people, the South African racist régime has succeeded to this very day in maintaining its illegal occupation of Namibia, in defying the authority of the United Nations and in trampling under foot the demands of the international community. It is therefore easy to understand why the Security Council recently had to take the question of Namibia up again and why this question remained the most urgent item on the Special Committee's agenda in 1983.

55. The colonialist and expansionist appetites, so obvious in the Namibian case, are no less tenacious in regard to the other colonial and dependent Territories dealt with by the Special Committee. Using various scenarios—called “internal settlement” in Namibia and “referendum” or “free association” elsewhere—the administering Powers are feverishly seeking to achieve, if not pure and simple integration with the metropolitan countries, at least the establishment of neo-colonies loyal to them. Those Territories’ natural riches and resources of all kinds are plundered by the monopoly interests of the transnational companies, leaving the Territories’ economy in a state of dependence or stagnation which seriously hinders the economic and social progress of their peoples.

56. But what is particularly dangerous is the effort of the colonial Powers to establish in the Territories under their administration military bases and installations and to carry out military activities there. Thus, various dependent Territories are included in the network of the reactionary global strategy of imperialism and hegemonism. Diego García, Guam, Puerto Rico, Micronesia and many other Territories are used in this way for military purposes for the preparation of reckless operations or for the training of rapid deployment forces. It will be recalled that Guam was the departure base for the B-52 flying fortresses that carried out criminal bombing during the American war in Viet Nam. And we all know the role that Puerto Rico played as a training base for the United States Marines who participated in the invasion of Grenada.

57. The international community has a duty to condemn strongly the plundering of the natural resources of these colonial Territories and the exploitation of their people by the imperialist monopolies. It must also condemn all military activities and arrangements made by the administering Powers in these Territories, which represent a fundamental obstacle to their right to self-determination and independence and at the same time a serious threat to world peace and security.

58. Colonialist and neo-colonialist ambitions are not confined to the colonial and still dependent Territories. As is demonstrated by the stubbornness of the Pretoria régime in southern Africa, of the Tel Aviv régime in the Middle East and of the American Administration in Central America, the imperialist and reactionary forces are trying brazenly to retake positions they have lost. On the one hand they are engaged in a process of neo-colonialist reconquest in certain developing countries, which suffer from great economic difficulties because of the relations of inequality, coercion and dependence imposed on them but which are nevertheless determined to fight for their economic liberation and for the establishment of a new international economic order based on justice and equity. On the other hand, in the developing countries which have undertaken progressive changes in their economic and social structures, the imperialist and reactionary forces are engaged in harmful and subversive activities of all kinds—political, military, economic and diplomatic. The type of war designed to undermine in various ways the three countries of Indo-China, above all the People’s Republic of Kampuchea, is an example. Furthermore, the imperialist forces are prepared to carry out what are no less than brutal operations of colonial reconquest, in total disregard of the principles of the Charter and of international law. The recent case of the invasion of Grenada should alert us to the close collusion among the dark forces of war, which are openly preparing for adventurous counterstrokes and which are ready to provoke explosive crises in different parts of the world in opposition to the independence and social progress of

the peoples of the world, while at the same time they are pressing ahead with a new and headlong acceleration of the arms race and with preparations for a nuclear war of extermination. Mankind must guard against the strengthening of the strategic co-operation which is taking form between Washington, Tel Aviv and Pretoria and which the United States is seeking to establish in the Far East with Tokyo, Peking and Seoul. More clearly than ever we can see the salient features of the danger threatening the independence of peoples and world peace.

59. No matter how great this threat, the peoples will win in the end; their victory is certain because, as affirmed by resolution 1514 (XV), the process of liberation is irresistible and irreversible. That victory rests on a very sound foundation, as the resolution clearly states: the decisive role of the dependent peoples in the attainment of their independence, and the important role of the international community in assisting them.

60. The lessons that Viet Nam has learned from its many decades of struggle against colonialist, imperialist and hegemonist aggression fully bear out the two above-mentioned affirmations in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Above all, it was through the stubborn resistance of its people, united as one man and ready to make any sacrifice to win, that Viet Nam won its hard fight for its independence, freedom, national unity and territorial integrity. At the same time, international support and aid, including aid from the peoples of those countries which were responsible for the aggression, were an important factor in our victory.

61. In the present international situation, in which reactionary forces are opposing the process of decolonization even more violently and treacherously, it is more than ever necessary to remind ourselves of these truths and to find effective means of applying them. In particular, in order to help the peoples of the colonial and dependent Territories, including Namibia, to strengthen and intensify the struggle on all fronts, especially the armed struggle—as strongly emphasized in connection with Namibia by the heads of State or Government of the non-aligned countries at their Seventh Conference, held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March—the General Assembly should vigorously reiterate its appeal to all States to increase their moral and political support and their material, financial, military and other assistance to the various liberation movements such as SWAPO, the African National Congress and the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO].

62. The Vietnamese people, recently released from the colonial and neo-colonial yoke, stands by its principle of unfailing support for all peoples fighting for their independence and freedom. The delegation of Viet Nam believes that the United Nations, together with all the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, must redouble its efforts in support of the noble cause of the liberation of the dependent and colonial peoples. Circumstances require this more than ever before if these people are effectively to face the growing threat of the joint forces of collective colonialism and the intensified strategic co-operation between the United States and its major allies in southern Africa, the Middle East, the Far East and elsewhere.

63. In accordance with our stand of support for the liberation struggle of peoples, the delegation of Viet Nam has sponsored the draft resolutions A/38/L.33 and L.34.

64. We would like to conclude our statement by reaffirming our full support for the joint commitment of the non-aligned countries, solemnly set forth in the Political Declaration of the recent Conference at New Delhi,

a commitment "to world peace, justice and co-operation, to the elimination of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, to the eradication of *apartheid*, racism, including zionism, and all forms of foreign domination, aggression, intervention, occupation and pressures, to the acceleration of the process of self-determination . . . and the consolidation of the national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and to the social and economic development of their peoples" [A/38/132 and Corr.1 and 2, annex, sect. I, para. 9].

65. This common commitment of the non-aligned countries, representing the overwhelming majority of mankind, is fully in keeping with the spirit and requirements of the historic Declaration in resolution 1514 (XV). It is fully in keeping with the general trends and requirements of our era, and it is becoming increasingly clear that these trends and requirements represent an irreversible factor in the history of the world.

66. Mr. ADHAMI (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*): The universal demand for the final elimination of colonialism contained in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples has not lost its significance despite the passage of 23 years since its adoption. The successes achieved since then encourage us to continue our efforts with full force and momentum so that the international community will be able decisively to eradicate all the remaining vestiges of colonialism.

67. Seeing independent States take their places in this Organization is always a source of satisfaction to the international community and a great reward for its invaluable efforts and contributions in assisting the progress of colonial countries and peoples towards independence and freedom. I take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the delegation of Saint Christopher and Nevis, whose country's independence was followed by its admission to membership in the United Nations, and to express pleasure at the intention of Brunei to join the ranks of independent States at the end of this month.

68. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples has been playing an essential role in intensifying and guiding the efforts of the international Organization in the process of the full implementation of the Declaration. My delegation has had the honour of membership in that Committee since its inception. I have personally had the privilege of working under the guidance of the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Koroma, the representative of Sierra Leone, and I congratulate him on the excellent manner in which he has conducted the work of the Special Committee and on the experience and wisdom which enabled the Committee to achieve the success reflected in the report before the Assembly, which I had the honour of introducing this morning. The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic is confident that the Committee will continue to discharge its functions until the last vestiges of colonialism have been eliminated from the face of the Earth, and we hope that this will be achieved as soon as possible so that we may witness that great event.

69. Despite the outstanding achievements of the United Nations in regard to the implementation of the Declaration, we cannot but note with regret that more than 4 million people in more than 20 countries still do not enjoy self-government and independence in their homelands and that 4 million Palestinians are still deprived of their right to self-determination on their own land and in their own country. Moreover, more than 20 million Africans in South Africa and Namibia are still subjected to every form of discrimination, oppression and racist

military occupation and in their own homeland are deprived of the right of citizenship and subjected to oppression, humiliation and abuse. That region is still one of the most dangerous hotbeds of traditional colonialism in its most abominable form.

70. We must also recall that political liberation has not always been accompanied by economic independence and that imperialist economic interests are still attempting to regain domination over peoples and to control their destinies through economic hegemony. A number of small Non-Self-Governing Territories are still chafing under a system of colonialist dependency and are being used by imperialist States for military purposes, through the establishment of military bases therein designed to guarantee the strategic and military interests of the colonialist States. The latter, especially the United States, do their utmost to delay the decolonization process in those Territories in an attempt to preserve their military interests in those Territories, invoking various means and names such as "free association" and "political association", which are in fact nothing but smoke-screens to perpetuate colonialist domination and legitimize the process of the annexation of those Territories.

71. The phenomenon of colonialism, which was the worst offshoot of Western civilization, is still in existence and practised in such a way as to give rise to great concern. We cannot have peace of mind as long as colonialist régimes persist in the practice of this phenomenon. Whether the colonialist Powers practise economic exploitation and plundering of resources in the colonial countries or harness them in the service of their military-strategic interests in the context of international rivalry, these Powers disregard the wishes and interests of the indigenous population in every case. Like the colonialist situation in South Africa and Namibia, which represents the worst form of traditional colonialism, the situation in the other Territories also constitutes a traditional colonialist situation, whether in Micronesia, Guam, Puerto Rico or the so-called small Territories, which the colonialist Powers use as military bases and strategic bridgeheads in support of their imperialist interests.

72. When we speak of the phenomenon of colonialism, we cannot disregard the fact that the two greatest problems facing the world today are that the Namibian people and the people of South Africa are deprived of their fundamental rights to their homelands, and the Palestinian people of its legitimate right to return, to self-determination and to the establishment of its own independent State.

73. Although my delegation has on more than one occasion analysed the policies of the two racist régimes in Tel Aviv and Pretoria, my reference to them now is due to the fact that both régimes were established as a result of the policies of settler colonialism. Each is based on the denial of the right of peoples to self-determination and each believes in the same objectives, practises and the same policies and uses the same methods. Both support each other fully and receive support, encouragement and assistance from the leader of world imperialism, the United States.

74. Regarding the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the American Administration does its utmost to exploit the Territory in the service of its military-strategic interests. The Americans have expelled the Micronesians from a number of islands and transformed the islands of Bikini and Eniwetok into a testing-ground for nuclear weapons, leaving generations of Micronesians to suffer from the effects of forced evacuation and contamination of the environment. Almost four decades after the Territory was placed under American trusteeship the

administering Power is unable to prove that it has enabled the people of the Territory to establish an independent economy to meet the needs of the Territory and ensure self-sufficiency and independent development for its people. The administering Power has also failed to prove that it has made all possible efforts to help the population achieve social, economic, political and educational progress and progress towards self-determination and independence.

75. The American military buildup in Micronesia, the eagerness of the United States to secure exceptional future advantages for its military presence in the islands and the long-term military agreements imposed by it on the people of certain parts of the Territory to enable the Pentagon to maintain testing-grounds for missiles, naval bases and strategic airports and to establish storage depots for chemical and nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction are proof of the violation by the United States of the trusteeship agreement, which calls for the enhancement of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The American military action in Micronesia is a source of grave concern because, in addition to the fact that it is intended to transform the Territory into a colonial dependency and a strategic military bridgehead, it is above all based on the denial of the sovereign rights of the people of the Territory and disregard of its free will.

76. Artificial facades and new colonial practices and forms and names like "free association", "constructive engagement", and so on, are illegal attempts and pretexts which reveal a strong desire to disregard the will of the people of the Territory concerned and defy the will of the international community to put an end to colonialist practices.

77. Regarding the question of Puerto Rico, we in the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirm our full support for the right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination in accordance with resolution 1514 (XV). For 11 years the Special Committee on decolonization has been dealing with the question of Puerto Rico and hearing the views and opinions of the representatives of the Puerto Rican people and its parties, institutions and bodies. These are fully unanimous as regards the adherence of the Puerto Rican people to its identity, its strength of character, its culture, its freedom and its right to self-determination and independence, free from any foreign intervention. The Special Committee has adopted the incontestable legal position that its mandate under resolution 1514 (XV) gives it the right to examine the conditions in all Non-Self-Governing Territories to which the Declaration refers. The colonialist situation in the island is acknowledged even by senior officials of the American Administration and cannot be denied. The deliberations of the Special Committee have established the following facts, which are becoming clearer day by day.

78. First, the United States occupied Puerto Rico by military force in 1898.

79. Secondly, the colonial political status was imposed upon the Puerto Rican people by force of arms, and I need hardly say that colonialism is essentially itself a *de facto* rejection of the right of peoples to dignity, freedom and self-determination.

80. Thirdly, the United States imposed upon Puerto Rico all the treaties to which it is committed and imposed on the Puerto Rican people military service in the American armed forces to fight in wars not related to Puerto Rico and in which its people had no interest.

81. Fourthly, the United States has exploited the Territory of Puerto Rico for military purposes by establishing

bases and conducting arms tests there and transforming areas of Puerto Rico into a testing-ground, especially the island of Vieques, where this led to devastation of the environment and threatened the lives of its people. Recently, the United States also used the island as a base for the invasion of Grenada.

82. Fifthly, the United States has subjected the Puerto Rican people to foreign domination and economic exploitation. It has established an economy in the island which does not reflect the needs of the Territory. The United States has failed to transform Puerto Rico into the promised paradise, while the Puerto Ricans who live on the American mainland do not enjoy American prosperity.

83. Sixthly, the United States has attempted to obliterate the culture and identity of the Puerto Rican people and lessen the importance of its mother tongue. In this regard, I must record our great respect and admiration for that steadfast people for the way it clings to its national identity, culture, civilization and language despite all the pressures and efforts that have been going on for more than 85 years, since the beginning of the foreign occupation.

84. Seventhly, the United States has imposed American citizenship on the Puerto Rican people despite the categorical and persistent rejection of this action by the Puerto Rican people.

85. Eighthly, without going into the details of the constitutional and legal position in Puerto Rico, we cannot ignore the fact that the United States Congress alone has the authority to determine the future of the Puerto Rican people, which cannot determine its future in a sovereign manner. It is the United States Congress which decides for it.

86. Ninthly, the logical conclusion of all these facts is that the constitutional situation of the island is plainly a colonial situation in the full sense of the word. The colonial situation in the island is acknowledged even by senior officials in the American Administration.

87. While the colonialist authority in this country, the mightiest, wealthiest and most influential Power in the world, has been able for a time to neutralize the international will through blackmail and pressure, we hope soon to see an end to the anomalous situation in that island and to see the full exercise by the Puerto Rican people of its right to self-determination and independence. We hope also to see the termination of the mandate of the Special Committee when the last vestiges of colonialism in our world have come to an end.

88. While the United Nations seeks to eliminate the remaining vestiges of colonialism, it is incumbent upon us all to raise our voices against the new attempts taking place in several regions of the world to return to the policy of imperialism. This threatens the independence and freedom of States and constitutes intervention in their internal affairs under new slogans, in an attempt to establish new military bases pursuant to plans to place our peoples and countries under colonialist domination, in the colonialist sphere of influence, or to drag us into armed confrontation. The establishment of the "rapid deployment forces" and the concept of "strategic accords" and strategic alliances between the United States and the racist colonialist régimes depending upon the United States are nothing but the ugly face of the new imperialist onslaught against the independence and liberty of our peoples and their rights to their natural resources and to national dignity.

89. Regarding the situation in southern Africa, it is absolutely true that the Pretoria régime could not have survived and persisted in its defiance of the world but

for the full support it receives from the Western Powers, headed by the United States, which is committed, through its support, to condone Pretoria's aggression and to protect it from the wrath of the international community. The exercise of the right of veto on a question of decolonization is unacceptable. It means that the colonialist Powers place their economic and strategic interests above the dignity of people and their right to self-determination and independence.

90. The United States and the other countries which maintain close relations with the Pretoria régime are responsible for its intransigence and continued defiance of the will of the international community and the spirit of the times. They are also responsible for the inability of the international Organization to adopt decisive measures to put an end to colonialism. On the other hand, the close co-operation and alliance between the régime and the racist aggressive régime of Tel Aviv, especially in the nuclear and military fields, play a dangerous role in the co-ordination of imperialist plans to control the peoples of the Middle East and Africa and subject them to aggressive domination. All of this proves that the colonialist régimes will not of their own accord bow to the will of the people and that they are not interested in a peaceful settlement, so a sharp collision with the forces trying to arrest the course of history is inevitable.

91. This proves that the full implementation of the Declaration on decolonization is still a vital matter and that we must continue and intensify our efforts, especially in the context of the Special Committee, to enable it to fulfil its sacred mission.

92. The struggle of the Syrian Arab Republic against colonialism and racism proceeds from its conviction that the cause of freedom is indivisible and from its feeling that it is in the front-line of confrontation with the common enemy of mankind. Be it *apartheid*, zionism, imperialism or colonialism, the enemy is one and the same, and its continued aggression and defiance imposes on us duties and responsibilities which we will shoulder without hesitation until the régimes of oppression, colonialism and racism are overthrown and until the dawn of freedom and dignity for all peoples is at hand.

93. I would like to state to the representative of the United States, who complained this morning about the activities of the Special Committee and its report, that the peoples of South Africa, Namibia, Palestine and all peoples that cherish freedom and justice do not confront racist settler colonialist régimes in the context of super-Power rivalry and do not aim in their struggle to serve the strategic interests of any Power but are struggling in exercise of their legitimate right to defend their right to independence and self-determination and to maintain their national dignity. I wonder why the United States representative did not say anything about the responsibility of the American Administration for the intransigence of the racist régime of Pretoria and the fact that it links the independence of Namibia to conditions that serve the narrow and selfish strategic interests of the United States. I think the statement I have just made is sufficient response to the allegations of the representative of the United States.

94. Mr. OLEANDROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*interpretation from Russian*): The twenty-third anniversary of the General Assembly's adoption of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which triumphantly proclaimed the need for an immediate and unconditional end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, falls in a few days' time. A clear goal was set before the national liberation movements of the peoples: to bring

about the collapse of the colonial system. The Declaration served as a powerful incentive in the struggle of peoples for their freedom. The movements of peoples for independence, which were supported by progressive countries and further shored up by the adoption of the Declaration and the determined position of the United Nations, led to the crumbling of colonial empires. The map of the world changed. On the ruins of colonial empires there arose more than 100 independent States. More than 2 billion people cast off the yoke of colonial oppression and slavery.

95. However, the success achieved in the process of the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization even further highlights the alarming fact that this process has not yet been completed. Colonialism, racism and *apartheid* continue to poison the international atmosphere and provide a dangerous source of tension, conflict and threats to international peace and security.

96. The people of Namibia continue to suffer, bound in the fetters of racist colonial oppression and occupation. A colonial status has been foisted on the people of Puerto Rico. The last Trust Territory, Micronesia, has also had imposed upon it a colonial status which is tantamount to a virtual absorption of that Territory by the United States. The people of the Western Sahara have not yet enjoyed their inalienable rights to freedom and independence. The small island Territories scattered throughout the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic oceans and the Caribbean still remain in colonial dependency.

97. The recently concluded discussions at the United Nations on the question of *apartheid* in South Africa and on the situation in Namibia testified to the tremendous anxiety and concern shown by Member States over the situation which has arisen in southern Africa. The bastion of colonialism and racism which continues to exist there represents an anachronism in modern history, but one which is both aggressive and dangerous.

98. Despite numerous United Nations resolutions, the racist régime in South Africa continues its illegal occupation of Namibia, exploiting the natural and human resources of that Territory and attempting to do away with the national liberation movement of the Namibian people, which is led by its sole authentic representative, SWAPO. For many years Pretoria, with the support of Western countries and in close co-operation with the United States, has been blocking the achievement of any authentic independence by Namibia, and it is trying to steer the solution of the Namibian problem in a neo-colonial direction. With the support of the United States, the racists in South Africa are waging a full-scale undeclared war against Angola from Namibian territory and are occupying part of Angolan territory. They have stepped up their military actions against Mozambique and other independent African States.

99. A serious situation has also arisen over the last remaining Pacific Islands Trust Territory, Micronesia, which was put under the temporary—I stress "temporary"—administration of the United States by a decision of the Security Council in 1947. In three and a half decades of ruling the roost in that Territory, Washington has failed to fulfil any of the demands of the Charter and the Declaration on decolonization. By pulling economic strings and making the Territory fully dependent, the United States has brought about the political decimation of Micronesia. Using extremely sophisticated means of diktat and blackmail in order not to make it possible for the Micronesian people to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, Washington has imposed on separate parts of the Territory a neo-colonialist status, under the guise of a so-called

commonwealth and free association with the United States, which amounts essentially to annexation. The danger that the United States will absorb Micronesia, which is the fate hanging over it, makes active intervention by the United Nations necessary to protect the people of Micronesia and their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

100. For many years the Special Committee on decolonization has been considering the situation in Puerto Rico. In its resolutions it has frequently confirmed the inalienable right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration on decolonization. In their statements this year and in their decision, Committee members emphasized the United Nations obligation, in accordance with the Declaration, to promote the enjoyment by the Puerto Rican people of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. The Soviet Union fully supports that decision.

101. Other Non-Self-Governing Territories are still in a state of colonial dependency, scattered over the oceans and seas and in a number of adjacent areas. The administering Powers are impeding the exercise by the peoples of those Territories of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. Not only have they failed to take effective steps to transfer power to the peoples of those Territories, but in a number of instances they are also trying to perpetuate their domination over them, alleging that the peoples of the Territories do not want to put an end to their colonial status.

102. Even in those instances in which small Non-Self-Governing island Territories have achieved the official status of independent States, the colonial Powers have paid no heed to the right of the peoples of those countries to independent, sovereign development, and they frequently use them for their own imperialist ends. Direct proof of that was the recent incident in which a number of small countries in the Caribbean—including Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda and the new State Member of the United Nations, Saint Christopher and Nevis—were used by the United States to provide camouflage for its armed aggression against the peace-loving people of a small country, Grenada, which posed no threat of any kind to anyone. It is obvious that these countries still have a great deal to do if they are to consolidate their independence and successfully resist the constant pressure put on them by colonialist and neo-colonialist forces.

103. In trying to disguise the present forms of colonialism, the United States asserts, as in the statement today by its representative, that colonialism ceased to exist long ago, or that it exists now only in Namibia. It depicts the actions of national liberation movements as the acts of terrorists and tries to present the problem of decolonization as a confrontation between East and West. Further, in so doing, it slanders the policies of the Soviet Union and of other socialist countries, as its representative did in today's statement. All this is simply a propaganda uproar intended to create a pretext for the United States and its allies to continue their colonial exploitation of other peoples, to put down by arms the national liberation movements, to support the racists in southern Africa and to impose their hegemony on the peoples of Africa, Latin America and other continents.

104. In the real world the problem of decolonization is at present a conflict between the United States, South Africa and certain Western Powers on the one hand and the peoples of Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific and other independent peoples on the other. This is a conflict between the national liberation movements in Africa and other parts of the world on the one hand

and the united forces of imperialism, colonialism and racism on the other. The United States is the main colonial Power of the present day. This is so because of its colonialist and colonizing history and background, because of its vast colonial possessions and because it is the bulwark of colonialism in its various forms throughout the world, including the racist colonialism of Pretoria. It is clear to everyone that it is the United States that is protecting South Africa from the international sanctions that are favoured by the vast majority of States.

105. It is apposite to recall in this connection that the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi in March 1983, condemned the policy of so-called constructive engagement with South Africa pursued by the United States and emphasized that

“The public proclamation of the racist Pretoria régime as friend and ally has encouraged it in its intensified repression of the South African people, its escalating aggression against its neighbours and its determined intransigence over Namibian independence.” [A/38/132 and Corr.1 and 2, annex, sect. I, para. 57.]

As a sage once said, “Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are.”

106. At the root of the stubborn resistance of the colonial Powers to the full and final implementation of the Declaration on decolonization is the very nature of imperialism, its political, economic and military-strategic interests. The existence of colonial régimes creates better conditions for monopolistic capital and transnational corporations to make unbelievably large profits through their unimpeded pillaging and depletion of natural resources and their inhuman exploitation of the populations of colonial Territories.

107. Military activity in the independent Territories further supports the interests of the colonizers—the location of military bases and installations and the reinforcement of their military presence there. Examples of this are: the escalation of assistance by the Western Powers to the military machine and nuclear potential of South Africa; the military presence and military bases and installations in Guam, Puerto Rico, Diego García, Micronesia, Bermuda and the Turks and Caicos Islands and the militarization of Ascension Island; the war waged by the United Kingdom to restore the colonial status of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas); and, finally, the United States armed intervention, making use of the territory of Puerto Rico, against Grenada.

108. I wish on behalf of the Soviet delegation to express our deep appreciation of the work accomplished this year by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples under the chairmanship of Mr. Koroma, of Sierra Leone. The Special Committee carried out essential work over the past year and adopted a number of positive decisions and resolutions. The Soviet delegation supports the results of the Committee's work and hopes that in the future it will continue to carry out effectively the tasks before it.

Mr. Fakhoury (Lebanon), Vice-President, took the Chair.

109. It is the duty of the United Nations to make every effort to bring about the rapid implementation of the Declaration on decolonization and the speedy and complete elimination of colonialism, racism and *apartheid*. The colonialists must not continue to ignore United Nations decisions on the granting of independence to Namibia and other dependent Territories. The Soviet

Union supports the demand of the African countries that the Security Council impose on the Pretoria régime the comprehensive mandatory sanctions provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. But to achieve this we have to overcome the resistance of those Western Powers permanent members of the Security Council, foremost among them the United States, which are impeding the implementation of effective international sanctions against South Africa.

110. The Soviet Union condemns the rapacious activities of the Western Powers and their monopolies in southern Africa and in small colonial Territories. We support the demands of the African countries and United Nations resolutions that capital should immediately be withdrawn from South Africa and Namibia.

111. For its part, the Soviet Union is struggling valiantly against colonialism and has consistently defended the right of peoples to self-determination and independence. We are justly proud of the fact that the Soviet Union was the initiator of the introduction and adoption of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Soviet Union has given and will continue to give assistance and support to the forces of the national liberation movements and to all peoples struggling for freedom and independence and against colonial oppression and enslavement.

112. Mr. ROA KOURÍ (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Twenty-three years have passed since the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Since that time the United Nations has made a tremendous effort in support of decolonization, thus contributing to the historic struggle of peoples to throw off the yoke of colonialist and imperialist oppression. The presence in our midst of a large number of independent African, Asian and Caribbean States attests to the great achievement of the Organization and to the inexorable triumph of concepts of independence following the victory over nazism and fascism and the end of the Second World War.

113. For 100 years Cuba fought for true freedom and sovereignty, first against colonial Spain and then against the growing Yankee imperialism, and we are keenly aware of the true value of the historic contribution of the United Nations and its meaning, in terms of human, social and political progress, for the peoples of the world.

114. Nevertheless, as everyone knows, the struggle against the vestiges of colonialism has not ended: not in Africa, where the bloody heritage of Namibia is a thorn in the side of the continent; not in the Indian Ocean region, where the Comorian island of Mayotte, the Malagasy Islands and Diego García must be restored to the sovereignty of Comoros, Madagascar and Mauritius, respectively; not in East Timor; not in the Caribbean, where several European Powers maintain anachronistic "overseas possessions" and where the United States continues to occupy Puerto Rico; not in the South Atlantic, where attempts continue to deny Argentina's sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands; and not in the well-known Non-Self-Governing Territories, the euphemistic name given to the colonies of Micronesia and the Virgin Islands and others which appear in the United Nations list of such Territories.

115. Furthermore, the policy of aggression and expansion of imperialism and its pawns in the Middle East and southern Africa, Israel and South Africa, has brought about a new form of colonialism, as manifested in the illegal proliferation of Zionist settlements on the West Bank and in Gaza and in the neo-colonialists assaults by

the racist régime of Pretoria on neighbouring independent States and the front-line countries.

116. The process of decolonization has been arrested in some of the most critical areas, particularly in Namibia, where the racist forces of Pretoria have extended the monstrous system of *apartheid* and are trying to impose a so-called internal settlement put together with puppets and those who wish to surrender Namibia's natural wealth, with the blessing of their imperialist allies, in order to undermine the victory of the people and its sole legitimate representative, SWAPO. Herr Botha's Fascists, together with their protectors and benefactors, are striving, in the "constructive engagement", to make a dead letter of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and to prevent the implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia.

117. Thus, the typically interventionist and ill-advised idea of former Secretary of State Alexander Haig—the so-called theory of linkage between the independence of Namibia and the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist forces sent to Angola by agreement between our sovereign Governments—has acquired its "citizenship papers" and is brandished by the racists or put forward by the opportunists as a pretext for circumventing the clear mandate of the international community and of United Nations resolutions.

118. No one should be deceived, however; neither the South African racists nor their imperialist protectors want real independence for Namibia. Their plan, disinterred from nineteenth-century manuals of counter-revolutionary reaction and copied from Nazi doctrines, envisages a world serving the interests of their monopolies, a Namibia subjugated to South Africa and the conversion of the rest of the continent into an economic, political and military appendage of United States imperialism. In other words, it sees the world as a Yankee backyard for Yankee profit. However, we have not the slightest doubt that this policy is doomed to failure. The system of *apartheid* will be eradicated by the unstoppable force of the black masses, and Namibia will be independent sooner rather than later. The anti-historical currents represented today by imperialism and its allies will be buried by history.

119. We have heard in this Hall today a curious apologia of imperialist policies, including the inevitable diatribe against socialism and against various resolutions adopted by the Special Committee. It is not at all surprising that the representatives of the transnational corporations wish to defend their alleged good deeds; after all, they are the main instruments of exploitation by contemporary capitalism and, as has been proved *ad nauseam*, are the chief accomplices of the South African racist régime in plundering the wealth of Namibia and South Africa itself and are the greatest beneficiaries therefrom. Nor are we surprised that the struggle of the peoples against foreign domination has been called "terrorism". We have already said that the spokesmen of the present American Administration, in a frankly Orwellian style, refer to those who massacre people as patriots and refer to patriots as terrorists. But it is a ridiculous contradiction that in one paragraph we have been demagogically reminded of the colonial origins of the United States and yet in another the right of peoples to use all means available to them in their struggle for freedom is denounced as something fiendish. The representatives of the present American Administration, in their twisted logic, either consider Patrick Henry, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin as terrorists, or want us to apply a biased and unacceptable double standard here, as in other matters.

120. We should point also to the attempts of imperialism to camouflage its expansionist and exploitative tendencies. Aside from the fact that the list of colonies read out this morning omits Puerto Rico, the largest United States colony in the world, and confines the status of colony to Namibia alone, it is a fact that imperialism has replaced its colonial policy by neo-colonialism, that is, by the continued subjugation of independent countries through economic and political control. This control was exercised in Cuba before the revolution by American banks, companies and capitalists and the Ambassador of the United States, a veritable proconsul, one of whom, a Mr. Gardner, blithely but not without some modesty confessed that his authority in Cuba was second only to that of the President of the Republic. He was referring, of course, to Fulgencio Batista.

121. That phenomenon, which is occurring in many parts of the world in spite of the formal independence of many countries, is the modern form of the old colonial system. It has led directly to the present neo-colonial network of imperialist power which is being fought by the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

122. My delegation, as a member of the Special Committee and as a strong advocate of decolonization, considers that the report presented this year and the resolutions adopted by the Special Committee and by the Fourth Committee represent, in their essence, a contribution to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

123. This year, for the first time, when the resolution on Puerto Rico was adopted in the Special Committee, there was a far-ranging debate on the growing militarization of the sister Latin American island. Criticism was levelled at the participation of the American National Guard of Puerto Rico in the "Gran Pino" military manoeuvres which, as part of the anti-Sandinist destabilizing strategy, are being carried out by the United States armed forces in Honduran territory.

124. That debate was later reflected in the work of the Fourth Committee where, also for the first time, a representative of the Socialist Party of Puerto Rico made a statement describing with irrefutable facts this process of militarization and offering valuable evidence regarding the obstacles created by these military activities to the independence of colonial or Non-Self-Governing Territories including the rapidly declining Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The complaints of various Puerto Rican petitioners in the Special Committee were borne out by the facts: the "Ocean Venture" manoeuvres and landing exercises on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques served as a trial run for the criminal aggression and invasion of Grenada, one of the smallest independent States in the world, on 25 October of this year by the air, land and naval forces of the United States. Furthermore, the complaint by Puerto Rican patriots regarding the murder of young members—

125. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): The representative of the United States has asked to speak on a point of order.

126. Mr. BOEHM (United States of America): The speaker has referred repeatedly to Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico is not on the agenda of the General Assembly, although it might have been taken up in the Fourth Committee. It was removed from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories by action of the General Assembly in 1953. Last year, this body declined to inscribe Puerto Rico on its agenda. Therefore, it is not appropriate for the speaker to address this question here. My delegation has exercised forbearance, but feels compelled at this stage to ask you, Mr. President, to remind the speaker

and any subsequent speakers who advert to this subject to confine their remarks to the items on the agenda before us, which do not include Puerto Rico.

127. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I thank the representative of the United States for his statement and ask the representative of Cuba to continue his statement.

128. Mr. ROA KOURÍ (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I am entirely in order as I make this statement. We are considering agenda item 18, which refers to the report of the Special Committee. If the representative of the United States has not read that report, I would remind him that it contains a resolution on Puerto Rico and therefore I am referring to an item which is before the Assembly.

129. The complaint by Puerto Rican patriots regarding the murder of young members of the independence movement in the Cerro Maravilla, in San Juan, by the colonialist Government's agents of repression has not only been fully corroborated, but the pro-Yankee Governor himself, Carlos Romero Barceló, is facing impeachment proceedings demanded by all opposition parties, even by the amanuensis which the delegation which just attempted to interrupt me brought to speak at the previous session and presented to us as the Mayor of San Juan, Mr. Hernán Padilla. Such distinguished Puerto Ricans as Mr. Severo Colberg, the President of the Chamber of Deputies, and Mrs. Victoria Muñoz Mendoza, the daughter of former Governor Luis Muñoz Marín, have spoken unequivocally against the militarization of Puerto Rico and Romero Barceló's attempts to turn it into a component of the United States military-industrial complex.

130. The representatives of empire continue, even today, up to this very hour, with their stubborn refusal to recognize the colonial situation of Puerto Rico, despite the resolutions of the Special Committee, as contained in the report, which uphold its inalienable right to self-determination and independence. But more and more people, even in the United States Congress itself and among more progressive elements of that country, differ from the Administration's leading men and question the moral and legal nature of the present political status of that Caribbean island.

131. We are convinced that in the case of Puerto Rico, as in the cases already mentioned and which are also referred to in the report, justice will win, sooner rather than later, and that the lone star of Puerto Rico will shine, as it should, among the independent republics of our America.

132. Mr. CHORNY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (*interpretation from Russian*): In the range of efforts by the United Nations to serve the cause of peace, an important place belongs to the efforts to eliminate the vestiges of colonialism that remain in the world. One of the Organization's most notable achievements in this field was the adoption at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly, on the initiative of the Soviet Union, of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Declaration gave a powerful impetus to the world-wide movement for the elimination of the colonial system of imperialism. It declared colonialism a crime and recognized the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples against colonialism and racism and demanded that an end be put immediately and unconditionally to this disgraceful legacy of the past.

133. The consistent policy of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, directed to strengthening peace and mutual understanding among peoples, an integral

part of which is comprehensive assistance and support to those peoples striving for their independence and social progress, has considerably alleviated and accelerated the process of liberation from colonialist and neo-colonialist dependence.

134. During the last two decades, the colonial empires have crumbled one after another, and on their ruins have been laid the foundations of a new life of national statehood, sovereignty and independence for the liberated peoples. This is a result of the indefatigable and continuing national liberation movement which, despite having to overcome many difficulties and obstacles, continues to win fresh victories.

135. There can be no doubt that success in the speedy elimination of the vestiges of colonialism would be considerably greater if it were not for the fierce resistance of the forces of imperialism and reaction, which are attempting to regain their lost positions and hold up the irreversible process of the liberation of oppressed peoples. Unfortunately, we more and more frequently encounter something which can really only be called a reversion to imperialist ambitions—attempts to play the part of a world policeman.

136. Openly declaring its hegemonistic claims and flouting the generally recognized norms of inter-State conduct and international law, the most aggressive militaristic imperialist circles, headed by the United States, have made it their policy to worsen the international situation and to ignite international crises and conflicts. They have openly declared whole regions of the world “spheres of their vital interests”, and where they feel they can get away with it, they have dealt harshly with those unacceptable to them, as in the case of defenceless Grenada.

137. One of the danger spots is southern Africa. The political tension here has gone far beyond the regional context and now constitutes a matter of serious concern to the world community. As a result of the inhuman policies and practices of *apartheid* practised by the racist régime of South Africa with the help of its Western protectors, terror and repression are the daily lot of the indigenous population of that country and of Namibia, which it is illegally occupying. Brazenly flouting the decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the granting of independence to Namibia, the racist régime of Pretoria has taken up arms in order to keep that country in the grip of colonial slavery. Furthermore, with the open connivance of their imperialist cohorts, the Pretoria racists are perpetrating armed attacks on the front-line States from Namibian territory, which are unparalleled in their impudence and ferocity, thus trying to destabilize them and force them to give up the assistance and support they are giving the national liberation movement of the Namibian people.

138. The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR believes that the policy of racism, terror and aggression practised by the South African régime is a serious threat to the free and independent development of African countries and to the international peace and security of peoples. This policy is an integral part of the imperialist “crusade”, which is aimed at putting down progressive and democratic forces and national liberation movements. Therefore it is by no means a surprise that the ties of so-called constructive engagement are binding Washington and Pretoria ever closer together. Pretoria has been described as “a friend and a military and historical ally” of the United States.

139. In order to hinder as much as possible the process of the liberation of Namibia from the colonial and racist grasp of Pretoria, to impose a neo-colonialist decision

on the Namibian problem and to effect its settlement outside the United Nations, the racists and their patrons are putting forward various kinds of contrived conditions for granting independence to Namibia, such as the notorious “linkage” with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and the fulfilment by Angola of various kinds of uncompromising demands. The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR fully shares the conclusion of the International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence, held last April in Paris, that “the persistence of such attempts not only retards the decolonization process in Namibia but also constitutes an unwarranted and gross interference in the internal affairs of Angola”.² We support Security Council resolution 539 (1983), which rejects the policy of linkage as incompatible with United Nations decisions.

140. The Ukrainian SSR, in statements both here at the United Nations and other international forums, in particular in the Special Committee against *Apartheid*, has constantly stated that the only genuine and just political solution to the Namibian issue will be to ensure the immediate exercise by the Namibian people of their inalienable right to self-determination and true independence on the basis of preserving the unity and territorial integrity of that country, including Walvis Bay and the offshore islands, together with the immediate and complete withdrawal of South African troops and administration from Namibia and the transfer of full authority to SWAPO, which has been recognized by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries as the sole and legitimate representative of the Namibian people. Such a settlement can be achieved only by collective efforts on the part of all States, on the basis of conscientious and strict implementation of all the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions in their entirety, and this entails the complete international isolation and boycott of the racists. We therefore fully support the demand of the majority of States that the Security Council impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

141. Unfortunately, it is not only in southern Africa that the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples are not being implemented. A number of so-called small Territories in the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans and in the Caribbean are still under colonial domination. In its efforts at post-war reconstruction, the United Nations did not forget about the small Territories. Indeed, that is precisely why the Charter has a special chapter—Chapter XII—on the International Trusteeship System. The entire content of that chapter is noble and humanitarian. Under its provisions, colonies were to become independent States with the help of the economically developed countries. The condition is laid down that during the period of trusteeship the Territories should not and cannot be used for military purposes, for the establishment of military bases aimed against third countries.

142. In fact, however, things turned out to be much more complicated, and in certain cases the exact opposite of what the United Nations was seeking has happened. The administering Powers, motivated by their own selfish interests and acting in defiance of the aspirations of the indigenous populations, have attempted to maintain the colonial status of these Territories, going so far as to turn them into military bases, a sort of bastion of imperialism in certain regions. They have thereby created a threat to many neighbouring countries and peoples.

Attempting to justify their unlawful acts, the administering Powers have trotted out the standard set of contrived arguments about the very small size of the colonial and dependent Territories and the fact that they are not inhabited by very many people and that they have a low level of social, cultural and economic development. These are the factors which, they say, prevent decolonization. But that is completely contrary to the provisions of the Declaration on decolonization and the programme of action for the full implementation of this historic Declaration [resolution 2621 (XXV)] and other relevant General Assembly resolutions, which, as is known, do not make the process of decolonization dependent upon such factors as those I have mentioned.

143. So what we have here is a vicious circle: Namibia is not given independence because the desire is to maintain this large and very well endowed country in the harsh manacles of colonialist illegality; and the island Territories are not given independence because they are small and poor. Surely, this can be nothing but hypocrisy.

144. A classic example of neo-colonialist policies is the situation in the strategic Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Micronesia. The Security Council in 1947 transferred the mandate for the provisional administration of Micronesia and gave instructions that the islands be prepared for independence as quickly as possible. The facts, however, indicate not only that the United States has failed to do that during three and one-half decades but that, on the contrary, it has turned these islands into a testing ground for missile technology and the newest types of weapons, including nuclear weapons. To perpetuate that situation, the United States has embarked on a policy of dividing up Micronesia, by means of the illegal "association" of the Territory with the United States, under various counterfeit labels—as has been done in Puerto Rico, which is virtually a colony of the United States. In an attempt to weaken the effectiveness of the demands for the granting of independence and to paralyse international support for these demands, the United States, using so-called plebiscites and referendums, has cynically presented its predatory activities as an expansion of the will of the islanders themselves, but remains silent about the expressions of protest against Washington's demands—including the powerful manifestation in the form of the month-old strike of the people of the Kwajalein atoll.

145. Let us be quite clear about this: the annexationist and militaristic actions of the United States towards Micronesia are illegal. Under the Charter, any change in the status of Micronesia is the exclusive prerogative of the Security Council. Therefore, the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR believes that, in the light of these actions by the administering Power, the United Nations and its appropriate organs should take the steps provided for in the Charter to ensure the failure of these attempts to present the world with the *fait accompli* of the absorption of the entire Trust Territory and its transformation into a colonial possession. Everything should be done to ensure that the people of Micronesia, in accordance with the Charter and the Declaration on decolonization, freely exercise their legitimate right to genuine liberty and independence.

146. There is another example of the sacred right of the peoples to self-determination and independence being challenged by the imperialist Powers or completely denied by them on behalf of their own strategic interests. This is the collusion between two colonial Powers in regard to turning the island of Diego Garcia into a major United States military base in the Indian Ocean. This island, which is part of the Chagos Archipelago, was illegally

seized by the United Kingdom from Mauritius in 1965 and then handed over to the United States to serve its own military purposes and also as a rallying point for the "rapid deployment force" in the Indian Ocean.

147. The same picture, with the same *dramatis personae*, can be seen in the Atlantic, particularly the South Atlantic. There, instead of decolonizing the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Great Britain is at a quickening tempo increasingly militarizing them in the hope of turning them into a British outpost in the South Atlantic.

148. Such actions by the imperialist Powers, headed by the United States, are, wherever they are carried out, utterly at variance with the high ideals of the Charter, the Declaration on decolonization and the irreversible process of the positive restructuring of international relations, a feature of which is the complete removal of colonialism from our planet.

149. In two years, in 1985, it will be 25 years since the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was adopted. The United Nations will then review what has happened in this extremely important process. It is our conviction that the United Nations should do everything it can to ensure that the provisions of this historic Declaration are implemented as soon as possible, completely and without any exceptions. The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR is prepared, as always, to support any proposals that serve that noble end.

150. Mr. MARGETSON (United Kingdom): I have not been able to listen to all the speeches in this debate, but two this afternoon made a very distinct impression upon me.

151. First of all, I would mention the very impressive speech made by the representative of India. It was, if I may say so, a call for freedom and for principles with which I agree completely. Important points which he made are indeed to be found in the speech which I am about to make.

152. Secondly, I listened with amazement to the speech of the representative of Viet Nam—with amazement because Viet Nam has links with Cambodia and Laos that appear to me to be much more imperialistic than the links which were to be found in the nineteenth century between my own country and, for instance, Canada, Australia and New Zealand before Lord Durham wrote his famous report which was the start of the British decolonization period.

153. Perhaps I could also refer to the speech by my colleague from the Soviet Union, Mr. Oleandrov. He chose to mention the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Having visited that Trust Territory twice this year to witness free and fair plebiscites on the constitutional future of two sections of the Trust Territory, I must say that I disagree profoundly with what my Soviet colleague said, but, more important, I believe he should not have made his points in this forum, the General Assembly. The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is a subject which, under Article 83 of the Charter of the United Nations, should be dealt with only by the Trusteeship Council, of which I happen this year to have the honour of being President, and the Security Council. The Charter is quite clear on this point, and I believe we should abide by it.

154. My country is proud of the part it has played in decolonization and proud of the legacy of good government, efficient administration and respect for the rule of law that we have helped to create, and we take an even deeper pride and satisfaction in the replacement of our Empire by a Commonwealth of independent and resilient nations. Decolonization of our Territories took place in

accordance with long-standing British Government policies and in accordance with the wishes of the people involved. The United Nations has witnessed this continuing process, and the United Kingdom has involved United Nations committees and agencies as much as possible to illustrate the identity of interest between the administering Power, the dependent Territories themselves and the international community.

155. The British process of decolonization fell into several distinct phases. It began in the late nineteenth century with the work of Lord Durham, which I have just mentioned, in Canada. Under this impetus, Territories where British settlement had taken place on a large scale were released from what was essentially a subordinate role to that of Britain and associated with it on a basis of equality.

156. There then began the second stage, namely, discussion of how far and how fast this principle was to be extended to other parts of the British Empire. Between the First and Second World Wars, consideration of this problem centred mainly on the future of India, which accounted for some three quarters of the population of the British dependent Territories. With the independence of India and Pakistan in 1947, a new multiracial Commonwealth came into existence. In the following year Burma and Ceylon became independent. This was an important period for the formalization of British policy in the field of decolonization. I think I can do no better than to quote from a Government White Paper of June 1948, which defined excellently the objectives of our colonial policy both then and now:

“The central purpose of British colonial policy is to guide the colonial territories to responsible self-government within the Commonwealth in terms that ensure to the people concerned both a fair standard of living and freedom from repression from any quarter.”

157. The third, final and, as it was to prove, very rapid phase of this policy was marked when Ghana, the first of the British African Territories to do so, attained independence in 1957. A decade later all these African Territories were independent, with the sole exception of Rhodesia, which had never been directly administered by Britain and where an illegal régime maintained power from 1965 until 1979.

158. It is perhaps worth noting that General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), much quoted in this debate, which called for the immediate independence of all colonial Territories and which was later followed by the establishment of the Special Committee on decolonization, was adopted in December 1960, well after the acceleration of the process I have outlined was under way. I have already mentioned the independence of India and Pakistan in 1947. Altogether 15 former British dependent and Trust Territories, with a combined population of almost 1 billion people, had become independent before December 1960, when resolution 1514 (XV) was adopted.

159. During the next 20 years a further 32 Territories, with a present-day population totalling some 75 million, attained independence. Not surprisingly, it was the smaller and economically less powerful States which were the last to seek independence, since their main priorities were for training, aid and economic development. Yet, by the late 1960s even the small island colonies, for example those in the Caribbean, were working towards independent nationhood, proving that constraints such as size, lack of natural resources and geographical isolation need not necessarily constitute impediments to independence.

160. At the beginning of this session we welcomed the accession of Saint Christopher and Nevis to independence and indeed to membership in the United Nations. That event was doubly significant in that Saint Christopher and Nevis are the last of the six Associated States created in the Caribbean in 1967 to end its dependence, though not, I am glad to say, to end its close and friendly links with the United Kingdom. On 1 January next year another British Territory, Brunei, accedes to independence, and we hope it will not be long before that country, too, seeks membership in the United Nations.

161. The decolonization process is now virtually complete. Over 1 billion people, almost a quarter of the world, have been decolonized by Britain. Almost a third of the States Members of the United Nations were at one time in this century administered by Britain. It is, as I have said, a source of pride and satisfaction for us that almost all of them have chosen to continue their bonds of friendship and co-operation through the Commonwealth. The importance and influence of the Commonwealth in international affairs has been shown once more by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held at New Delhi from 23 to 29 November 1983. I hope that the communiqué of that meeting [see A/38/707] will be widely read. It has much of importance to say on problems which concern all of us at the United Nations.

162. There remain, of course, a number of British Territories which for the present prefer to retain their dependent status. The reasons for this are many. Members are familiar with these Territories from the debates in the Special Committee. Every year my Government provides comprehensive information on their political, social and economic development. For the most part they are the smallest island Territories, whose limited resources dictate that special care must be taken in preparing them for the challenge of independence. It is worth remembering that with the exception of Hong Kong, to which special circumstances apply, the 12 remaining British dependent Territories have a combined total population of only 150,000. Among these only Bermuda, with 55,000, and Gibraltar, with 30,000, have a population larger than 20,000. Many are scattered island groups. But each Territory has its own political life and its own well-established democratic procedures. Each one will make its own decisions about its economic and political development. It is not for the United Kingdom, or the United Nations, or anyone else to tell any dependent Territory what would be the most appropriate constitutional arrangement for its people. It remains, therefore, a fundamental principle for us that non-self-governing peoples should be allowed freely to express their views through their own political processes. The United Kingdom will always promote and encourage progress towards independence but it will not push colonial Territories towards independence against their will. British dependent Territories have been and will continue to be administered in accordance with the obligations placed on the United Kingdom as an administering Power under Article 73 of the Charter.

163. I might also add, by way of comment on what we have heard in the debate so far, that it is misleading to apply the concept of colonialism only to the establishment of rule “across the sea”, as it were, over peoples of an alien culture. The most conspicuous difference between, shall we say, the Soviet Union establishing its rule over completely alien peoples on the mainland of Asia and Western European Powers doing the same in other parts of the world is that the latter process has led to the independence of most of the peoples concerned, whereas the former has led to their continued

subjugation and repression. No less an authority than that wise and fair-minded philosopher and political scientist, the late Mr. Raymond Aron, wrote, "The only colonial Empire still surviving intact today is that which Tsarist Russia once constructed, and which Lenin himself, before taking power, denounced". I find myself in the strange company of Mr. Lenin.

164. I have said enough about the general principles of our decolonization policy. Let me turn now to the two draft resolutions that are before us today. It will come as no surprise that I consider the authors of these two draft resolutions to live in an unreal world, unaware of what has taken place during the past 35 years in the field of decolonization. For them colonialism apparently means only the situation in Namibia. Namibia is indeed a colonial situation, but it has had a unique history and its problem is different from that of all other colonial Territories in the world. If, therefore, we apply the terms of the draft resolution on implementation of the Declaration [A/38/L.33] to our own British Territories, they simply do not fit.

165. I shall not in any case address the subject of Namibia in any detail. It has been dealt with at great length very recently in this Hall, which further reduces the need for these draft resolutions to focus on that Territory again. The draft resolution on implementation of the Declaration deals in political clichés and abstractions which have nothing to do with our British colonies. Perhaps certain delegations have a vested interest in keeping alive the rhetoric of decolonization and perpetuating unchanged the United Nations decolonization machinery, which was created for a very different world. Why are we confronted once again with claims that "the continuation of colonialism" in all its forms and manifestations is "incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations"? The continuation of colonialism is manifestly not incompatible with the Charter. As the representative of the Ukrainian SSR reminded us a few minutes ago, a whole chapter of the Charter is devoted precisely to the responsibilities of administering Powers towards dependent Territories. Why is colonialism equated with "exploitation by foreign and other interests of economic and human resources" when the activities of foreign companies in our dependent Territories so obviously provide a vital channel for the private finance and technical expertise needed for successful development? And are we, a country recognized by the United Nations as an administering Power, seriously expected to accept being categorized as an "illegal occupying régime" in the dependent Territories for which we are responsible? For this is certainly the clear implication of the twelfth preambular paragraph of this draft resolution. I have never heard such nonsense.

166. It would surely be more sensible and more in accord with the objective facts for the draft resolution to acknowledge that the decolonization process is drawing rapidly to a close, that most administering Powers have indeed fulfilled the obligations placed upon them and that most dependent Territories are likewise happy and content with their present status. Should not a draft resolution on decolonization recognize that it is for the non-self-governing peoples themselves to choose whether to seek independence or to retain their colonial status?

167. Finally, is it not time that such draft resolutions did away with the absurd references to the alleged deleterious effects of military facilities, for example, in Bermuda, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Ascension Island, which we are asked to believe pose a threat to the right of self-determination of the local people—and, incredibly in the case of Ascension Island, of the people

of a Territory 1,000 miles away, in St. Helena? Should not the draft resolution at the very least acknowledge that such facilities could conceivably affect the people concerned only if they were there against their will? For, in the case of the United Kingdom dependent Territories, we maintain military facilities only with the express consent of the local population.

168. As for the draft resolution on dissemination of information [A/38/L.34], I regret that this looks like another example of certain delegations seeking to keep alive the mythology of decolonization, presumably in order to fuel their campaigns of vilification against the former imperial Powers. At a time when all delegations are concerned to limit increases in the United Nations budget, there is no good reason to seek appropriations for the purpose of intensifying information work on decolonization. Rather, logic dictates that it should now begin to taper off as the scale of the issue itself diminishes. Is the Assembly aware, for instance, that in approving the Special Committee's report on dissemination of information [A/38/23, chap. II], which the present draft resolution asks us to do, we shall be sanctioning a proposal that the Special Committee hold a three-day session in Vienna in February next year with non-governmental organizations based in Europe? The aim: "to contribute to better co-ordination of their action in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization"; the cost: \$88,900. By what yardstick, political or otherwise, can expenditure of this order be justified?

169. I am, of course, only too aware that for many delegations the situation in Namibia remains the central focus of information work on decolonization. But as I have already said, the situation in that Territory is unique and is clearly recognized as such by the United Nations, where special provisions are made for it. It should not be allowed to obscure the positive developments in other areas of decolonization which point to the need for the United Nations information effort to be reduced in so far as it is directed towards general decolonization questions and for greater attention to be paid to the aid and development of the remaining dependent Territories. There is no justification for putting the limited resources of the United Nations at the service of those whose interest is in generating confrontation and in keeping outdated animosities artificially alive.

170. In conclusion, let me say again what we have said on many occasions. My delegation hopes that there will come a time when we shall be presented in this Assembly with shorter, more realistic texts on which consensus will be possible between delegations concerned with decolonization, rather than with ideological language which bears no relation to the real needs and wishes of the people concerned.

171. Mr. KAPOMA (Zambia): The adoption of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) in 1960 constituted a momentous and historic act by the United Nations in the field of decolonization. That resolution, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, was an act of great vision by the international community which, in furtherance of the Charter principles, gave impetus to the decolonization process.

172. Today, the United Nations comprises 158 Member States. A vast number of these countries have become independent in the 23 years since resolution 1514 (XV) was adopted. Because of the accelerated decolonization process, inspired by that historic act of the General Assembly, the United Nations is today closer to realization of the much-cherished principle of universality of membership. The process of decolonization has become

irreversible. It is only a matter of time before the burning desire of all peoples everywhere to be free can be realized. Indeed, it is a matter of great satisfaction to my delegation that very soon, on 31 December 1983, a new nation will be born with the accession of Brunei to independence.

173. Clearly, the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was not an end in itself. Also highly significant was the establishment of the Special Committee on decolonization, otherwise known as the Committee of 24. The Special Committee has since its inception spear-headed United Nations efforts in the cause of freedom and independence, and it continues to work tirelessly for the full realization of the objectives of the Declaration. On behalf of my delegation, I wish to commend the Chairman, Mr. Koroma, of Sierra Leone, and all the members of the Special Committee for their dedicated efforts to bring about the total emancipation of colonial countries and peoples.

174. While great strides have been made and commendable progress recorded in the field of decolonization, the reality is that the colonial era is not yet behind us. Pockets of colonialism and racist minority rule remain around the world, particularly in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific regions. Zambia is concerned about this situation. It is our view that there should be no room for complacency. We must all be inspired by the achievements so far and work even harder to complete the decolonization process. The day must soon come for the international community triumphantly to complete and close the chapter on the decolonization process.

175. Zambia's position of principle remains that the size, population and economic standing should not in any way impede the accession of any Non-Self-Governing Territory to independence. The peoples of any such Territory have as much right as any other to exercise their right of self-determination. In this connection, it is important that the administering Powers of the Non-Self-Governing Territories do not for strategic, military, economic or any other reasons ignore the aspirations of the peoples concerned and seek to perpetuate the *status quo*. Zambia cannot, for example, condone the establishment of foreign military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories which impedes the cause of self-determination. The administering Powers, moreover, have a duty to promote the economic viability of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the context of preparing them for independence.

176. The continued illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa constitutes the most glaring example of failure to complete the decolonization process. The pre-conditions South Africa is advancing, such as the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola, before Namibia can accede to independence are but manoeuvres designed to delay further the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and thus enable South Africa to continue its plunder of Namibian natural resources. The people of Namibia, like any other people, is entitled to a Government of its own choice. Its independence should not, therefore, be made contingent on issues that are irrelevant to its own aspirations.

177. Attempts to portray the question of Namibia as an East-West issue have been made and continue to be made. Repeatedly, we have warned of the dangers of deviating from the matter at hand, namely, that Namibia is a question of decolonization and nothing else. Both the General Assembly and the Security Council have categorically rejected South Africa's insistence on the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola before the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia

can be implemented. It is necessary that all possible pressure be brought to bear on South Africa to compel it to terminate its illegal occupation of Namibia and allow the Territory to accede to independence without any further delay.

178. It would be naïve to talk about South Africa's continued illegal occupation of Namibia without any reference to the *apartheid* policy it practises. It is through the application of this policy that the Namibians, like the black South Africans who form the large majority of the population of that country, are subjected to many acts of social injustice, including the denial of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. We have all condemned this inhuman system, which is based on some mythical belief in white supremacy, because it is an affront to human dignity. It is a violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The international community has rightly designated *apartheid* a crime against humanity. Against this background, we should all redouble our efforts to bring about an end to *apartheid*.

179. Mr. RUPIA (United Republic of Tanzania): The significance of the adoption by the General Assembly in 1960 of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples can be seen in the Assembly Hall itself. The increase in membership is a direct consequence of the elimination of colonialism from many parts of the world, especially Africa. Recently we had the pleasure of welcoming Saint Christopher and Nevis as a Member of the United Nations.

180. The Special Committee began its work in 1960 with 24 members. Although the Special Committee continues to be known as the Committee of 24, the fact that its current membership is more than that is clear proof that the interest and awareness of the international community, too, have been on the increase.

181. The past year, like previous years, has been filled with activities. The Special Committee has been involved in important visits to dependent Territories, all with the aim of bringing nearer the date of independence for those Territories. Arising out of those activities, a number of lessons continue to unfold.

182. My delegation cannot but express its disquiet over the continued use of some of the small Territories for military purposes. Western Sahara is still under colonial occupation. Like Western Sahara, those Territories have virtually been transformed into economic ventures by transnational corporations, invariably without due regard for the interests of the people concerned. We have pointed out in the past that such activities have hampered the strict application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In order to guard against abuses arising out of the activities of both a military and an economic nature in dependent Territories, the Special Committee has a policy of sending visiting missions to Territories to which the Declaration applies, thus ensuring that at all times the true wishes of the people are safeguarded. In this regard, my delegation commends those administering Powers which have offered to co-operate with the Committee.

183. To emphasize the plight of the so-called small Territories is to underline the obvious, but unless someone speaks on their behalf their interests will always be ignored. Their size and their correspondingly weak economies have made it impossible for them to pick up arms or to organize resistance movements to fight for what is their legitimate and inalienable right. Suffice it to say that, as long as peoples are denied their right to

self-determination in an atmosphere free from intimidation and unwarranted threats, my country will continue to support the right of those Territories to be defended by the Special Committee. It naturally follows, therefore, that the letter and spirit of the Declaration is as valid now as it was on 14 December 1960 when the General Assembly adopted resolution 1514 (XV).

184. Pursuance of the basic purposes and objectives of the Special Committee on decolonization must continue until colonialism is totally eradicated. Yet, despite the impressive progress made in the field of decolonization, there are still people who continue to languish under colonialism and racism.

185. The case of Namibia is the most glaring. The racist régime of South Africa continues to govern that Territory illegally and in complete disregard of the will of the international community. The South African régime continues its acts of aggression against independent neighbouring African States, thus threatening peace and security in the region and in Africa as a whole. To date, Security Council resolution 435 (1978) remains unimplemented because of the insistence by the United States and South Africa on linking the independence of Namibia to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The net result of all this is the prolongation of the colonial occupation of Namibia and the non-implementation of the Declaration.

186. Colonialism also continues to exist in a number of small Territories in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans, in contravention of provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and numerous General Assembly resolutions, in particular, resolution 1514 (XV). My delegation, as a member of the Special Committee, has always supported the view that that resolution, containing the Declaration, is an extension of the Charter. Its strict implementation is a mandatory obligation of all peace-loving countries and of all that profess strict adherence to the Charter. Resolution 1514 (XV) therefore places certain responsibilities on Member States, specialized agencies of the United Nations and non-governmental institutions.

187. It is pertinent to mention that the General Assembly has time and again adopted resolutions calling on Member States to co-operate with the Special Committee on decolonization to ensure the speedy implementation of the Declaration. Also, Member States have always been called upon by the General Assembly to stop activities in dependent Territories which impede the implementation of the Declaration. In this regard, it is regrettable that resolution 35/119, calling on the colonial Powers with military bases and installations in those Territories to withdraw them unconditionally, has yet to be complied with. We believe that only the complete dismantling of such military facilities could guarantee the free exercise by the people of those Territories of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

188. It is appropriate, however, to note that a number of specialized agencies have co-operated with the Special Committee on decolonization in the implementation of the Declaration. My delegation believes that all specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations have a duty in the decolonization process. We therefore call on them to render whatever assistance is possible to the recognized liberation movements and the people still under colonial domination. It would be remiss of me not to associate my delegation with the concern expressed by many others about the IMF decision to make a loan to South Africa, in total disregard of General Assembly resolutions. As we have said before in the Assembly, any assistance

given to South Africa only helps that régime to intensify its repression against the black people of South Africa and the neighbouring African States.

189. The least the international community can do in support of the basic principles of the Charter on the question of decolonization is to support the activities of the Special Committee on decolonization. My delegation therefore pays a special tribute to its Chairman, Mr. Koroma, for steering the work of the Committee in an exemplary manner. Well-deserved tributes also go to the members of the Committee's secretariat for their loyalty and dedication to the cause. I also take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to the Rapporteur, Mr. Adhami, of the Syrian Arab Republic, for his eloquent presentation of the Committee's report and recommendations, all of which my delegation fully supports. I hope that the draft resolutions introduced by the Chairman of the Committee will be fully supported by all Member States, for by supporting the draft resolutions the international community will be giving the necessary approval to the Committee to continue to work for the decolonization of the remaining Territories, in accordance with the Declaration. At the same time, the General Assembly's adoption of the draft resolutions would be a clear call to the administering Powers to fulfil their obligations under the Charter.

Mr. Illueca (Panama) resumed the Chair.

190. Mr. ADDABASHI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*interpretation from Arabic*): The adoption by the General Assembly in 1960 of resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, was an important step in supporting the struggle of colonized people and expediting decolonization, because it has become the basis of United Nations action on decolonization. Since that date we have witnessed an extension of liberation movements and a shrinking of colonialism, with many countries attaining their independence. Nobody can deny the effective role played by the United Nations in enabling peoples to exercise their right to self-determination and independence. However, implementation of the Declaration continues to encounter many obstacles which delay the attainment by many peoples of their freedom and independence. These obstacles may be summarized as follows.

191. The first is the activities of foreign economic interests. Colonialist States encourage their multinational corporations to invest in the colonized Territories, which leads to the domination by those foreign companies of the economies of the Territories, the plunder of their wealth, the exploitation of their cheap labour and, finally, the transfer of profits to the companies' countries of origin. The countries concerned have come to count on the activities of the companies in the colonized Territories as an essential component of their economies. Their only concern has become to maintain their interests in the colonized Territories and to delay their independence in order to continue to plunder their wealth. Approximately 1,000 foreign companies are operating today in those Territories.

192. The second obstacle is the military bases, installations and activities of the colonialist States in the Territories they administer. Examples are the bases in Guam, Puerto Rico and Micronesia, which represent a threat hanging over the heads of the colonized peoples, preventing them from freely expressing their wishes and demanding recognition of their right to self-determination and independence. The establishment of military bases has led in some cases to the expulsion of all the

inhabitants of the colonized Territories, for example, in Diego García.

193. The third obstacle is the misuse of the right of veto in the Security Council, where colonialist States use the right of veto against any draft resolution that is not in keeping with their interests. They therefore oppose any draft resolution that might assist the colonized peoples to achieve their right to self-determination and independence, particularly if they believe that the resolution is not in their own interest, regardless of the opinion of the international community.

194. These obstacles taken together have impeded decolonization, with the result that many peoples remain under colonialism, suffering restrictions on freedom and repression. The peoples of Namibia, South Africa and Palestine are at the top of the list of peoples which are still struggling against colonialism and racism, including Zionism.

195. As for Namibia, despite the efforts made by the international community and despite the initiatives of the Secretary-General, the racist régime of South Africa maintains its illegitimate administration of the Territory. It is trying to hamper in every possible way the implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia, endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 435 (1978). It has become clear from the negotiations which have taken place in the past five years that South Africa is using the negotiations only to gain time and to conceal its ambitions in the Territory. The racist régime has concocted empty justifications and pretexts and resorted to various manoeuvres to impede the independence of Namibia. Its latest manoeuvre is to introduce a new, extraneous issue, totally unrelated to the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia or Security Council resolution 435 (1978). This is the linking of Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola. That represents intervention in Angola's internal affairs, and it has been condemned by the international community.

196. These manoeuvres make it crystal-clear that the racist régime is trying to gain time in a desperate attempt to bypass SWAPO, the sole representative of the Namibian people, and to impose an internal solution. Its recent establishment of the so-called State Council in Namibia is to be seen in that light. It is an attempt by the racist régime to create a puppet Government in Namibia to serve its interests and those of the colonialist Powers which have encouraged it in this policy and provided it with every kind of assistance, thus enabling it to defy the international community to this day. The racist régime is not only persisting in its occupation of Namibia but has gone further, and now occupies a part of the territory of Angola and carries out repeated attacks against the front-line States.

197. In South Africa itself the black citizens are struggling to achieve majority rule and to eliminate the odious racist régime. They look to the international community for assistance in eradicating the racist policy of *apartheid* and in attaining their fundamental rights.

198. The life of the Palestinian people continues to be one of tragedy. It has been expelled from its land, pursued and subjected to massacres even outside occupied Palestine. It is truly regrettable that the United Nations—which participated in the expulsion of that people by accepting the establishment on its land of the Zionist entity—has not yet been able to help it to exercise its right to self-determination, to recover its land and to establish its own independent State. There is only one reason for this—that certain colonialist States, headed by the United States of America, stand in varying degrees behind the

usurper and have so far refused to acknowledge the legitimate representative of the Palestine people, as recognized by this Organization, namely, the PLO.

199. Many other peoples continue to languish under colonialism and have their wealth pillaged. Among them is the people of Puerto Rico, whose cause was the subject of extensive discussion in the Special Committee, which adopted a number of draft resolutions on the subject. We are convinced of the ability of the people of Puerto Rico and of all colonized peoples to defeat the colonizer and to impose their will in their own Territories and to achieve their right to self-determination and independence. The victories won by the struggling peoples in many regions of the world testify to the inevitability of the victory of the will of the peoples and the end of colonialism, however long we must wait, and however far the colonizer may go in its oppression and suppression of the people under its administration.

200. My delegation sincerely hopes that the efforts of the United Nations will be crowned with success. We hope for the elimination in the near future of colonialism in its old form, represented by the occupation of territories, the domination of peoples and the expropriation of their freedom and wealth, so that the Organization will be able to eliminate neo-colonialism as manifested in political hegemony and the imposition on small peoples and States of cultural and economic dependence, which has been gaining ground in recent years.

201. We have seen of late several examples of a new colonialist trend towards the recolonization and domination of a number of independent States. We have also seen military provocation, economic blackmail and the threat of force on the part of large States against smaller States in an attempt to terrorize them, undermine their development, impose economic hegemony on them and chain them to colonialism. This went even further when the United States occupied a small State, overthrew its Government and placed it under direct United States control.

202. A long, hard road lies ahead of the United Nations in the sphere of decolonization and the elimination of neo-colonialism. The Organization must take deterrent measures to force the colonizers, the usurpers of the lands and rights of peoples, to withdraw and to respect the will of the peoples and their desire for independence and self-determination.

203. The international community must be wary of the methods used by some colonialist States, which, because of increasing pressure from world public opinion, have resorted to manoeuvres under the slogan of "peaceful solutions" in a desperate attempt to disregard the genuine liberation movements and to impose cynical solutions whose end results would be puppet Governments serving the interests of the imperialist States and dependent on those States.

204. The commitment of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the cause of liberation and decolonization need not be emphasized here. That commitment is founded on the conviction of the Libyan people that its freedom will not be complete as long as there are peoples languishing under colonialism and racism and denied their fundamental rights. My country supports the struggle of colonized peoples. It will continue to support those peoples through all moral and material means until they are all liberated, until they all achieve their full rights and until the era of colonialism is ended for ever.

205. In conclusion, my delegation wishes to commend the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of

Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and its Chairman, Mr. Koroma, of Sierra Leone, for their efforts to accelerate the decolonization process. My delegation fully supports the Committee's work and recommendations.

206. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now call on those representatives wishing to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

207. Mr. OLEANDROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*interpretation from Russian*): The representative of the United Kingdom in his statement went so far as to compare the socialist Soviet Union to Tsarist Russia in the old days. We can only regret that the history book that Mr. Margetson used when he studied recent events omitted any reference to an event of such importance as the great October socialist revolution which took place in our country in 1917. Not only did that event radically transform our country, but it marked a new stage in the development of the liberation movement throughout the world, including the anti-colonialist movement.

208. The statement by the representative of the United Kingdom at today's meeting has shown that although the colonial domination of the United Kingdom in the world is over, the colonial policy of London is unchanged. Colonialist Britain is fighting a rearguard action, trying to cover its retreat before the pressure of the peoples' liberation struggle, hiding behind a smoke-screen of propaganda and fairytales, according to which the United Kingdom confers independence on its colonies as a sort of Christmas present. These fairytales are presented quite shamelessly from this rostrum and addressed to the representatives of dozens of countries which are former colonies of the United Kingdom and whose peoples have paid very dear in sacrifice and suffering in striving for decades for their independence against the obdurate, and even armed, resistance of British colonialism. The peoples of India, south-eastern Africa, West Africa and recently Zimbabwe have not forgotten their heroic struggle for their freedom and independence.

209. As for Micronesia and the statement of the United Kingdom to the effect that the General Assembly is not empowered to discuss the situation in the Territory under the trusteeship of the United States, everyone in this Hall is aware that colonial Powers of course have an interest in limiting the power of the General Assembly to discuss colonial problems such as the question of Micronesia, and not only that question, but Puerto Rico as well, and other Territories. If colonial Powers could do so, they would prohibit the General Assembly from dealing with these things. But the overwhelming majority of the States Members of the United Nations take a different position. On this point we should like to remind everyone that, pursuant to a decision of the General Assembly, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands appears on the list of Territories within the purview of the Declaration on decolonization. Hence the General Assembly has the right to discuss this matter. That is the Assembly's position.

210. Mr. MARGETSON (United Kingdom): One delegation this afternoon mentioned Diego García in terms which cast doubt on the United Kingdom's sovereignty over the island. Let me simply say that the United Kingdom is in no doubt about its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, of which Diego García is a part. Our position with regard to Diego García was set out in Sir John Thomson's letter of 17 November to you, Mr. President [A/38/598]. There is no need for me to elaborate on it here.

211. May I also take the opportunity of responding very briefly to the statement just made in exercise of the right

of reply by the representative of the Soviet Union. I note with interest what he said about the discussion of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in the General Assembly, but I do not agree. The Soviet Union is usually very keen on a strict interpretation of the Charter, which it signed as a founder Member of the United Nations, and the Charter includes Article 83. I am sorry that the Soviet Union seems to be slipping on this point.

212. As for his point about the Soviet empire, there seems to be two views on this: that of my distinguished colleague, Mr. Oleandrov, and that of Mr. Lenin. Personally I believe Mr. Lenin.

213. Mr. SAIGNAVONGS (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (*interpretation from French*): First of all, I should like to apologize to delegations here for trying their patience at this late hour. We would not have asked to speak in exercise of the right of reply if the representative of the United Kingdom had not referred to our country earlier.

214. In the introductory part of his statement, the representative of the United Kingdom mentioned relations between Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea as being of an imperialist nature, but the representative of Great Britain seems to forget, or perhaps not to know, that his country, as co-Chairman of the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indo-China, was closely connected with the struggle of the three Indo-Chinese peoples for their liberation and independence. Hence this was a joint struggle by the three peoples against the common enemies, and without that solidarity they could not have won. Our enemies, the colonialists and the imperialists, in other words, made Indo-China and all the Indo-Chinese one entity and obliged the three peoples involved to fight hand in hand. We were not at all surprised to hear the remarks of the representative of the United Kingdom because, as the representative of a colonialist and imperialist Power, he inevitably conceives of inter-State relations from the point of view of subjection and domination.

215. The representative of the United Kingdom also said that his country was proud of having contributed to the process of decolonization. But he forgot to say that before getting that far much blood had been spilled by British soldiers in an attempt to preserve the former colonies and how many victims had fallen among the ranks of the people fighting for their freedom and independence.

216. Mr. OLEANDROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*interpretation from Russian*): In connection with the most recent comment by the representative of the United Kingdom, I should like to say that of course the representative, who throughout his life has defended the policy of colonialism and is continuing to do so to this very day, does not find it too easy to understand what was said by the founder of the Soviet State, Vladimir Illych Lenin.

217. In so far as Micronesia is concerned, his statement reminded me of a picture which occurs every time there is a meeting of the Trusteeship Council when, under the chairmanship of the representative of the British colonial empire, the representative of the United States reports on his policy in the colonial Territory of Micronesia, and then a majority of votes on the part of the three colonial Powers against the one socialist State, the Soviet Union, puts its stamp on all the decisions taken in the Trusteeship Council so far. But this is the situation in the Trusteeship Council, where there are only four Powers and the three Western powers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization are represented, while only the Soviet Union represents the other side. In the General Assembly the situation is quite different, and the majority here

does not belong to those three colonial Powers. The General Assembly has its own position on the subject.

218. Mr. MARGETSON (United Kingdom): I should like just to reply briefly to the representative of Laos. Indeed, I do know of our co-presidency of the Geneva Conference. But only the representative of Laos knows in his heart the true nature of the link between his country and Viet Nam. I, for my part, only gave my impression of that link. Perhaps the true judges are the people of Laos themselves. It would be interesting to ask them to express a view on this in a democratic process.

219. Could I also reply briefly to the remarks of my colleague from the Soviet Union. On his point about discussing the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands here,

I would merely say that the Charter is the Charter. As for the other point about the Soviet empire, well, I was only quoting Lenin. I am sorry if this embarrassed him.

The meeting rose at 7.05 p.m.

NOTES

¹Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro.

²See *Report of the International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence, Paris, 25-29 April 1983 (A/CONF.120/13)*, part three, para. 190.

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Thirty-eighth session
Agenda item 9

GENERAL DEBATE

Letter dated 5 December 1983 from the Permanent Representative of
Mauritius to the United Nations addressed to the President of the
General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 17 November 1983 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, His Excellency Sir J. A. Thomson (A/38/598), which claims that sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago is vested in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and that Mauritius at no time had sovereignty over the Chagos Islands.

I would like to draw to Your Excellency's attention that until 8 November 1965 the Chagos Archipelago formed part of the Dependencies of Mauritius and that on that date the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland proceeded to detach the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius. At the relevant time negotiations were on in London between the Government of the United Kingdom and delegates from Mauritius for the independence of Mauritius. There were, at the relevant time, some 557 families living in the Chagos Archipelago. Since November 1965 all the families living in the Chagos Archipelago have been evacuated therefrom. At no time were any of the families concerned consulted on the question.

The detachment of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius is in contradiction with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1960 which clearly sets out, in paragraph 5, that the transfer of powers to peoples living in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories should be effected "without any conditions or reservations". In addition, the Declaration, in paragraph 6, explicitly lays down that "any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity

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English

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and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations". Furthermore, the action of the British Government regarding the Chagos Archipelago was also undertaken in disregard of General Assembly resolution 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965, which, inter alia, invited "the administering Power to take no action which would dismember the Territory of Mauritius and violate its territorial integrity".

In the circumstances, Mauritius maintains and reiterates that it has a "just and legitimate claim over the Chagos Archipelago".

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 9.

(Signed) Rameschand SEEREKISSOON
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations



General Assembly

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PROVISIONAL

A/41/PV.28
8 October 1986

ENGLISH

Forty-first session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 8 October 1986, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh)
later: Mr. HALEFOGLU (Turkey)
(Vice-President)

- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations [116] (continued)
- General debate [9] (continued)

Statements were made by:

Sir Satcam Boolell (Mauritius)
Mr. Lopez Contreras (Honduras)
Mr. Al-Maghour (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)
Mr. Keita (Mali)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 9 (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE

Sir Satcam BOOLELL (Mauritius): Mr. President, let me first congratulate you most warmly on your assumption of this high and distinguished office. This honour which has been bestowed on you is a tribute by the international community to your excellent personal qualities as well as your extensive diplomatic skills and experience. We are therefore confident that you will guide our deliberations during this session wisely and successfully.

I also wish to thank your predecessor, Ambassador Jaime de Piniés, who presided over the General Assembly during an important year for the United Nations. We are grateful for his valuable contributions to all the deliberations on issues of vital importance to the Organization.

Finally, our gratitude also goes to the Secretary-General, who during the past year has continued to demonstrate his solid commitment to the pursuit of multilateralism and the goals of the United Nations. We also thank him for his continuing concern for, and his leading role in, the work of the Organization on issues which are at the very top of the agenda of the African continent.

(Sir Satcam Boolell, Mauritius)

Last year during the fortieth anniversary session the international community, in an unusual display of unanimity, reaffirmed the continuing validity of the principles of the United Nations Charter. Created primarily to maintain international peace and security, the United Nations has adapted itself to cope with emerging problems and to deal with unforeseen challenges and emergencies. As an organization it has been at the centre of discussions on many of the central issues of our time, including the problems of racism, religious intolerance and the denial of human rights to a substantial number of people throughout the world. It has been instrumental in assisting many of the Members of the United Nations towards independence and in organizing the training and research needed for the development of a number of newly independent countries. It has encouraged negotiations towards the establishment of a more equitable international economic order and for the promotion of development and trade. It has been in the forefront of discussions on disarmament and the reduction of military budgets, and has pointed out the organic link between expenditure on armaments and the underdevelopment to which the majority of nations seem to be currently condemned.

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It has focused attention on the acute problems of hunger, malnutrition and famine in some countries while others are beset by problems of surpluses and overproduction. It has initiated action to respond to the aspirations of children, youth and women, to the needs of the aged and the disabled and to the plight of millions of refugees uprooted from their countries and scattered throughout the world. It has pointed out that indiscriminate and selfish exploitation of finite resources threatens future generations and that there is an imperative need to agree on the protection of our environment. The sea-bed and outer space have been designated for peaceful uses, free from military competition.

In the light of the successes achieved in spite of the constraints under which we know the United Nations to be operating, we are deeply concerned by what seems to be a concerted assault on the principles of internationalism and multilateralism. The public perception of the United Nations as an institution is conditioned by the indifference, not to say contempt, with which its resolutions are treated in certain quarters. The failure of some States to meet obligations arising under the Charter threatens the solvency and therefore the viability of the United Nations as an Organization. The division among the permanent members of the Security Council makes it impossible for it to carry out its mandate of maintaining international peace and security as defined in the Charter.

It is not surprising, therefore, that in spite of resolutions adopted by overwhelming majorities in the General Assembly it has nevertheless not been possible to achieve a breakthrough on a number of vitally important issues. Notwithstanding the considerable efforts expended by the Secretary-General over a number of years, the problems of dismembered Cyprus, of Afghanistan and of Kampuchea still remain as unresolved issues on the agenda. The conflict in Central America, given an ideological colouring, continues to escalate, threatening a

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potentially catastrophic confrontation. The war between Iran and Iraq, which has already, according to certain reports, claimed over a million victims, may at any moment expand to the surrounding region and quite possibly beyond.

The international community is understandably concerned at the dangerous situation created by these unresolved crises. We seem in addition to be confronted by a deliberate conspiracy to make the environment we live in less secure, both for our States and for individuals. How else are we to describe the alarming increase in drug abuse and drug trafficking, the escalation in terrorist violence, the denial of human rights and the proliferation of torture and other degrading punishments in many parts of the world? Drug abuse in some countries may be merely a social disease, even if a tragically costly one. In many developing countries, however, it represents a powerful, destabilizing factor, undermining both our social and our political institutions. We therefore welcome the convening of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, scheduled to be held in Vienna in June 1987.

We are also encouraged by the emphatic condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, both by the Security Council and by the General Assembly. We are sadly forced to recognize, however, that consensus on the issue at the United Nations has nevertheless failed to restrain the spread of acts of terrorism both by groups and by States.

On the African continent the régime in Pretoria continues its illegal occupation of Namibia in defiance of the stated will of the international community, expressed in the Security Council, in the General Assembly and more recently by the International Conference for the Immediate Independence of Namibia and by the General Assembly at its fourteenth special session, which preceded our deliberations. In the place of the carefully worked out Security Council plan for

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the independence of Namibia under resolution 435 (1978) it has installed its own puppet régime in Windhoek and proposes to link the freedom of the people of Namibia with issues which are both extraneous and irrelevant to the question. It is clear that the régime in Pretoria has never been, and is not, interested in negotiating the independence of Namibia. All the means available to the Namibian people, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) to repel Pretoria's aggression are therefore wholly legitimate and justifiable.

The ideologies of the Pretoria régime, basing themselves on discredited racial theories, have spawned the rationale for the mutilation and dismemberment of South Africa into so-called bantustans. The fact that the concept of apartheid and bantustans cannot withstand the inexorable economic realities of a modern industrial State has not deterred the régime from its stubborn pursuit of so-called separate development to entrench white supremacy. The policy has within the last two years alone led to more than two thousand deaths, coupled with thousands of detentions and wrongful arrests, accompanied by massive use of police violence and military force.

The international community, including the influential economic partners of the Pretoria régime, professes revulsion at the policy of apartheid and the repression which it has engendered. In spite of recent steps in the right direction we still feel that the influential economic partners of the régime have not yet been able to bring themselves to exert the decisive economic pressure which alone may influence a change of mind in Pretoria. The failure of the policy of constructive engagement has once more demonstrated that apartheid cannot be reformed: it will have to be dismantled. Provided the necessary conditions are created by the release of political prisoners and the establishment of political freedom, allowing all parties to operate legally, apartheid may still be dismantled peacefully.

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However, the heightened sense of grievance and the seeming hopelessness of the black majority in South Africa in the face of the actions of the régime are making a violent and tragic conflagration in the subregion a more imminent possibility every day that decisive action by the international community is further postponed. The recent World Conference on Sanctions against Racist South Africa, echoing the increasing international consensus not only among Governments but also among ordinary people and reflecting the sentiments of such leaders as the Commonwealth group of eminent persons on the most effective means of dealing with the threats posed by apartheid, concluded that such means should include especially the application of comprehensive mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. Those measures are probably the last recourse open to the international community to prevent a bad situation from becoming worse. We remain convinced that the key to peaceful change in South Africa rests with its major economic partners, which by taking concrete and effective measures could ensure the avoidance of general civil strife and unnecessary loss of human life.

Another issue high on the African agenda is the prevailing economic crisis in Africa. That this crisis is also of great relevance to the whole community of the United Nations was demonstrated by the convening of a special session of the General Assembly earlier this year, the first special session ever devoted to the economic problems of one single region. We welcome the mutual commitments of both the African States and the international community to work together on reforms in a spirit of genuine partnership. It is important to note that while the African States have recognized that some of their economic policies needed to be reformed, the international community has also accorded due importance to the improvement of the external environment, which has not favoured Africa's economic performance prospects.

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We wish to stress here that in our view one of the most significant results of the special session was that both sides committed themselves to co-operate in a spirit of genuine and equal partnership. Too often in the past Africa has had solutions imposed on it, on the implicit assumption that those that offer aid somehow know better. Such attitudes, as we now realize, have led to great waste of efforts and resources on both sides, and in a way have even retarded development. Still, those attitudes were not altogether absent from the deliberations at the special session as rival economic recipes inspired by antagonistic ideologies were proposed each as being more effective than the other in dealing with Africa's problems. Africa has already shown that it can work out its own solutions, based on a realistic appraisal of the critical situation and its causes, by adopting the Priority Programme at the Organization of African Unit summit in July 1985.

We therefore regret that unfortunately the implications of the Priority Programme's content could not be accepted in their entirety by Africa's partners. The international community was unable or unwilling to announce a firm commitment to meeting Africa's request for additional resources in aid and debt relief for implementation of the programme.

Underdevelopment in Africa or elsewhere in the third world, with the attendant low prospects for economic growth, threats to food security and widespread unemployment, are increasingly being considered as growing non-military threats to international peace and security and stability in international relations. Relatively too little of the world's resources is spent to promote the development process as compared to expenditure devoted to armaments. Global military expenditures are now between four and five times the levels during the Second World War in real terms, which, staggeringly, represents 25 times the total amount of official development assistance to developing countries. While we have been

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calling for disarmament for several years, we must now place increasing emphasis on the nexus between disarmament and development, on the policies and co-operative efforts of the international community to ensure that resources freed through the disarmament process are properly appropriated for development purposes.

There are a number of other important policy measures which the international community, and in particular the industrialized countries, should consider to create a more favourable global environment that would help relieve the poor from external constraints that aggravate their situation. In the past several years protectionist sentiments and measures have intensified in industrial countries and non-tariff barriers have proliferated in markets that are of present or potential interest to developing countries, such as textiles and clothing, steel and agricultural products markets. The developing countries, which have endeavoured to implement the policy of "trade not aid" to achieve maximum economic independence, find themselves thwarted by protectionist walls around those same countries as profess the policy of weaning developing countries from external assistance.

The next round of multilateral negotiations by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) must therefore focus on non-tariff barriers much more than in the past if it is to produce meaningful results, since those barriers have become the most important and pervasive obstacles to trade today. The GATT institutions should also be reformed in order to strengthen the international trading system and help reduce the arbitrary and discriminatory protectionist measures of developed countries against the exports of developing countries. Because the same developing countries are also debtors which need to run trade surpluses to service their debts, the growth of world trade volumes, unimpeded by protection practices, is essential for their development process.

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Many developing countries enter the second half of this decade faced with the problem of restoring domestic growth within what is for some an unfavourable external environment. Lower interest rates and declining oil prices perhaps accorded some relief last year and in the earlier half of this year, but they have been counterbalanced by the slower growth of world trade, deteriorating terms of trade and higher trade barriers. In addition, net long-term capital inflows have maintained their downward trend. In fact, developing countries were making a net transfer of financial resources to the developed countries in 1984. Last year total interest payments on external public and private long-term debt exceeded net long-term inflows by \$22 billion.

Debt relief is therefore taking on a new urgency for developing countries, especially in Africa, in view of its critical economic situation, as debts constitute a severe and restrictive drag on their economic recovery. Intervention in financial markets has been necessary to avert a catastrophe, although the general approach has been on a case-by-case basis. However, such piecemeal solutions are inadequate as they are dependent on certain conditions which are not wholly guaranteed, such as rapid global economic growth. The industrialized countries are still reluctant to take measures to stimulate the growth necessary as a lever for stronger international revival. Unless a more systematic approach is implemented, the probability of a collapse will become more likely and debtors will continue to face slow or zero-growth consumption and investment, leading to political and economic dangers for both creditors and debtors.

Although, as we have stressed, the non-military threats resulting from political instability, which is itself the consequence of harsh and desperate living conditions, we must not forget that the first and foremost danger to international peace and security remains the massive amount of arms, particularly the nuclear arms stockpiles of the two super-Powers. The dangers of the

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nuclear-arms race continue to be dominated by the absurd logic that more is better, when only a fraction of the present level of nuclear armament would be sufficient to wipe out all meaningful life as we know it. Outer space is quickly becoming the next major theatre for super-Power rivalry in the achievement of military supremacy.

There is now almost unanimous agreement in this body and elsewhere that by far the most direct and understandable way of stopping and then reversing this trend is through a mutual pledge to freeze the development, production and deployment of further nuclear weapons as the prelude to negotiation on their reduction and, it is to be hoped, their eventual elimination.

At a lower level, though not less crucial to those directly concerned, are those dangers to international peace and security posed by regional tensions and conflicts, which are almost always the unfortunate result of the modern-day pursuit of rival imperial ambitions, which are often portrayed as the defence of purported national interests. The majority of countries so affected are developing countries, which have attempted to eliminate such rivalries in their neighborhood so as to be able to get on with their main task of peaceful economic development.

The countries of the Indian Ocean region, for example, have for more than 10 years now, in an attempt to diminish the dangers posed by super-Power rivalry, endeavoured to establish a zone of peace in the region.

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Although the General Assembly's Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (resolution 2832 (XXVI)) is now 15 years old, its implementation still appears as remote as ever. The Colombo conference on the Indian Ocean, which will constitute a major step towards the early achievement of the objectives of the Declaration, has been repeatedly postponed by a long series of obstructionist manoeuvres by certain States members of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean. We strongly support the call, made by the 101 leaders of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, who met recently at Harare, for the conference to be held not later than 1988, with the full and active participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users.

In the same context of the objectives of the Declaration, we note with satisfaction the renewed unanimous support of the non-aligned Member States as well as the backing of other members of the Assembly for our claim to sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia. The decolonization of Mauritius will not be complete and its territorial integrity restored until the Chagos Archipelago is returned to Mauritius. Moreover, the continuous expansion of the military base on Diego Garcia has led to increased rival military activity in the Indian Ocean region, thus seriously compromising the objectives of the Declaration of the General Assembly.

The Middle East, a region that has not known peace for the past 40 years, remains one of the world's worst trouble-spots, having the potential for a much wider conflagration, with dire consequences world-wide. At the heart of the Middle East turmoil is, as the overwhelming majority of countries has recognized, the diaspora of the Palestinian people and the denial of justice to its cause.

The question of Palestine remains one of the most enduring and tragic anomalies of our times. It has remained on the agenda of the General Assembly

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since the founding of the United Nations, and a just and equitable solution still eludes it. Such a solution can be found only within the framework of a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East situation, based on Israel's total and unconditional withdrawal from all the territories occupied since 1967 and the restoration of all the rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return to its homeland, the right to self-determination and the right to establish its own independent and sovereign State on its national territory. A major step towards such a solution would be the speedy convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The resolution of divisions within countries is as important as the settlement of conflicts between countries for the maintenance of global peace and security. The division of the Korean nation has long constituted an element of instability in the region. It is a question which should be resolved speedily by direct negotiations, without external interference. An even more compelling reason for resolving this protracted issue is the pain and suffering of thousands of families whose lives have been disrupted by separation.

In our search for solutions to the numerous regional and global problems of our times, the United Nations has, and should have, a primary role to play. To say that we must strengthen the provisions of the Charter to enable the United Nations better to attain its objectives is to state the obvious. Yet there are forces bent on manipulating the Organization for their own ends, to the detriment of the interests of the world community. States which do not favour certain programmes have been withholding their proportionate contributions for years, and now wholesale across-the-board withholding is envisaged. We should not accept any

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proposal which would attempt, indirectly or otherwise, to change the Charter objectives or weaken the role of the legislative organs. This Organization is the only world body whose membership represents practically the whole of mankind, based on the principle of sovereign equality. It is the only world body where weaker nations have a chance to voice their feelings and where they can find the moral checks and balances against encroachment on their hard-won independence and sovereign existence. It is our hope that as the Organization enters its fifth decade vigilance and determination will safeguard the integrity of its Charter. There is no better or more viable alternative for the protection of international peace and security.



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Forty-second session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 9 October 1987, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. FLORIN (German Democratic Republic)

later: Mr. OULD BOYE (Mauritania)
(Vice-President)

- Address by Mr. Spyros Kyprianou, President of the Republic of Cyprus
- General debate [9] (continued)

Address by Mr. Va'ai Kolone, Prime Minister and Minister for
Foreign Affairs of the Independent State of Western Samoa

Sir Satcam Boollell (Mauritius)

Address by Mr. Edward Fenech-Adami, Prime Minister of the
Republic of Malta

Mr. Shongwe (Swaziland)

- Programme of work

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Sir Satcam BOOLELL (Mauritius): It is a privilege and a great honour for me to address such a distinguished gathering. May I take this opportunity to congratulate most warmly Mr. Peter Florin on his unanimous election to the presidency, a fitting tribute to his personal qualities and to his country. My delegation has no doubt that with the benefit of his extensive diplomatic skills and vast political experience our deliberations will take place in a spirit of understanding and friendship.

I wish also to extend my congratulations to his predecessor, Mr. Choudhury, for the skills and finesse with which he conducted the last session. We are grateful to him for his valuable contribution to the resolution of critical issues, so vital to the survival of the United Nations, which is the repository of the hopes and aspirations of mankind.

I wish also to place on record our deep appreciation of the dedicated work of Mr. Perez de Cuellar in pursuance of the goals set by the Charter of the Organization. Thanks to his vision and statesmanship, the United Nations has played a key role in the maintenance of stability and world peace.

The tasks ahead of the Organization remain as complex as ever. Although it has been said time and again that the United Nations has no teeth, yet the decisions taken by the Assembly have without doubt influenced the march of events. That goes to show that United Nations resolutions still matter, although more often than not only as a moral coercive force.

Disarmament, and especially nuclear disarmament, is one of the major problems of our time. Should this vital problem not be resolved in the minimum lapse of time we face the prospect of mass destruction and annihilation. It is to this task, in my opinion, that we should address ourselves with all our energy and courage. It must be obvious that massive and sophisticated weaponry can be no

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guarantee of world peace. The alternative is too horrible to contemplate. I am confident that we are level-headed enough to promote collective security arrangements in the name of future, unborn generations. The positive contribution of the peace-keeping forces of the United Nations cannot be denied and it is my view that every effort should be made to strengthen those forces for the sake of stability in world affairs. Sanity dictates that course of action.

We have on many previous occasions spoken on the tremendous amount of resources and human ingenuity devoted to devising more and more elaborate and efficient instruments of death. Global arms expenditure is now close to \$US 1 trillion annually - that is nearly \$US 200 a year for every individual on earth today. The per capita gross national product figures of several of the least developed countries do not even match that figure, while other developing countries are hardly better off. This stark contrast must surely constitute one of the most profound paradoxes of our time. The adoption of the Final Document by the recent International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development is an important step by the international community towards rectifying this anomaly. While we regret the lack of concrete financial commitments, we fully endorse all the measures contained in the action programme of the draft final document of the Conference and appeal to all Member States, particularly the major producers of arms, to implement them fully. Only a temporary and uneasy peace can be achieved through armaments; lasting peace is more likely to be established through economic development and the sharing of wealth and resources on an equitable basis.

I feel it is my duty to refer again to the abhorrent system of apartheid in South Africa. The consensus is now universal that the system of apartheid as it stands today cannot be reformed; indeed, there is a growing awareness that the system should be dismantled. Mere moral exhortations or attempts at coaxing Pretoria into a genuine change of heart have failed so far to bring about any

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significant change. All the half-hearted pressures that have been applied by those who possess the economic leverage to have an effective influence on the South African régime have not had the desired effects. We therefore wish to reiterate the numerous declarations adopted at several international meetings and conferences to the effect that the Security Council should impose measures for comprehensive and mandatory sanctions as provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter.

Pretoria still continues to stall and manoeuvre against the process of the emancipation of Namibia. Practically all the conditions required for the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) have now been fulfilled, yet Pretoria, in its obstinacy in perpetuating its illegal occupation, continues to hold the freedom of the Namibian people hostage to the resolution of completely extraneous issues.

Once again we are concerned that preparatory work for the conference on the Indian Ocean is still far from being completed. In fact the report of the Ad hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean seems to suggest that the holding of the conference could be postponed indefinitely. In the meantime the militarization of the region continues to be built up, thus increasing the peril to world security.

It is deplorable that there appears to be a definite lack of collective will and effort to turn the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace, yet the necessity for such a move is more than obvious. It is our view that only the full and active participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council and the users of the sea lanes for either trade or communications will ensure the convening of the conference, which is long overdue.

I should like to remind this Assembly in this connection that the Chagos archipelago, which belonged to Mauritius, was excised from our territory before we obtained independence, in clear violation of the principles of the United Nations. Its inhabitants were coerced into permanent exile to clear the way for a military

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base in Diego Garcia. The key strategic role now assumed by Diego Garcia has brought the nuclear peril right into the heart of the Indian Ocean region. The loss of Chagos has also meant the denial to the Mauritian people of access to the significant ocean resources around the archipelago. We renew our demand for the rightful restitution of the Chagos archipelago to the national heritage of Mauritius. We are grateful to the States members of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as to other friendly countries, for their strong and consistent support of our just claim.

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The Iran-Iraq war now poses a new level of threat to peace in that region owing to the recent entry into the Persian Gulf of military units belonging to several major Powers. This endless war has already had appalling consequences in terms of material and human losses, and the tally continues to rise on both sides. In a very rare and welcome show of unanimity, Security Council members recently adopted a resolution demanding the immediate cessation of hostilities. We appeal to both belligerents, with whom we are on friendly terms, to abide by the resolution's provisions as a first step towards a just solution of the conflict. The consequences of an escalation of the war and possible chain reactions at the regional and international levels have become so unpredictable in the face of the awesome display of foreign military forces in the Gulf that it would be horrifying were either side to raise the stakes.

As we near the end of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, we wish to highlight the special plight of those who are not only homeless but have also been driven from their own lands by foreign military occupation - the Palestinians, Kampucheans and Afghans, among others, who must wait for peace before their double objective can be attained.

All foreign intervention and military occupation must be brought to an end in Afghanistan and Kampuchea and their non-aligned status restored without further delay. For too many years, the incessant flow of refugees from those two countries has created tension and security problems in neighbouring States. Far too often in modern times, liberation has been used as an excuse to deny some people their inherent right to self-determination.

As has been stated here and in numerous other forums, by nearly the whole international community, the Palestinian problem is the central issue in the Middle East situation. There appears to be some indication that the idea of an international conference on the Middle East has recently gained ground. Such a

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conference, as we have often repeated in the past, must include the full participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization. To be lasting, any settlement must include the full restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

For the first time in more than 150 years, the peoples of Central America were recently able to meet and discuss their common problems and succeed in achieving an agreement that has been welcomed overwhelmingly by the international community. That success of regional concertation must be given every chance to be implemented, and we sincerely hope that no extraneous constraints or pressures will be brought to bear on that indigenous Central American peace process.

It is heartening to note that a peace settlement has recently been achieved in Sri Lanka, a country that has known war and strife for many months. In this connection, I must particularly praise the role played by both the Indian and the Sri Lankan leaders and the display of statesmanlike qualities and spirit of compromise and conciliation so readily shown by the two sides.

We in Mauritius have always been proud of our record of living peacefully among groups of people of various ethnic origins, and we welcome the peace settlement in Sri Lanka as it reinforces our own conviction that people of diverse origin can successfully build up a peaceful and harmonious nation.

In regard to Korea, the Korean people have now waited almost 40 years for the peaceful reunification of their country. Hostile diatribes must give way to confidence-building measures. We have no doubt that all the people of Korea, both of the North and of the South, will eventually join the rest of the international community in the United Nations.

The world economy appears to be continuing its sluggish course, as some of the major industrialized countries still seem reluctant to stimulate their economies and generate demand and production. World trade has followed the same trend. It

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increased in volume by only 5 per cent last year, and by only 3.2 percent in 1985. Primary commodity prices have fallen to their lowest levels in nearly 50 years, and the majority of developing countries, which depend on trade of primary products for most of their export earnings, have seen a 30-per-cent decline in their terms of trade with developed countries. Protectionist measures by large developed countries have further compromised the creation of a more favourable environment for accelerated growth in international trade.

The recent adoption by consensus of the Final Act of the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) represents a timely and essential contribution to the prospects of multilateral co-operation for resolving some of the aforementioned problems. It is noteworthy that this document spelled out the respective responsibilities of both the developing and the developed countries in this tremendous task, particularly with respect to the debt crisis.

The results of that conference, which followed closely the overall positive outcome of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the African economic crisis, thus reaffirm the spirit of equal partnership which should prevail between developed and developing countries in multilateral co-operation activities. Together, those two meetings represent a welcome and significant boost to the revival of the North-South dialogue.

Although it may be premature at the present time to offer a meaningful assessment of the progress made in implementing the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery, it nevertheless appears that the pace and magnitude of the flow of resources required have fallen short of expectations thus far. Measures for clearing the books on official debts, for example, especially in the case of the poorest sub-Saharan countries, should be more comprehensive than is at present the case.

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Such measures, and other debt-relief plans, including more lending from banks, are among the key components of the international support action required to establish sufficient financial flows to reverse the negative trend in development of several African countries. And as UNCTAD VII has emphasized, action by developed countries on commodities and international trade is urgently required. Such action will assist African countries that are highly dependent on earnings from the export of primary products in restructuring their economies and honouring their debt obligations.

We in the developing world very much hope that a more favourable climate will be created to help alleviate the untold difficulties besetting us. In this connection, we appeal for improved trading opportunities with the industrialized countries for primary commodities and textile and other manufactured goods. Such action would help us to sustain the export diversification policies we are pursuing.*

* The President returned to the Chair.

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While many developing countries are under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to liberalize their exchange and trade systems at high political and social costs, industrialized countries are resorting to trade restrictions and subsidies in various guises. But we are encouraged by the glimmer of hope provided recently as the IMF and World Bank annual meetings ended with promises by some industrialized countries to take a more active role in reshaping the world economy.

Every year as we gather here and debate repeatedly the numerous protracted issues that still elude solution within the framework of the United Nations, we should also remind ourselves of the equally numerous problems, especially in the economic and social fields, that the Organization is continuously dealing with much more successfully.

The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held in Vienna earlier this year, constitutes perhaps the most important milestone yet in the concerted action by all Governments against this scourge. Until then, international co-operation in the war on drugs had been less effective as consumer and supplier countries shifted the main responsibilities for drug abuse control on one another. We are therefore grateful to the Secretary-General for his timely initiative to put an end to this sterile debate.

Among the measures for fighting against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, we wish to emphasize those which would improve exchange of information on narcotic trafficking, improve and harmonize extradition treaties and facilitate the disclosure, forfeiture and seizure of assets obtained from trafficking.

As we have often affirmed in the past, the smaller and weaker members of the international community have no other alternative than to turn to the United Nations in times of crisis. We are therefore very much concerned every time the principle of multilateralism becomes the object of assault by those who perhaps harbour nostalgia for earlier times when only a handful of nations controlled the

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fate of the world. The present financial straits of the Organization are the result of such attacks. But in the end, even those who are among the fiercest critics of the United Nations have occasionally to resort to this forum to draw international support for their own policies. We must therefore never fail to reaffirm our faith in the principles of the Charter and continue to strengthen its provisions on international peace and security.

May I conclude by reasserting that the United Nations is a vital forum for airing differences among nations of the world. It is a means of dialogue and communication and the surest safety-valve in a turbulent world.



General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

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13 October 1988

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Forty-third session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 12 October 1988, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. CAPUTO (Argentina)

later: Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania)
(Vice-President)

later: Mr. CAPUTO (Argentina)
(President)

later: Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania)
(Vice-President)

- General debate [9] (continued)

Statements made by:

Miss Chiepe (Botswana)
Mr. Ssemogerere (Uganda)

Address by Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius

Statements made by:

Mr. Gonelevu (Fiji)
Mr. Cenac (Saint Lucia)

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Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 9 (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE

ADDRESS BY SIR ANEROOD JUGNAUTH, PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now hear an address by the Prime Minister of Mauritius.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius, was escorted to the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I have great pleasure in welcoming the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

Sir Anerood JUGNAUTH (Mauritius): On behalf of the people and the Government of Mauritius I am pleased to convey to you, Sir, my sincere congratulations on your election as President of the forty-third session of the General Assembly. Your outstanding personal qualities and your vast experience in the field of diplomacy will be a guarantee of success in the deliberations of the Assembly's session.

I also wish to express the appreciation of the Government of Mauritius for the outstanding work performed by Mr. Peter Florin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, the outgoing President of the Assembly.

His Excellency Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar deserves special mention for his devotion in pursuit of the goals and objectives of the United Nations. Despite the many hurdles in his path, he has succeeded in bringing to the negotiating table yesterday's antagonists and adversaries, and they are now talking about finding solutions to intractable problems. May we assure him of our unstinting support in the exacting tasks that confront him.

Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that, on behalf of the people and the Government of Mauritius, I congratulate, through you, the United Nations peace-keeping force on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. For decades, the blue helmets of the peace-keeping forces have been seen throughout the world, patrolling the most varied of conflicts. As the Nobel Prize citation states:

"The peace-keeping forces of the United Nations have, under extremely difficult conditions, contributed to reducing tension where an armistice has been negotiated but a peace treaty has yet to be established."

The Peace Prize is also a tribute to you, Mr. President, to the Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, and to the United Nations family as a whole.

Earlier this year, the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament tackled the problem facing mankind. Although it was not possible to adopt a document in its final form, yet we were unanimous in grasping the major

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implications of the problem. Everyone agreed that differences in political, military, social, economic and other fields should not stand in the way of closer international co-operation for peace and security. The entire disarmament process would be facilitated through a positive approach and greater openness and transparency in military matters.

Nuclear weapons today constitute the greatest menace to the existence of man. Therefore, our main concern is the avoidance of nuclear holocaust. At the special session there was a beginning of consensus on priority issues relating to chemical weapons, to verification and to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. We hope that further progress will be made in future discussions of those vital issues.

The special session welcomed the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and debated the creation of new zones. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean concluded its second and last session of 1988 on 22 July. At the conclusion of the Ad Hoc Committee's work on the Indian Ocean the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Ambassador Daya Perera of Sri Lanka, expressed the view that the members would have the political will to convene the conference at Colombo in 1990, at the latest. We wholeheartedly share that view. I am confident that the members of the Ad Hoc Committee will have meaningful discussions during the two preparatory meetings scheduled in 1989 so that the long-overdue conference is finally convened. My delegation will give its full support to the Ad Hoc Committee in its work, as we in Mauritius are deeply concerned with the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean.

We have on previous occasions spoken on the vast amount of resources being spent on armaments, especially on conventional arms and forces. We are strongly in favour of the action programme charted by the international Conference on the Relationship Between Disarmament and Development. A global process of disarmament leading to a substantial reduction in military expenditure is bound to release much-needed resources to promote the prosperity of all nations. Lasting peace is

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more likely to be established through economic development than through lavish expenditure on armaments.

I should also like to say that Mauritius supports the stand of His Excellency Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, enunciated in his address on 9 June 1988 to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

In clear violation of the principles of the United Nations the island of Diego Garcia, along with the Chagos Archipelago, was detached from Mauritius by Britain prior to our independence in 1968. The island of Diego Garcia was ceded by Britain to the United States of America, which transformed it into a military base. The inhabitants of the island were summarily relocated to Mauritius. The key strategic role now assumed by Diego Garcia has brought the nuclear peril right into the heart of the Indian Ocean. We are determined never to give up our claim over Diego Garcia. With the support of other Indian Ocean States, we shall continue to mobilize international opinion for the restitution of the island to Mauritius. We are thankful to the States members of the Organization of African Unity and the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as other friendly countries, for their continued support of our just claim.

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Mauritius)

It grieves me to refer again to the sad plight of our brothers and sisters in South Africa, who have been denied their fundamental rights and have lived far too long under a régime of murder and terror. Despite the efforts of the United Nations, over four decades, to bring to an end this abominable form of racism, apartheid remains in force. Repeated calls have been made on the South African Government to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations, but to no avail. The resolutions calling for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners, the elimination of apartheid, and the establishment of a free, united and democratic society in South Africa based on universal suffrage, continue to be flouted by the racist régime. My Government has systematically condemned the policy of apartheid. We consider that there can be no peace and security in South Africa until apartheid has been dismantled. Let it also be said that the racist régime of South Africa continues, unabated, its policy of external aggression and the destabilization of neighbouring front-line States, in defiance of repeated condemnation and the enforcement of sanctions.

The policy of apartheid has affected not only the oppressed people of South Africa but also the Namibian people, who continue to suffer through the illegal occupation of their country. It is now more than 22 years since the General Assembly terminated South Africa's mandate over Namibia and created the United Nations Council for Namibia to administer the Territory and prepare it for independence. The South African Government has used delaying tactics to block the implementation of the United Nations Plan for the Independence of Namibia, contained in Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

We have always supported the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) in its struggle for the liberation of its homeland. We shall continue to do so until the country is ultimately free. We sincerely hope that the positive talks

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between South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the United States of America will yield the desired results, so that the United Nations will be able, in the very near future, to welcome to its midst the independent and sovereign State of Namibia.

The lessening of tension in southern Africa will enable the international community to tackle another crucial problem of the region, which concerns some six million refugees. In this context we commend the initiative of the recent International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in South Africa (SARRED) for its plan of action towards reconstruction and rehabilitation measures in a region despoiled by 13 years of war.

I wish now to set the record straight regarding the policy of Mauritius towards the racist régime of South Africa. It is indeed with sorrow and much anger that I have to denounce a systematic campaign of disinformation about Mauritius and its links with South Africa. This campaign has been orchestrated by international vested interests, which feel threatened by the economic success of Mauritius, and by jealous rivals unable to emulate the Mauritian miracle. The aim of the campaign has been to equate Mauritius's success to her links with South Africa, and to stick the label "sanctions buster" on Mauritius.

I would like to take this opportunity to set the picture straight. Under British colonial rule, administrative and economic links tied Mauritius with South Africa. Geographically, South Africa is the closest mainland to our island. However, since my Government assumed office in 1983, links with South Africa, which in any case were limited, have been diminishing as we have actively been seeking alternative sources and markets.

In 1982 Mauritius's domestic exports and re-exports to South Africa amounted to 0.76 per cent of its total world exports, and by 1987 they had dropped to 0.41 per cent. Our imports from South Africa in 1981 represented 9.6 per cent of

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our total imports world-wide; in 1987 they represented only 8.3 per cent. Investment from South Africa in 1987 was 1.27 per cent of total foreign investment. Only 0.7 per cent of total investment in our export processing zone is South African, 60 per cent being Mauritian. We have diversified our sources of tourists so that, from 22.6 per cent in 1984, the South African element fell to 14.7 per cent of total tourist arrivals.

Mauritius has a very fragile economy - being a small island State with no mineral resources, and being distant from markets and main sea routes. Despite these constraints, my Government, supported by the people of Mauritius, is, I repeat, actively diversifying away from South Africa, in accordance with our commitments to the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the Organization of African Unity.

The question of Palestine has remained on the agenda of the General Assembly since the founding of the United Nations, and still defies a just and equitable solution. Such a solution can only be found within the framework of a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East situation, based on Israel's total withdrawal from all the territories occupied since 1967 and the restoration of all the rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return to their homeland, the right to self-determination and the right to establish their own independent and sovereign State on their national territory. We therefore support the speedy convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

My Government rejoices that both Iraq and Iran have agreed to go to the negotiating table, thanks to the persevering efforts and diplomatic finesse

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displayed by the United Nations Secretary-General and his tireless staff. We pray that the efforts of the Secretary-General will pave the way for a peaceful settlement in that war-torn and ravaged area.

We also welcome the efforts of the countries members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in their quest for a comprehensive political settlement to the problem of Kampuchea. All foreign intervention and military occupation should be brought to an end without further delay. The incessant flow of refugees from that country has created tensions and security problems in neighbouring States. The recent Jakarta informal meeting, held in the city of Bogor from 25 to 28 July 1988, is no doubt a starting-point for a peace process that can lead to the restoration of the sovereign, independent, and neutral and non-aligned status of Kampuchea.

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We welcome the recent Geneva Agreements as a major step towards the restoration of peace in Afghanistan. This is an achievement that must be credited to the United Nations and especially to its Secretary-General. I pay a tribute also to the understanding shown by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The Korean people are also eagerly awaiting the peaceful reunification of their country. We hope that through dialogue the people of Korea, both North and South, will soon join the rest of the international community in the United Nations.

On the subject of human rights, my Government views with great concern the instances of violation of human and democratic rights, the enactment of the coercive internal security decree, and above all the systematic harassment of an ethnic group in Fiji. We appeal for the immediate restoration of the process of national reconciliation. Let the Government of Fiji show that it is motivated by a sense of fair play and universal justice and by tolerance and harmony.

Similarly, we hope that reason will prevail and that tensions in such troubled areas as Cyprus, Lebanon and Central America will give way to peace and stability.

For nearly ten years now the world economy has stagnated, causing the slowing down and reversal of development, high unemployment and gruesome poverty. World trade is dominated by sharp currency fluctuations, trade imbalances between the major market economies and the debt-burdened developing countries. The 1988 World Economic Survey prepared by the United Nations has forecast that growth is expected to fall in 1989. The Survey goes on to say that, while economic growth among developing countries varied greatly last year, affected by foreign debt, decreasing overseas earnings and difficulties in orienting policies towards economic stability, growth slowed down for the developing countries, mostly in Africa and Latin America, where per capita output is continuing to fall.

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My Government supports the call by the Heads of State or Government of the seven major industrial nations and the President of the Commission of the European Communities at the recent Toronto economic summit, for relief for developing countries whose economic growth is paralysed by external debt. In 1987, the amount transferred to foreign creditors abroad in interest and repayments outpaced new lending and absorbed resources needed for domestic investments. Several countries have accumulated significant arrears to official creditors. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) alone was owed \$2 billion in 1987.

The performance of developing countries is important to the world economy. Central to the prospects of the developing countries are a healthy global environment and an open trading system, adequate financial flows and also their commitment to appropriate economic reforms. The problems of many heavily indebted developing countries are a cause of economic and political concern and can be a threat to political stability in the developing countries themselves. Many indebted countries have begun the difficult process of macro-economic adjustment and structural reform necessary for sustained progress. My Government urges an increase in concessional resource flows to help the poorest developing countries resume sustained growth, especially in cases where it is extremely difficult for them to service their debts. Protectionist measures, particularly in large developed countries, should be removed without delay so that a more favourable environment can be built for accelerated growth in international trade.

A large number of States of Africa, Latin America and Asia are still burdened with the problem of debt. The recent disorders in the stock exchange, which have resulted in sudden losses much more substantial than the total debt accumulated

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over the years by African countries, have revealed the vulnerability of even the most powerful economies. It is indeed paradoxical and anomalous that African States, which are endowed with a wealth of human, natural, spiritual and material resources, should, after two or three decades of independence, have turned into an exporter of capital and human technology, into importers of foreign expertise, of inappropriate technology or food they can produce, of goods that are meant to satisfy artificial needs created from abroad; in a word, that they should have turned into importers of catastrophies and frustration.

The international community has a great responsibility in contributing to the solution of our debt crisis. The debt-distressed countries that are most severely handicapped should receive special attention and should be the object of special measures of a concessional nature, of an increased flow of resources, and of reduced interest rates. It is also important that the praiseworthy example of donor countries which have written off public loans or converted them into grants should be more widely followed. At the same time, there is a need to ensure that solutions to the debt crisis do not reinforce the political, economic and technological dependence of the affected countries.

We support the recommendations in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, which was so ably chaired by Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway. Threats to the environment recognize no boundaries. International co-operation among all countries is required if we are to return to a healthy environment. Urgent action is needed to save the world from a global climatic change, from air, sea and fresh-water pollution, from acid rain, hazardous substances, deforestation and toxic waste.

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Mauritius deplores the actions of several unscrupulous companies which have tried to obtain facilities for dumping toxic industrial wastes in various African States. The States involved are for the most part western African States whose Governments have no separate portfolio for environmental affairs.

It is a matter of great concern, and not only on humanitarian grounds; it is not a question of a trade-off between growth and development on the one hand and environmental issues on the other. It has to be seen in its true context, that is to say, as being as urgent as problems of chronic indebtedness and food scarcities, if not more so. The presence of radio-active and other toxic wastes on African soil is definitely detrimental to future development programmes and to the future use of natural resources.

We unreservedly support the resolution adopted by the Conference of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held at Addis Ababa, which condemned the use of African States as dumping grounds by the more industrialized countries, under whatever financial terms proposed. We call upon the international community to take vigorous steps to exercise surveillance in order to prevent the recurrence of such reprehensible and irresponsible acts and to assist the affected States in the rehabilitation of their natural environment.

The rich developed countries should show greater concern for vulnerable small island States which are saddled with problems of development. In addition to our limited resources and capacity for autonomous development, we are far from international markets and heavily dependent upon them. There is therefore an urgent need to ensure stability in these markets, especially in respect of our commodities and manufactured goods. We therefore appeal to our trading partners in the North to remove all trade barriers and to do away with all protectionist measures which adversely affect the development of our economy.

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Mauritius)

Mauritius is actively beginning to develop regional co-operation with other countries of the Indian Ocean and member States of the Preferential Trade Area with a view to achieving greater collective self-reliance through the improvement of our trade exchanges and the setting up of intra-regional projects. In that context, we appreciate the generous assistance rapidly made available by friendly countries and international organizations so that regional co-operation may become viable and meaningful.

The illegal use of and illicit trafficking in drugs threaten the well-being of mankind. There is an urgent need for improved international co-operation to counter all facets of the illicit drug problem, in particular production, trafficking and the financing of the drug trade. My Government has adopted tough laws to confiscate the proceeds of drug traffickers and to prevent money laundering.

Although the great eighteenth-century English philosopher Hobbes said in his Leviathan that man's life is short, nasty and brutish, we, after going through the catalogue of problems and misfortunes besetting the world, have every reason to see the light at the end of the tunnel. There is cause for satisfaction and contentment in the knowledge that recent events in northern Africa, in Afghanistan, in the Gulf region, in the field of disarmament, at the Berlin conference of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and elsewhere have taken the upward path of sanity. Above all, there is the sudden consciousness that man's destiny is the survival of the species.

Our people are peace-loving and are dedicated to the cause of peace at home and an enduring peace in the world. Our people uphold human rights and dignity. Our people uphold democratic values, principles and practices, and freedom of association, of conscience and of speech. Our people also believe in the sanctity of human life, in unity at home and in the world, and in the splendour and richness

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of diversity. Our people also believe in one world and in man, and believe that we should constantly search for truth and concentrate on all the common good that binds all of us on our planet Earth and that should bind all in our common endeavour to work for a better, safer and happier world. We also believe that we have come - and that all should come - to the United Nations not to save face but to save lives.

Armed with that conviction, let me conclude my address on this note of optimism and good cheer that tomorrow a better world will dawn.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister of Mauritius for the important statement he has just made.

Mr. Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius, was escorted from the
rostrum.



General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/44/PV.8
28 September 1989

ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 27 September 1989, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GARBA (Nigeria)

later: Mr. ADOUKI (Congo)
(Vice-President)

- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations
- General debate [9] (continued)

Statements made by

Mr. De Michelis (Italy)
Mr. Genscher (Federal Republic of Germany)
Mr. Major (United Kingdom)
Mr. Pinheiro (Portugal)
Mr. Malmierca Peoli (Cuba)
Sir Satcam Boolell (Mauritius)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m

AGENDA ITEM 9 (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE

Sir Satcam BOOLELL (Mauritius): I should like to extend to Ambassador Garba, on behalf of my delegation, my sincere congratulations on his election to the high office of President of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly. That this important session has been placed in the hands of a distinguished son of Africa is a matter of great pride to my delegation and to Africa as a whole. There can be no doubt that he will conduct our deliberations with authority and efficiency.

I should also like to express our deep appreciation to his predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Dante Caputo, Foreign Minister of Argentina, for the exemplary manner in which he presided over our deliberations during a very eventful year.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to express to our Secretary-General my delegation's congratulations for his outstanding contribution in the pursuit of world peace and stability. He has succeeded in solving a number of pending regional crises and in improving the work of the Secretariat under difficult financial constraints. He can rest assured of our continued support.

This year we have witnessed the consolidation of peace processes. Great progress has been made in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. The Treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles signed by the United States and the Soviet Union and ratified in June 1988 is a historic agreement because it is the first in recent history to abolish a whole category of nuclear weapons from the arsenals of the super-Powers. In the sphere of multilateral disarmament the Paris Conference on chemical weapons, held in January this year, gave support and impetus to the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. My delegation looks forward to the day when an effective and universal chemical-weapons convention banning the production, storage and use of such weapons can be implemented.

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My delegation notes with satisfaction the progress achieved in the negotiation on conventional arms in Europe. Proposals for military reductions and confidence-building measures have been submitted by both Western and Eastern Groups at the recent Vienna meeting. It is hoped that those talks will lead to an effective and concrete reduction in the armed forces and conventional weapons in that region.

Our concern for peace should be global. We must take advantage of the new rapport between Washington and Moscow to liquidate any area of tension and confrontation, wherever it happens to be.

It is high time that the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean started the process of the demilitarization of that ocean by calling for the convening of the long-overdue Conference not later than 1990, with the active participation of all permanent members of the Security Council as well as the major maritime Powers.

As the Assembly is aware, the Government and people of Mauritius have not accepted the fact that an important part and parcel of their territory has been excised by the former colonial Power in contravention of United Nations General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2066 (XX). The dismemberment of Mauritian territory constitutes an unacceptable affront to our sovereignty. Mauritius cannot and will not remain silent until Diego Garcia and the Chagos Archipelago, as well as the Tromelin Islands, are returned to us. Our claim is just and legitimate. We have the total support of the Organization of African Unity and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. We appeal to the international community and to all peace-loving countries to assist us in the restoration of our territories. Our islands should not serve as a nuclear base and should not constitute a threat to our own security and to that of all the littoral and hinterland States of the region.

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The current political situation in South Africa calls for careful reflection and handling. We all agree that apartheid is the root cause of conflict in that region, and we have repeatedly called for its total elimination. It is a matter of comfort to note that many of our elder statesmen in Africa are initiating contacts with the South African Government in the true spirit of dialogue with a view to pressing that Government to make the necessary changes to the satisfaction of one and all.

We fervently hope that the changes promised by the new South African Government are genuine and that it will soon embark on the total dismantling of apartheid and the establishment of a free, united and democratic society based on universal suffrage.

We cannot accept that a leader of the calibre of Nelson Mandela should be eternally confined to house arrest simply because he dared to raise his voice against apartheid. We demand his immediate release and that of all political prisoners. The lifting of all political restrictions, the withdrawal of troops from black townships, the lifting of the state of emergency and the cessation of all political court proceedings can only help to create a climate of confidence for the pursuit of a real and meaningful dialogue between the South African Government and its people. The opening of dialogue with the African National Congress will be a test of the sincerity of the new South African Government.

The liberation of Namibia has been a cause near and dear to us. Mauritius has always stood firmly by Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and its reaffirmation this year in resolution 632 (1989), as well as the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia. The United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) needs all our political and diplomatic support to lead and organize a smooth transition through free elections without interference and intimidation. We wish

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Namibia and the valiant Namibian people a new dawn and a bright and prosperous future.

With the resolution of the Namibian problem there was hope for a quick end to the conflict in Angola. We note with much regret, however, that the recent Gbadolite accord has failed to be given concrete effect, leaving the people of Angola still in the grips of war.

It is our fervent wish that peace will prevail in Mozambique, which has endured untold sufferings for far too long. Similarly, we greatly commend the initiative of President Mubarak, the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, to mediate in the tragic conflict between two neighbourly African countries, Mauritania and Senegal.

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My delegation last year rejoiced at the cessation of hostilities between the brotherly States of Iran and Iraq and their acceptance of the implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987). We pledge to support the Secretary-General in his ceaseless efforts to quicken the pace of negotiations and entreat both parties to co-operate in good faith in order to reach a common understanding and a lasting peace between the two countries.

We are deeply concerned over the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East as a result of the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which poses a serious threat to international peace and security. We fully support the just struggle of the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the recovery of their lost territory.

The intifadah, which has been going on for nearly two years, has made it clear that the Middle East stalemate cannot continue for ever. Israel must negotiate with the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO. Any attempt to create a local Palestinian leadership in the West Bank is doomed to failure.

The PLO's desire for peace has been expressed emphatically, at the Palestinian National Council meeting in Algiers and at the United Nations General Assembly session in Geneva last year. This has entailed a major shift in the attitude of many nations to the PLO.

To prevent the tragic scenario in the Middle East from deteriorating further into a global crisis, the convening of an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations, with all parties, including the PLO, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 335 (1973), is of the utmost necessity.

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No one can be insensible to the tragedy which has engulfed Lebanon. Such tragedies will recur unless and until we see the withdrawal of all external forces. The Arab League, the tripartite Committee on Lebanon and the international community must continue their efforts towards bringing peace and security in this war-torn country.

My delegation also deplores the fact that despite the Korean people's aspirations for the peaceful reunification of their homeland, Korea remains divided. This situation remains a great threat to peace. We welcome the efforts of the Korean people to reunify their homeland peacefully without any foreign interference and by means of dialogue and consultations between the North and the South.

The signing of the Geneva Agreements and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan had raised high hopes that peace would soon come to that country. My delegation notes with regret that the hopes have not been realized because of the non-observance of the spirit of the Geneva Agreements. Afghanistan presents a harrowing picture of devastation, of a million dead and 5 million refugees. The flow of more, lethal weapons will not break the stalemate that has settled over the conflict. The civil war, since the pullout by the Soviet troops, during the last six months, has amply demonstrated that there can be no military solution to the Afghan conflict. A political settlement is the only way out. We appeal to the United States and the Soviet Union to bring the diverse elements together with a view to bringing an end to the present bloodshed in Afghanistan and restoring peace under an Afghan Government of national reconciliation.

My delegation welcomes the recent initiatives of the Presidents of the five Central American countries in their quest for peace and stability in that region. We are glad to learn that a United Nations mission will be sent to observe the elections in Nicaragua early next year.

(Sir Satcam Boolell, Mauritius)

Similarly, we commend the ceaseless efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General in bringing about the resumption of intercommunal talks in Cyprus. We hope that a permanent and durable solution will be found, to the satisfaction of both communities there.

We also wish to see peace and stability prevail in South-East Asia. The people of Cambodia have gone through great sufferings in recent years. The International Conference in Paris did not bring about the much-desired agreement between the parties engaged in the conflict. We still believe that all foreign troops should leave Cambodia - and we welcome the withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops - and that the Cambodians should be given the opportunity to determine their destiny freely and without any hindrance. There should, however, be a guarantee that there will not be a return to the "killing fields", to the genocide that still haunts the people of Cambodia.

It is an undeniable fact that the economies of the industrialized countries have been steadily growing during the last few years. Unfortunately, the developing countries have not benefited from this growth. On the contrary - their economies have been declining. Most countries in Africa and Latin America and several in Asia have fallen into a deep and protracted crisis. Their economic conditions are worsening, their social services are deteriorating, and the political stability is endangered. This negative trend in the world economy is likely to persist in the years to come unless decisive steps are taken globally. The combined effect of the debt problem and the scarcity of new financial flows has further exacerbated the economic crisis in the developing countries.

African debt has risen sharply from \$78 billion in 1980 to \$230 billion in 1988. African countries are having to borrow more and more to service their debts,

(Sir Satcam Boolell, Mauritius)

thus enduring more severe economic hardship. While we appreciate the gestures made by some industrialized countries, such as France, the United States, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany and others, in alleviating the debt burdens of several of the most indebted developing countries, we cannot but re-emphasize that as long as the third world is made to retain the role of mere supplier of raw materials at non-remunerative prices, its future will continue to be bleak and the scourges of poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy will continue to exist as we step into the next century.

A redefinition of economic co-operation is therefore essential to the prevention of a further deterioration in the situation. Economic relationships must be based on equality, partnership and interdependence. It is imperative that products originating in the third world countries should receive fair and remunerative prices and should not be subjected to various constraints. International agreements aimed at stabilizing prices of primary commodities must be negotiated and implemented. The countries of the industrialized world, which has the skills, the technical know-how and the economic means, are better placed to restructure their industries so as not to affect the nascent industries of third world countries, which otherwise will have to face severe competition. Growth and prosperity can be realized only by these measures. Such a liberalizing philosophy will mirror international solidarity and true partnership. In order to address adequately the pressing issue of international debt, there is an urgent need to reactivate the North-South dialogue and convene, as proposed by the recent Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries, an appropriate forum under the auspices of the United Nations to review all aspects of the problem of external debt within the context of an improved environment for development and international economic co-operation.

(Sir Satcam Boolell, Mauritius)

We are deeply concerned by the state of the world environment. The warming of the atmosphere and the depletion of the ozone layer constitute a threat to the ecosystem which may in turn affect the very existence of mankind.

Island countries which are already prone to natural disasters such as cyclones and hurricanes are now facing grave threats from the rising seas - which is a direct effect of environmental imbalances. Furthermore, the oceans are being polluted by the irrational dumping of industrial wastes. Unless immediate measures are taken to prevent the aggravation of the situation we shall run the risk of compromising an important source of food supplies and raw materials.

While we welcome recent initiatives on global environmental issues, such as the Montreal Protocol on the ozone layer and the Hague Convention, and take note of the positive actions relating to dumping of toxic wastes, we urgently appeal for remedial measures to be taken in favour of the most affected regions and we call for international support and solidarity in checking the pollution of our environment. At the national level also, the protection and the preservation of the environment must become an important factor in the conception, implementation and execution of new projects and programmes.

Finally, I should like to refer to a problem which has assumed alarming international proportions. Drug trafficking and addiction, to which the problem of AIDS is intimately connected, is already the new scourge of mankind. My Government has taken drastic measures to combat drug trafficking, and we will support all steps taken at the international level in this respect.

We are almost on the threshold of a new millenium, and we have no doubt that the major intractable global problems facing mankind and our planet will be handled with wisdom, vision and foresight, bearing in mind the enlightened principles of

(Sir Satcam Boolell, Mauritius)

the United Nations Charter. The challenges we face would prompt us to arm ourselves with a spirit of solidarity enabling us to confront the future with confidence and serenity.

Man has survived many wars and conflicts, and I am confident that in the nuclear age he will be able to muster courage and fortitude and use the natural intelligence with which he has been endowed to keep premature death and destruction away from his doorstep. I conclude by reaffirming my faith in mankind's willingness and ability to survive and to create conditions for a better tomorrow.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.



General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/46/PV.29
16 October 1991

ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 29th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 10 October 1991, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia)
later: Mr. GHEZAL (Tunisia)
(Vice-President)
later: Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia)

- General debate [9] (continued)

Statements made by

Mr. Wonani (Zambia)
Mr. Berenger (Mauritius)
Mr. Kamikamica (Fiji)
Mr. Ssemogerere (Uganda)
Mr. Kalnins (Latvia)
Mrs. af Ugglas (Sweden)

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Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

~~The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.~~

AGENDA ITEM 9 (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE

Mr. BERENGER (Mauritius): Mr. President, it is indeed a pleasure for me to associate myself with previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to the high office of the presidency of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Your election is a tribute not only to you but also

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

to your great country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, whose role in world affairs is crucial, especially in the region from which you hail. Your assumption of office comes at a time when our Organization is poised to gain a greater say in the management of world affairs. I should like at the outset to say that my country subscribes unreservedly to the view that the United Nations should assume broader responsibilities in global governance and must be given the financial, legal and political means to do so. We are confident that with your long political experience and extensive diplomatic skills you will provide welcome guidance and leadership to our deliberations in a period of global changes, which, however, remain fraught with uncertainties.

Your predecessor, Mr. de Marco of the island State of Malta, deserves our unreserved admiration and appreciation for the effective and wise manner in which he steered the United Nations General Assembly through a trying period. His contribution towards the strengthening of the Organization is highly commendable. During his term of office his initiatives in bringing the process of revitalization of the economic sector of the Organization to the forefront created a timely momentum for reform in an era when the United Nations is enjoying regained prestige.

I should also like to extend our warmest welcome and felicitations to the Governments and peoples of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on their accession to membership of the United Nations.

Permit me here to say a special word in respect of the two Koreas. The path to the seats they proudly occupy in this family of Nations has been long, arduous and often trying but they have found it possible to look far beyond

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

and to act in accordance with the changing pattern of the times. Let me formulate the fervent wish of my Government and of the people of Mauritius to see them united, in the not too distant future, in accordance with the wish of their peoples.

If our Organization is held in renewed respect today, it is in great part due to the ceaseless efforts of the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, who, during the final tense years of the cold-war era, managed to keep vital channels of communication open in many areas of conflict and confrontation. As Mr. Perez de Cuellar arrives at the end of his second term we wish to tell him how grateful we all are for the excellent manner in which he has discharged his not always gratifying duties during his term of office. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

As we become engaged in the task of selecting the right man to step to the helm of the Organization, it would perhaps be proper to remind ourselves that ours is a new era and that the first few steps therein have already been taken. The new Secretary-General will therefore have to tackle a different agenda and face new challenges as we move closer to the twenty-first century. At a time when one of the major concerns of mankind is to bridge the gap between the rich North and the poor South, it is fitting that the new Secretary-General should be a personality of the South and indeed from the African continent. It would perhaps have been more judicious for our continent to present one candidate but let us say that the multitude of candidates it has presented is an indication of the winds of change that have of late been blowing across the world. Be that as it may, the Organization deserves the best, for the challenges ahead are daunting and will require from our choice an elevated degree of excellence.

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

The attributes of the Secretary-General will require our attention. In effect, the present international context should enable the Secretary-General to assume greater autonomy and authority on any matter which may constitute a threat to the maintenance of international peace and security. He should be allowed to play a more active role in crisis-monitoring and preventive diplomacy, with the support and cooperation of the Security Council in accordance with Article 99 of the Charter, and thus enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in dealing with international security problems and threats to peace, whether by mediation, enforcement measures or peace-keeping operations.

At the same time, judicious action is required to set in motion a reform programme for the Organization. Besides the support which the reform should provide for the expanding nature of the Secretariat's activities, the changes should also be such as to satisfy the aspirations of all Member States and be representative of their interests, particularly at the level of the Security Council.

The changing pattern of our times demands that such a reform be undertaken to consolidate the essential role of the United Nations in international issues, in the same way as the Non-Aligned Movement is readjusting itself to better address the challenges that face the world today. Its importance is crucial.

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

Foremost among those challenges, in the view of my delegation, is the one issue on which global peace and security hinge - disarmament - an issue which, until very recently, some had the tendency to relegate to a lesser priority. However, like others who have preceded me in this Assembly, I hold the view that disarmament should continue to occupy the forefront of our concerns and not be pushed to a back-seat position. Disarmament is not an easy objective, but it is one that demands reinvigorated attention, one that calls for new thinking and fresh initiatives, like indeed those we have had the immense pleasure in witnessing these past few days.

Here I would like to pay special tribute to the Plan of Action proposed by the late and sorely missed Rajiv Gandhi to the Third United Nations Special Session on Disarmament in June 1988, advocating a calendar of actions that would have culminated in the elimination of all nuclear weapons in 22 years from then, that is, effectively in the year 2010.

I should also like to recall the fillip given to the process of disarmament by President Mitterrand last June, when he rightly stressed in his plan for global disarmament the need for new thinking regarding the nuclear-weapons board in response to the events overrunning the world. His call then for the formulation of new rules to guarantee global security should not be left unheeded.

And then, in these last few days, this issue has been given a breath of fresh air by the courageous and highly commendable announcement by President Bush. His initiatives to reduce the nuclear weaponry of the United States are built on a new defence strategy that, as he himself put it, shifts the focus of the United States away from the prospect of global confrontation. No sooner had this significant and most positive stride been

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

made than it was matched by an equally formidable announcement made by President Gorbachev last week-end, which clearly demonstrated that a turning-point in the peace process had been reached. With this good news for the whole world, as President Bush put it, we fervently hope that in the days to come further events will confirm that a disarmament race is now on. These announcements, coming so soon after the recent historic, although limited, START agreement has indeed rekindled the flame of hope in one and all, and this is why we insist that the disarmament issue should continue to occupy a prominent place on our agenda.

More than anything else, three recent events this year had helped to strengthen my conviction in this regard even before President Bush and President Gorbachev had made their initiatives known to the world.

Firstly, never since the Second World War has the threat of regional nuclear conflagration been so much in the realm of reality as during the Gulf war. At that time, we learned in a very matter-of-fact manner that nuclear warheads from cruise missiles that had been off-loaded at Clark air base in the Philippines had to be shipped out through Subic Bay naval base in all urgency as Mount Pinatubo erupted violently, and not only sounded the death-knell for the air base, but also made a nuclear accident more than a remote possibility.

And, even more recently, during the unfurling of the dramatic and tense events in the Soviet Union, when a group of ill-advised persons tried to halt and indeed reverse the march of history, doubt was expressed as to whether control over the Soviet nuclear weaponry was still in the rightful hands. International peace and stability appeared to rest with a group of adventurers, as President Gorbachev and President Yeltsin of Russia termed the perpetrators of the failed coup attempt in the Soviet Union.

(Mr. Beranger, Mauritius)

Clearly, the world needs to be reassured that it can lead its God-given life fully and not be held to ransom by possible man-made disasters. And that is why, while we welcome most heartily President Mitterrand's call for a meeting of the four nuclear Powers that have a presence in Europe, we believe it is equally important that the nuclear arms reduction talks should involve, as soon as possible, all five permanent members of the Security Council, and that they fix as their goal complete nuclear disarmament. That goal is indeed already provided for in the preambles to both the 1963 partial test ban Treaty and the 1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In the same breath, let us commit ourselves not to take the nuclear arms race into outer space. Already, we shudder at the mere thought of so many nuclear warheads dispersed across our planet. Let us therefore contain ourselves and not export into space what we pride ourselves in calling our mastery of scientific technology, but which can as well be described as our propensity to self-destruction.

While on the subject of disarmament, may I refer again to that most important pillar of the present nuclear non-proliferation regime, the NPT, which will come up for renewal in 1995. My delegation takes great satisfaction in the knowledge that at long last both France and China have declared their intention to accede to the Treaty, and we commend them for this commitment, the more so as France stated in this very forum only a few days ago that it will deposit the necessary instrument of adhesion before this year is out.*

* Mr. Ghezal (Tunisia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

Nearer Mauritius, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia have already acceded to the Treaty. But then, our concerns over the loopholes in the Treaty have been further accentuated by the evidence brought to light recently in Iraq, confirming the fact that certain countries continue to contravene their treaty and safeguards obligations in order to embark on a hidden agenda of nuclear activities. My appeal is that we should all strive hard to plug all loopholes and to give the Treaty the non-discriminatory universality it calls for. To that end, the Assembly will recall that Mauritius has proposed, together with Egypt, an informal dialogue between the States parties and the States not parties to the NPT before it comes up for renewal in 1995. We should, however, like to appeal urgently to set the ball in motion as of now. We cannot afford to waste any time.

Impassioned as we are with the objective of complete nuclear disarmament, my country, Mauritius, has also proposed a South-West Indian Ocean and Southern Africa Nuclear-Free-Zone Treaty along the lines of the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear-Free-Zone Treaty. Already, we have obtained the full support of some of the countries directly involved in the area identified, among which I should like to mention Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Seychelles and the Comoros. Mauritius looks forward to discussing this proposal soon with post-apartheid South Africa. While the declaration of nuclear-free-zones per se is no universal panacea to the ills that are engendered by nuclear weapons, it is our firm belief that such momentum in the creation of these zones around the world, for example, in the Middle East, in our region and in the Korean peninsula, is conducive to global security, which remains our ultimate goal.

As regards chemical weapons, my delegation supports the views already expressed here to the effect that every effort should be undertaken to meet

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

the target date of 1992 for the completion of a comprehensive chemical weapons treaty. In this context, I should like to endorse Australia's proposal for a meeting of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament at the ministerial level so as to resolve outstanding issues and provide the impetus required for the negotiations.

I should also like to welcome the positive conclusions reached a few days ago in Geneva at the Third Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention. Such conclusive actions augur well for the future.

Finally, one last item on this issue that calls for our attention is the stockpiling and production of conventional weapons. Mauritius endorses the call for a register of sales of arms to be kept at the United Nations.

While we also subscribe to the call that the developing countries should reduce military budgets as appropriate, it is equally my strong view that the major arms-producing and developed countries should restrain their weapons production and likewise reduce their military spending. The peace dividend will increase and, on both counts, it will mean a release of funds and resources that can thus be channelled towards the economic and social well-being of those in need around the world.

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

Earlier in my address, I stressed that we have entered a new era which requires new thinking and fresh initiatives in our collective quest for solutions to the problems that beset us. The environment of our planet has now become a major component of our national policies and indeed the subject of constant discussions at the international level. The splendour of our global environment cannot be gainsaid, yet its fragility is a universal heritage which must be managed for the benefit of mankind as a whole. Mauritius welcomes the various initiatives being taken, especially at the level of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, for the determination of actions to preserve our environment and to mobilize world public opinion about the dire need to do so.

However, as we prepare for the ambitious environment Conference in Brazil in 1992, let me sound a word of caution to those who are apt to place the blame for the degradation of our planet's environment mainly if not solely on the developing countries. And let it also be said that Mauritius appreciates the stand of those who believe that, in our endeavours to protect our planet's environment, after having played havoc with it for centuries, we should not embark on extremes and adopt such stringent measures as will jeopardize economic development. There is therefore a concerted effort to be made. A level of solidarity and political will, more than has hitherto been displayed, will have to emerge to enable the developing countries to match a universal commitment to save our environment. Our quest for a clean and beautiful environment will necessarily demand a change in our behavioural patterns, whether on the economic, social or political plane, or at the individual or national level.

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

I need not repeat that my country's concerns for the preservation of the environment encompass the absolute necessity of ensuring that nothing is done that will continue to bring about the ecological deterioration of our coastal areas and our oceans, which provide a means of livelihood to millions of people across the world. Indeed, we should show no mercy to those who irresponsibly and deliberately pollute our planet on land, at sea or in space.

We have witnessed that collective action in many fields bears positive results, no matter how tough the problems may appear. Similarly, on the economic front, it is my country's firm belief that concerted action between the North and the South is imperative if the developing South can ever aspire to emerge from the economic morass in which it has been struggling for ever so long. For let us not forget that economic stability is also a fundamental prerequisite of global security. The debt-ridden countries need to be given more than a breathing space. Yet again, some new thinking will have to go into how best to bridge the gap between the rich North and the poor South.

When one talks of debt, the main focus of attention automatically turns to Africa. The plight of millions of our brothers and sisters on that continent can be described as one of gloom if not yet of doom. The breakthrough in food production that was expected during the 1980s has eluded Africa. Population has continued to grow despite some courageous attempts at initiating population control programmes and at sensitizing African public opinion to the burden an unbridled population growth imposes on the economy. The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development has not lived up to expectations. The 1980s have indeed been a lost decade for Africa.

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

What then needs to be done? Or, to look at it from another angle, has everything that needs to be done been done? Is it sufficient for us to participate in conferences and seminars and go back home happy to have made a resounding speech or indeed content with the fact that we have placed the blame for our problems squarely at the feet of others? Indeed no. Our intentions and pronouncements need to be translated into concrete action. We owe it to future generations to leave behind a world free from want, a world free from disease, a world where peace, liberty, social justice and economic well-being will be the basic ingredients of life.

I believe that it is within our grasp to achieve this kind of world. All we need to do is to look to ourselves and start by taking the bold steps that the circumstances dictate. While the rich North should act beyond its present commitment to alleviate the burden of the South, the developing countries should start by cleaning their doorsteps and putting their houses in order. Economic waste and corruption need to be eradicated. Debtor States need to have the courage to implement economic reforms and to strive for the most efficient management of their resources. My country believes that, in this respect as well, the United Nations can play a fundamental role in harnessing all the ideas and possibilities that abound for improving the situation.

On the political front, the innovative operations pioneered over a year ago during the elections in Namibia have set the pace for United Nations involvement in other parts of the globe. The United Nations has made positive contributions, particularly in Central America, Afghanistan and Cambodia. It is now engaged in preparing a referendum in Western Sahara, where Mauritius, along with other Member States, is honoured to have been given the opportunity to serve the cause of peace and democracy. Mauritius will not hesitate to

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condemn any attempt to forestall the implementation of the United Nations plan of action for Western Sahara.

Talking of democracy brings me to the fact that we in Mauritius, less than a month ago, went to the polls for the fifth time since our independence in 1968. If I venture to mention this here, it is to emphasize how we in Mauritius are firm believers in the process of democracy, a system the shortcomings of which are negligible in the face of the multifarious advantages it brings to the people in the conduct of State affairs and indeed in the economic well-being of our nation globally. We are staunch proponents of the philosophy that there is no meaningful and fruitful development without democracy. And I would like to make so bold as to appeal to those of our sister nations which are still hesitant about the democratic adventure not to resist the thrust of history but rather to give it a try and enjoy its thrills. The system has worked marvellously well in my country and elsewhere. There is no reason why it should not bear the same fruits universally. With it comes the added dividend of peace.

The end of the cold war has created new opportunities for the resolution of conflicts in which the United Nations will be associated in one way or another. We are pleased to see that Cambodia has resumed its seat in the General Assembly and that one of the long-standing regional conflicts may soon, we hope, be resolved under the aegis of the United Nations.

With this trend of successes, it is but highly desirable that our Organization be allowed to play its rightful role in the Middle East peace process. I have no doubt in my mind that the United Nations will play a catalytic role in bringing about a just and peaceful solution to the area and thus, on the one hand, alleviate the plight of the Palestinian people, and on the other resolve the security problems of the region.

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

I must commend here the untiring and ceaseless efforts being deployed by the United States to bring all parties concerned to the conference table. The position of Mauritius is very clear. We recognize the right of Israel to exist within secure boundaries just as we uphold the struggle of the Palestinians for a State of their own. In this regard we have noted with satisfaction the decision of the Palestinian National Council for effective Palestinian participation in the peace process. Genuine Palestinian representation in this process cannot but be conclusive. In keeping with the evolution of the situation, Mauritius is prepared to go along with a move to rescind resolution 3379 (XXX) equating zionism with racism on the strict understanding that the Palestinian people's right to statehood be recognized and that Arab lands are not "up for grabs" in the name of any expansionist ideology. It will indeed be to the credit of the leaders of the region to sit at the conference table alongside the other interested parties and the United Nations and to remove from the international agenda the major remaining area of tension and conflict.

Similarly, my delegation will continue to support all moves by our Organization aimed at finding an equitable solution to the Cyprus issue in strict respect of its sovereignty.

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

The issue of sovereignty brings me to the fact that Mauritius is itself still struggling to regain its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, a cause which I believe should be supported by the Assembly in its entirety, considering the stand taken by the world community in the recent Gulf Crisis on, precisely, an issue of sovereignty. With the advent of the new era to which I have already referred, it should be possible for the past colonial Power to come to terms with the present situation and acknowledge the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago. It is also the fervent wish of my Government that nothing should be done by any party concerned to aggravate this issue any further, especially as concerns the extension of territorial waters.

At the same time, let me reiterate the faith of my Government in the efforts being made by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean for the convening of a United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. In this respect my delegation would like to place on record its deep appreciation for the selfless dedication and untiring determination of the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka. The prominent role played by this sister-island State in such a laudable venture is all the more appreciated considering that it is itself caught in an unfortunate web of violence which continues to take its toll of human lives in the conflict involving the Tamil minority. My Government hopes that a peaceful political solution to the problem will be found very soon.

Nearer us, in South Africa, Mauritius welcomes the recent peace accord signed by the De Klerk Government, the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), Inkatha and others to curb violence in the country. In effect,

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

we see this move as a major step forward towards an end to the ongoing violence thereby creating the right conditions for the ultimate eradication of apartheid. Mauritius expects President de Klerk to do everything possible to stop this violence and ensure the impartiality of the security forces

I should like to stress that the major event we in Mauritius expect to take place shortly in South Africa is the multiparty Conference which will pave the way for a post-apartheid constitution. Mauritius will establish full diplomatic relations with South Africa once a post-apartheid constitution will have been adopted, and we believe that this should be sooner rather than later.

But is it not a paradox that at a time when apartheid is being dismantled at one end of the world, a constitution with racist attributes unfortunately continues to prevail in Fiji? Mauritius has no intention to interfere in the internal affairs of any State and it is not in our habit to do so. However, at the risk of sounding self-praising, let me say that Mauritius is a multiracial country where everyone has his rightful place under the sun and where everyone enjoys his civic rights indiscriminately. This harmony works wonders for our prosperity. We believe the same could be achieved in Fiji and we would therefore like to appeal to our brothers there to redress the situation by amending the present Constitution as required and in a manner that would no longer warrant the boycott by any political force of general elections. Fiji, this otherwise gem of an island in the Pacific, owes it to itself and to its image to rectify its path and make it possible for us to welcome Fiji anew and with open arms in such forums as the Commonwealth.

There still remain, across the world, quite a few pockets of tension and conflicts. It is the hope of Mauritius that peace will be brought to bear in

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

such places as Mozambique, with which Mauritius so proudly has blood relations, and the countries in the Horn of Africa, so that resources, both human and material, could be fully geared towards their economic advancement.

I cannot close this chapter without adding the voice of Mauritius to those who have condemned in the strongest possible terms, the coup d'état perpetrated by the army in Haiti and appealing to those responsible to restore the country to its legitimate rulers.

In all the political issues I have just mentioned, an active role can be perceived for the United Nations. Some would dispute such a view but since our Organization is being called upon to assume greater importance in a changing international environment and an increasingly interdependent world, the extent of its new role should be reassessed, inasmuch as we are prepared to challenge the established doctrines of power politics - which have dictated so far how global affairs were regulated - and consider a more appropriate framework for relations among nations.

Recent events in the Gulf have demonstrated that the United Nations remains the optimal recourse for restoring stability and peace. If indeed the end of the Cold War has brought about new identity of views and interests between major Powers, thus removing the greatest obstacles to global cooperation, then the ability of the United Nations to promote peace and security through collective measures should be strengthened.

The stage has been set for such a course of action to be taken. I believe that time is of the essence and we should act accordingly.



General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/47/PV.21
12 October 1992

ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 1 October 1992, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. ROGERS (Belize)
(Vice-President)

later: Mr. GANEV (Bulgaria)
(President)

later: Mr. ROGERS (Belize)
(Vice-President)

General debate [9] (continued)Statements made by

Mr. Rabenoro (Madagascar)
Mr. Tiu (Republic of Moldova)
Mr. Berenger (Mauritius)
Mr. Abu Jaber (Jordan)
Mr. Gros Espiell (Uruguay)
Mr. Sanon (Burkina Faso)

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Rogers (Belize), Vice-President,
took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 9 (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE

Mr. BERENGER (Mauritius): I bring to the General Assembly the greetings of the people and Government of Mauritius. I assure you, Sir, of our unstinted cooperation and support in the discharge of the important task that you have assumed upon your election to the high office of President of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. I join those who have already congratulated you on this singular honour, which is also a tribute to your country.

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

I should like also to offer my felicitations to all the other officers of the Assembly and to wish them success as they take the reins for the current session.

In addition, I want to put on record our appreciation of the masterly manner in which your distinguished predecessor conducted the affairs of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, which was held at a time when the most crucial transformation on which the Organization has embarked was taking place. He can take pride in the commendable achievements of the Organization under his wise guidance.

It is an equally pleasant duty to welcome the 13 States of Eastern Europe that have joined our ranks as members of this comity of free nations. Their membership in the United Nations can only reinforce the foundations of the Organization and make a positive contribution to the new agenda that it has assumed.

The beginning of the current session of the General Assembly follows a year which was very eventful on the international scene but, more important, within the Organization itself. Indeed, during the past year the United Nations has witnessed, and in some cases has triggered, major developments. When I addressed the Assembly during the general debate last year, I referred to the selection of a new man to take the helm of the Organization. I said that we were in a new era and that the new Secretary-General would have to tackle a different agenda and face new challenges as we approached the twenty-first century. I also said that it would be appropriate to have a Secretary-General from the South and, indeed, from Africa. In that respect we have been served well.

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

It is therefore with pride that I record as one of the important developments in our system the brilliant choice of Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali as Secretary-General, which has kindled in many a Member nation fresh hope that its just aspirations will be addressed and fulfilled.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali's election to lead this world body has been welcomed with elation by the international community, and with great expectation by those of us who are from Africa. We take pride in the fact that this wise man of proven distinguished leadership and excellence is an Egyptian son of Africa.

(Mr. Berenger, Mauritius)

Mauritius would like to associate itself with all those who have commended the Secretary-General on the laudable actions he has undertaken so far in his bid to initiate the much-needed reform of the Organization. It is conceded that reform of an organization like the United Nations is not an easy task, but it is more than overdue, especially at a time when the cold war has definitely been laid to rest. The drop of the curtain on the cold-war era has brought the reform and restructuring of the United Nations within the realm of possibility. The task is mammoth for sure, but it is one that is imperative, given the new priorities on the international agenda.

The Secretary-General deserves all the encouragement possible in his endeavours along this difficult path. His task becomes even more exacting when it is placed in the perspective of the forthcoming fiftieth anniversary of the Organization in 1995, which, incidentally, is also the year when the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will come up for renewal. The years leading up to 1995 are, to our mind, absolutely crucial for the United Nations. Now, more than ever before, it is of paramount importance that the United Nations address, with renewed vigour but within the parameters of the Charter, the various and complex issues that preoccupy the international community.

It is with those preoccupations in mind that we in Mauritius have welcomed the Secretary-General's "Agenda for Peace" submitted under the mandate issued at the end of the historic and first-of-its-kind summit meeting of the Security Council held on 31 January last. We share the Secretary-General's optimism when he states:

"A conviction has grown, among nations large and small, that an opportunity has been regained to achieve the great objectives of the

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Charter a United Nations capable of maintaining international peace and security, of securing justice and human rights and of promoting, in the words of the Charter, 'social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.'" (A/47/277, para. 3)

Yes, we agree that this opportunity must not be allowed to pass, must not be squandered. It is for us Member States to ensure that the Charter is strengthened to create the appropriate conditions for the Organization to assume the role to which we want it to aspire. Our faith in the United Nations should be reinforced, and we should match our words with action to give the innovative structures proposed by the Secretary-General a chance to work, and thus move the Organization out of the paralysis that characterized it during the cold-war era. The first steps out of this paralysis have been taken, but there are still miles to go. In our endeavours to achieve the redefined objectives meant to ensure international peace and security we must be wary that no attempt is made, deliberate or otherwise, to overstretch the interpretation of the Charter to suit any hidden political or even economic agendas.

The universal membership of the United Nations should make it possible for the international community to discuss with equity, fairness and justice any issue that is likely to jeopardize or bring into question the atmosphere of international peace and security in which we aspire to live. In that perspective, I should like to commit the support of Mauritius to the proposals of the Secretary-General with respect to preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and confidence-building measures envisaged for the United Nations and its executing organs. But, as the Secretary-General has said in his annual report, the demands on the United Nations are not matched by an

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equivalent provision of resources, especially by those who can well afford such resources. The Secretary-General's report informs us that since 1988 13 new peace-keeping operations have been organized and that the Organization is at present administering 12 peace-keeping operations in various regions of the world, operations that are estimated to cost close to \$3 billion in the current 12-month period.

If we expect the United Nations to fulfil the new role that we are designing for it we must collectively ensure that we provide as well the financial support that it requires. It is only with secure financial foundations that the United Nations will be able to respond adequately and satisfactorily to our aspirations. I should therefore like to appeal to fellow Member States to honour their financial obligations within a reasonable time and thus remove the current pecuniary constraints faced by the Organization. I must also add that my country, which is among those Member States that religiously pay up their annual assessed contributions, will give favourable consideration to the Secretary-General's proposals to deal with the cash-flow problems, as outlined in his report.

I should not like to leave the issue of reform of the Organization without joining my voice with those that have called for a review of the responsibilities of the Security Council in this changed environment of ours. We must be cautious lest we fall easy prey to the dangers that a unipolar world can trigger. It is evident that a new world order is emerging. Let us commit ourselves not to take a limited view of this new world order or, indeed, give it a limited concept. We welcome the ever-increasing activities of the Security Council to the extent that, as the Secretary-General informs us in his report, during the first 7 months of this year, 46 resolutions were

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adopted by the Council compared to 14 in all in 1987. We should, however, beware of allowing ambiguities to crop up in those resolutions, ambiguities that may make it dangerously possible for various interpretations to be given to those resolutions, the implementation of which may perpetuate the situation of conflicts that unfortunately pervades our globe. Indeed, criticism has been levelled at the Council for its seemingly ad hoc approach to matters relating to international security. There is therefore a need to define set considerations, which, in turn, would determine what situations constitute threats to international peace and security requiring action by the Security Council.

Furthermore, it has been rightly and forcefully argued that while a more vigorous and dynamic role is being envisaged for the Security Council, this magnified mandate of the Council should be matched by enhanced transparency and democracy. We fully concur with the Secretary-General, who, in the introduction to his report, while arguing that the current international situation requires an Organization capable of dealing comprehensively with the economic, social, environmental and political dimensions of human development, underlines that:

"This requires the full application of the principles of democracy within the family of nations and within our Organization." (A/47/L, para. 9)

In this context, we await with keen interest the results of the deliberations of the high-level Working Group for the Restructuring of the United Nations set up by the recent summit meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Earlier on I said that while 1995 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization, it will also be the year when the Treaty on the

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Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will come up for review and renewal. Last year in my address to the Assembly, I dwelt at length on the issue of disarmament, principally because it constitutes especially to us smaller States of the world the only path to lasting security. I expressed the hope then that in the wake of the dramatic announcements made by President Gorbachev, the leader of the then-Soviet Union, President Bush and President Mitterrand the disarmament race would be confirmed. It is with deep satisfaction that my country notes the tremendous progress achieved over the past year in that race. We welcome the vote by the United States Senate two months ago for a nine-month moratorium on United States nuclear testing and an end to all such tests by September 1996, which came in the wake of the French and Russian moratoriums. Those developments lead us to assert that the time has now come for all of us seriously to consider a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, the more so in that the international community hailed the agreement by Presidents Bush and Yeltsin in Washington D.C. in June of this year to cut the number of long-range nuclear-missile warheads on the United States and Russian sides by about two thirds.

Another encouraging event in the field of disarmament has been the promise kept by China and France, which have deposited their instruments of accession to the non-proliferation Treaty. Speaking of that Treaty brings me to reiterate the dire need for an informal dialogue to be undertaken between now and 1995 between States Parties to the Treaty and non-party States, with a view to addressing in the best possible way those provisions of the Treaty that have so far prevented it from acquiring a universal dimension.

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We also look forward to the establishment in 1993 of the Preparatory Committee for the 1995 nuclear non-proliferation Treaty renewal Conference and are confident that it will have fruitful and conclusive deliberations.

We applaud the progress that has been achieved in the formulation of a chemical weapons convention and congratulate the negotiators in Geneva who have put in arduous hours to ensure that the target date of 1992 for the completion of such a convention be met. I am pleased to inform the Assembly that Mauritius will co-sponsor with others the resolution on that convention and will be among its original signatories when it comes up for ratification.

We believe that, with the end of the cold war and in this new era, complete nuclear disarmament and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction are no longer a dream but are now very much in the realm of reality. On the way towards that ideal objective, Mauritius will support all plausible initiatives, including the elaboration of a convention providing for a "cut off" in the production of fissile nuclear material for weapons purposes, as well as an international convention on negative nuclear security assurances.

While we welcome the positive elements in the field of disarmament, some of which I have just mentioned, we deplore the continued movement of highly dangerous nuclear material on land and on the high seas. We have also taken cognizance with grave concern of the movement of plutonium and other toxic waste across the world. We exhort the countries involved in such trade to refrain from such actions and pay heed to the genuine concerns that have been expressed and continue to be voiced by the international community.

Mauritius deplores the fact that some private companies based in Europe are shamefully exploiting the situations of disarray and complete chaos

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prevailing in Somalia to dump toxic waste on its territory, thereby adding to the calamities that are already claiming a heavy toll of human lives. The international community should, with a single voice, condemn such abominable actions. It is indeed regrettable that while we, within the context of the new role of the United Nations and other regional organizations, are trying to resolve the conflicts that beset the world, others, with no qualms whatsoever, are exploiting those conflicts for their own material benefit.

As regards the situation of conflicts throughout the world, a sad sight unfolds before our eyes. In certain areas, especially after the historic collapse of one ideological bloc, new dangers loom heavily over entire populations enmeshed in ethnic and nationalist bickering. Their release from long years of repression seems to have given way to an unfortunate lust for self-destruction.

We are particularly concerned at the utter lack of consideration for the value of human life and property that has become an everyday occurrence in certain parts of Eastern Europe. It is very difficult for us to accept that ethnic, religious, and nationalist feelings could be so strong as to render entire populations expendable, or that political leaders should encourage such murderous and genocidal sprees when it ought to have been possible for them to thrash out their differences peacefully through civilized negotiations. The sadness of the matter is that, while the various political groups often motivated by a misguided and exaggerated sense of territorial expansion, turn whole areas into wargrounds of desolation and lay to ruin entire cities and towns, it is the innocent civilian population that has to hold the thorny end of the stick. I do not need to retell the countless stories of atrocities being perpetrated daily in many parts of our world to convince anybody of the

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kind of manmade calamity that afflicts us. Every God-given day is turned into a nightmare by the needless killings perpetrated in the name of supremacy.

On the one hand, we do everything in our power to rid ourselves collectively of oppressive regimes and superficial ideologies; but on the other, once that goal is achieved we turn the guns on one another. Entire nations have crumbled over the past few months, principally in Europe and Africa. Entire populations have been decimated. Bosnia and Herzegovina and Somalia are indeed sad and disgraceful examples of the kind of cruelty and brutality of which man is capable. On both counts, the international community has been shamefully slow in addressing the issues with a view to bringing an end to the senseless killings that have characterized the daily evolution of the situation in those countries, whose victims have been the innocent and helpless populations.

What a sad reflection this is on humanity. For months we have remained impassive to the images of desolation and despair, of emaciated fellow beings too sick and too weak to move, of mutilated people degenerating into apparitions of skin and bones - images brought to us in the comfort of our living rooms on the small screen. The Somali human rights disaster for indeed that is what it is has been left to simmer for months unheeded. This brings me to address another area of priority on the international agenda the issue of human rights.

It has been known since time immemorial that man as an individual has a capacity to go to extremes. As capable as he is of displaying a depthless sense of compassion and love, he is just as able to manifest a diametrically opposed and excruciating sense of cruelty and oppression towards his fellow being. But when such harassment and privation of man's basic rights become

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institutionalized, it is a matter of distress that should be the concern of the international community.

One cannot talk of economic development and progress on the one hand without on the other hand ensuring that man who remains at the centre of development and therefore of progress is not prevented from enjoying his dignity, nor divested of his basic freedoms and rights. The promotion and upholding of human rights should remain high on the international community's list of priorities. In fact, as the Secretary-General reminds us in his report, the Charter of the United Nations makes the promotion of human rights one of our priority objectives. Constant dialogue with a view to defusing any situation in which human rights have been breached should be encouraged and welcomed at all levels.

Human rights are indivisible. Political, social, civil and economic rights are fundamental to humanity in its quest for progress and its endeavours towards the economic and social improvement of its environment. That is why we in Mauritius staunchly support those who believe that concern for human rights and the promotion and defence thereof cannot be considered as interference in the internal affairs of a State where that State displays an arrogant disregard for the basic rights and freedoms of its people. We believe that violations and gross abuse of human rights should be decried forcefully. In the same manner that the international community has with one voice condemned apartheid as a human rights abuse, it should be free and honest enough to point the finger at those who continue to thwart the efforts of man to assert his dignity. If we can without restraint declare ourselves against such scourges as apartheid, racism and xenophobia, we should equally be at full liberty to denounce those who for archaic or obscure reasons but

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often out of self-interest deny their fellow beings the freedom to exercise their basic rights.

We therefore condemn without reserve those who, for political expediency and/or survival, find it necessary in the normal course of events to deprive their people of civil and political rights to the extent of imprisoning and even exterminating those who militate for such rights. We also view with grave concern those cases in which human rights monitors, local or international, have been arrested, jailed, or even killed while trying to come to the assistance of populations that are victims of human rights deprivation.

However, we should like to appeal to the donor community to ensure that, while withholding or cutting off aid and assistance to any country or region as a punitive measure against regimes guilty of gross violations and abuse of human rights, nothing be done to exacerbate the plight of innocent people whose lives are already miserable as a result of their being deprived of their basic rights. After all, human feelings and therefore humanitarian compassion should transcend political considerations. A people afflicted by severe human rights abuse should not be made to endure further suffering by being deprived of much-needed assistance.

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With a view to addressing serious human-rights-abuse situations in certain territories in a positive and constructive manner, we are fully supportive of the idea that the General Assembly or the Security Council should be able to entrust the Secretary-General with mounting fact-finding missions to those territories, either at the request of the Government thereof or at the behest of the appropriate organ of the United Nations itself subject, of course, to prior arrangements having been made with the States concerned.

We must here commend the work done by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and Human Rights Committee, the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the various non-governmental organizations which have been playing a crucial role in the protection and enhancement of human rights. We must also place on record our appreciation for those States that have legislated appropriately to give human rights the protection of the law and make their enjoyment a matter of course.

In the context of the international concern for human rights, we hope that the opportunity provided by the second World Conference on Human Rights, to be held in Vienna in June 1993, will be seized by all concerned to pledge themselves to the universal upholding and promotion of human rights. Respect for human rights must become a cardinal characteristic of all Governments. A passionate debate is currently on regarding the relationship between democracy, development and human rights, as indeed on the issue of human rights and sovereignty. We believe that the 1993 Conference will be the perfect platform to debate these issues sufficiently for universal norms thereon to emerge. I should like to seize this opportunity to wish the Preparatory Committee in Geneva success in the work it has started.

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The upsurge of racism and xenophobia in certain countries of the West is also a matter of great concern to us, and we consider the discrimination in the treatment of migrant workers and foreign students in those countries a human-rights violation. It is a matter of deep regret that some countries that have come to the fore as champions of human rights should themselves be found wanting on that level. Let them put their human-rights house in order first before decrying and acting on violations beyond their frontiers.

Similarly, some countries that are quick to denounce human-rights abuse do not always abide by the consistency that is required in such matters. We firmly believe that the same approach should be applied in all cases of alleged human-rights abuse, whenever they may occur. No political or economic interest should interfere with that approach. Picking and choosing between countries will only make a farce of the human-rights issue.

I now wish to touch briefly on a few issues that are of specific importance to us in Mauritius. The unfortunate turn of events in South Africa, in particular the Boipatong massacre and the Bisho killings, has dampened the ardour with which we were anticipating the accession of the Republic of South Africa to the fold of free and democratic countries of the world. We call on all the parties concerned in the South African arena, and especially those currently in power, to recast their bearings in as positive a way as possible to ensure that the objective we dream of for that country is achieved in the not-too-distant future, so that every citizen of the nation that will emerge can start working towards its reconstruction based on freedom, peace, equality and justice. We are hopeful that the wisdom of the leaders involved and the encouragement of the international community will make it possible for the stalled negotiations to be resumed, for the benefit of all South African citizens.

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In neighbouring Mozambique, a breakthrough had appeared at hand as all parties concerned declared their readiness to work for the progress of that country in the wake of the recent negotiations aimed at ending years of civil strife. We hope that last-minute snags will be overcome in a spirit of compromise so that peace can at last prevail in the better interests of the population.*

Similarly, we are encouraged by the ongoing Middle East peace talks. We must, however, constantly remind ourselves that the crux of the matter remains an equitable and just solution to the Palestinian issue.

The scourge of famine and drought that continues to take its toll of lives on the African continent, especially in its southern part and in the Horn of Africa, is a matter of deep concern. We would like to see the international community act more urgently to stop the dreadful loss of life that has become a daily occurrence in many countries of that region. Mauritius is ready to contribute within the possibility of its means to any action aimed at alleviating the plight of those unfortunate and often forgotten souls.

Another issue that is of great importance to us in Mauritius is the need to respect the territorial integrity of nations. I should here like to place once more on record the appreciation of my country to all those countries that have consistently expressed their support of our sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia. We should like to inform the Assembly that we have resumed exchanges with the United Kingdom on this issue.

* The President returned to the Chair.

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In my address to the Assembly last year, I expressed the hope that the leaders of Fiji would redress the situation that prevails there by amending its present Constitution to the satisfaction of all the citizens of that sister island nation. Mauritius draws comfort from recent assertions by the Prime Minister of that country that he is morally committed to reviewing the Constitution of the land. We are confident that the Fijian Government will now act on the basis of those assertions and make it once more possible for the Fijian citizens, irrespective of the community to which they belong, to work hand in hand for the progress of their nation.

Similarly, we commend the authorities of that other neighbourly sister island of Sri Lanka for the efforts being deployed to put an end to the unfortunate strife that has ravaged their country and taken such a heavy toll of human lives. We are confident that with a reasonable degree of compromise on all sides, peace and harmony will prevail anew there.

Finally, allow me to reiterate the continued faith of my country in the collective wisdom of our Organization and pledge anew our unstinting support for its laudable efforts, under the skilled and enlightened leadership of Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to address the political, social and economic obstacles that remain strewn on the path to harmonious coexistence and global progress.



General Assembly

Forty-ninth Session

18th Meeting

Wednesday, 5 October 1994, 10 a.m.

New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Essy (Côte d'Ivoire)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

responsibilities with sagacity and serenity despite the complex and sensitive nature of the issues that have retained our attention this past year.

It is also my distinct pleasure to associate myself with all those who have extended a hearty welcome to non-racial democratic South Africa within the fold of the Assembly. The end of apartheid in South Africa also underscores the end of colonialism on the African continent. However, there still remain a few areas where the process is not complete, but I firmly believe that it will not be long before we can boast of a totally free world. In this regard, I should like to say that, with respect to the question of the return of the Chagos Archipelago to the sovereignty of Mauritius, we have continued to pursue a positive dialogue with the United Kingdom and that some progress has been registered.

The United Nations of today is perceived differently from what it was less than a decade ago. The fabric of international relations is undergoing profound transformation. There is now more latitude and scope for international cooperation and partnership than ever before and the United Nations is increasingly becoming the focal point for such cooperation on a number of fronts. The numerous activities in such fields as peace-keeping, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, humanitarian relief, election monitoring and supervision undertaken by the Organization during the past few years indicate that its leadership and potential to play an active role on the international scene have been recognized.

But we should all accept the obvious reality that the United Nations, despite its potential and goodwill, does not have the material capacity nor can it muster the financial resources to attend to every potential or actual crisis situation. While it has become evident that solutions to the present-day crises cannot but be evolved within the framework of international cooperation, such cooperation, however, is still lacking or, where it does exist, is but lukewarm in substance. That is why, despite the end of super-Power rivalry which, in theory, should have eased tensions the world over, conflicts and tensions have continued to flare up. Though the international community does mobilize itself, albeit with disastrous delay at times, to address such situations, peaceful solutions remain elusive. Is it because our agenda in addressing these problems is not always the same? Coming from a small island State where our priorities remain the economic progress of the country and the constant improvement of the quality of life of our citizens, I harbour the dream that we, leaders of the

Agenda item 9 (*continued*)

General debate

Address by Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted to the rostrum.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I have great pleasure in welcoming the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir Anerood Jugnauth, and inviting him to address the Assembly.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth (Mauritius): Let me say at the outset how pleased I am to see you, Sir, presiding over the General Assembly at this session. In addition to being a well-deserved tribute to you personally and to your country, your presidency is a distinct honour and privilege for Africa. Your task will definitely not be easy but we are confident that your wisdom and broad experience will help guide our Organization in discharging its leadership role in world affairs. I hasten to pledge to you my delegation's full cooperation and active participation in the deliberations ahead.

Let me take this opportunity to say how welcome the leadership provided by Ambassador Samuel Insanally was during the past session. We commend him for the clear vision and diligence with which he steered the work of the Organization.

The Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, equally deserves appreciation for having carried out his

international community, can still bequeath to future generations a world which thrives on peace. On the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization can we not pledge and dedicate ourselves to that goal and recommit our efforts to that end?

It has, it seems, become fashionable to question whether the United Nations system is well adapted to the new changing situations that confront us and whether it is equipped to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. But we often forget that we are the United Nations.

My delegation believes that the United Nations, given its universality, should inevitably continue to have a central and important role in the universal management of our society. But to be able to do this satisfactorily there is an urgent need not only to revitalize the Organization, streamlining its agenda, but also to overhaul its structures, bringing in more transparency in its internal operations and taking on board the aspirations of the developing countries which, after all, constitute the majority of our world.

In this regard, my delegation welcomes the ongoing deliberations in the open-ended working group on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council. It is our hope that the wide spectrum of views expressed so far on this subject, though seemingly divergent, would eventually converge to become a consensual approach that would render the Council more transparent and democratic.

The review of the membership of the Council should be such as to make it functionally effective and as widely representative of the membership of the United Nations. But it should also, I reiterate, be the product of as large a consensus as possible to preserve its credibility. In this context, while considering an increase in the permanent membership of the Council, one should not be biased in favour of the economic giants of this world alone. The developing countries have a legitimate right to be represented on the permanent slate of the Security Council, for our concerns are different from those of the industrialized and developed countries. The African and Latin American continents should imperatively have their share of the responsibility incumbent on the Council. We have no doubt that those called upon to represent these two continents as permanent members will have significant contributions to make in the interest of the world at large. While we do not favour too radical a reform, we believe that the decisions of the Council should be arrived at by consensus rather than through veto power. Such decisions would obviously be more easily acceptable to the

international community. However, the present veto system should be maintained for some time to come.

It is a fact that the United Nations has been playing a more active role in world affairs and has been assuming greater responsibilities in the fields of peace-keeping and mediation in conflicts in a number of countries. But the restructuring exercise needs to address other levels of our Organization as well, so as to embrace the development dimension of international relations. In this respect, one should not shy away from a possible review of the United Nations Charter itself, but the process, we believe, should be gradual and consensual. A strengthened and reformed United Nations should be able to contribute positively to the fulfilment of the vision of its founders.

It is opportune here to remind ourselves of what, as far back as 1945, the then United States Secretary of State reported to President Truman on the result of the San Francisco Conference. He said:

“The battle of peace has to be fought on two fronts. The first is the security front where victory spells freedom from fear. The second is the economic and social front where victory means freedom from want. Only victory on both fronts can assure the world of an enduring peace. No provisions that can be written into the Charter will enable the Security Council to make the world secure from war if men and women have no security in their homes and jobs.”

Almost half a century later, we find an echo of the same sentiment when our Secretary-General states that

“the development imperative is as much a priority for the United Nations as the imperative of peace. ... There can be no sustainable development without peace. There can also be no real peace without development.”

We fully subscribe to those views and would go even further to say that international peace and security, as well as an equitable and conducive environment and the redress of the asymmetrical international financial and trading relations, are necessary prerequisites for the sustainable development of all countries in the world, especially the developing ones.

In this respect, the plight of Africa is well known to the world community. The causes of its ills and of its weaknesses are well documented. While the disease has

been diagnosed, the cure is not yet in sight. Africa needs a new order with a clear vision of hope that will ensure its gradual integration into the international economic and trading systems. Its marginalization, deliberate or accidental, must be stopped and reversed.

The issue of human rights continues to be the subject of varying perception. We believe that human rights are indivisible, and therefore we hold the view that a revised and reformed United Nations should concentrate equally, if not more, on economic, social and cultural rights by promoting international cooperation for development.

May I be allowed here to quote the example of Mauritius? Since the last decade, the rapid strides we have been making in the economic field have been accompanied by consistent progress in the social and cultural fields, as well as in the strengthening of the democratic framework. Basic rights and freedoms, such as freedom of speech, of association and of movement, and the holding of general elections at regular intervals of five years with the free participation of political parties and individuals are an integral part of our culture. Our experience exemplifies the synthesis that is being achieved through economic development, which brings dignity to the population; social development, for the protection of the weaker sections of the population; and the strengthening of all democratic institutions, for the evolution of a harmonious society.

The report by the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Development" is therefore timely and will no doubt place the issue of development in its different aspects in a prominent place on the international agenda. The Secretary-General needs to be commended for this interesting report, which highlights the multidimensional nature of development. The report has been further enriched by the constructive proposals contained in the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 adopted on 24 June 1994 in New York. I commend this Declaration as an important contribution by the developing world to the debate on the report.

Let our world, both developing and developed, take advantage of the new environment. And let us commit ourselves to reducing poverty, hunger and illiteracy in the world; commit ourselves to ensuring a steady and increasing flow of financial resources, as well as transfer of technology, to the developing countries; and commit ourselves to comprehensively tackling the debt problem. Only through such commitments and shared responsibilities and action in an increasingly interdependent world will it be possible to stop the further marginalization of a large

number of developing countries and help integrate them in a just and equitable international economic, financial and trading system.

Next year will witness the establishment and setting up of the World Trade Organization, which is expected to contribute towards the development of an integrated, more viable and durable multilateral trading system. I take this opportunity to exhort the members of that organization to adopt positive measures so as to ensure that the developing countries, this time, secure a fair share in the expected growth of the world.

Genuine fears have been voiced by a number of developing countries, especially small island States, that are vulnerable to natural disasters and suffer from the disadvantages of being far from their sources of supply of raw materials and foodstuffs and the markets for their export products. It is feared that the results of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will adversely affect their trade, especially the trade preferences from which they benefit in the context of contractual agreements entered into with a group of developed countries, principally with the European Union.

My own country stands to be affected both as an exporter and as a net food-importing country. We therefore appeal for steps to be taken, as provided for in the Final Act of the GATT Uruguay Round, to provide adequate compensation for any such loss. I should like here to stress the need for the preservation of the existing preferential trade regime of the Lomé Convention of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group and the European Economic Community.

Any attempt to bring in new issues concerning the multilateral trading system, including the World Trade Organization, would not be appropriate at this juncture. In this regard, it would serve no useful purpose for the developed and the developing countries to adopt confrontational positions while dealing with such sensitive issues as the "social clause and the trade regime" and "trade and the environment". My country for one will resist the inclusion of any clause that may appear as a disguised protectionist measure.

However, I also believe taking as an example my own country, where worker's rights are protected by the Constitution, that internationally recognized labour standards and norms and the legitimate rights of workers should be respected. This is important if man is to be at

the centre of development. The enjoyment of these rights, and the observance of labour standards, should be encouraged in all countries, without, of course, losing sight of their respective levels of socio-economic development, or the development needs and objectives of developing countries.

I am happy to state, in that context, that my Government recently introduced legislation to ensure that workers participate in the management of enterprises and become shareholders in the sugar sector where they are employed. This is being done in the context of a new social order based on partnership, and it is meant to favour the democratization of the economy.

This leads me to the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held next year. In our view, all these conferences are geared towards one simple goal: to better the lot of mankind, and in so doing, to enhance human dignity. It is our sincere and cherished hope that these summit meetings and conferences will contribute to the debate on the Agenda for Development and will encourage a better understanding of the nature and complexity of the development problems facing the developing world. May these conferences come up with reasonable and concrete proposals, backed by a clear commitment of resources for their implementation.

It is true that the end of the cold war and the disappearance of ideological conflicts have significantly altered the geopolitical configuration of the world. They have modified the nature of international relations, with strategic economic alliances replacing military ones in a world still in search of a new order — which thus far has remained elusive.

In such an uncertain and volatile situation, where the survival of the fittest and of the most competitive is the order of the day, small and economically vulnerable countries need assurances with regard to their security and continued economic development and social progress. In this respect, renewed attention is being given, in different parts of the world, to regional cooperation and integration.

We believe that the salvation of small and weak economies depends on the successful implementation of regional cooperation and integration programmes. We view regionalism as an important complement to multilateralism, especially when open regionalism does not lead to exclusiveness. I therefore appeal to the international

community to fully support the successful implementation of regional cooperation and integration programmes, especially the nascent ones in Africa.

In our own region, organizations such as the Indian Ocean Commission, the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States and the Southern African Development Community are useful vehicles for economic cooperation and integration among member countries and help to strengthen our economies.

Political stability, good governance, respect for basic human rights and freedoms are prerequisites to economic development. It is therefore the duty of the international community to ensure movement in that direction. We have, however, failed by not responding quickly enough to the agony of Rwanda, and, as the Secretary-General has stated, we have acquiesced in the continued loss of lives. The serious plight of hundreds of thousands of refugees from Rwanda remains a major source of concern. We should redouble efforts and commit ourselves to urgently addressing such human catastrophes of epic proportions, which, if left unattended or if tackled timidly, may very well spill over into neighbouring countries of the region and affect them adversely.

I had the opportunity to state my country's position on this issue at the recent Organization of African Unity (OAU) Summit in Tunis, where I warned that Burundi was sitting on a powder keg that risked explosion unless the international community acted in earnest to contain the problem. Though the situation has eased to a certain extent, due mainly to *Operation Turquoise* and to the commitment of troops from OAU member States, the region still remains fragile. Countries which have the resources must come to the fore and fully assume their responsibility to prevent a recurrence of this tragic episode.

My country, for its part, besides its interventions in international forums and its modest contributions in cash and in kind, played host to the dialogue between the President of Zaire and the President of Rwanda, which culminated in the signature of an accord with respect, mainly, to the refugee situation.

I should like to use the opportunity of speaking before this forum to appeal to my brothers in Angola, Liberia and Somalia and elsewhere in Africa, where pockets of tension exist that can flare up into unnecessary conflicts, to apply peaceful means to resolve and iron out their differences.

It would be fitting here to flag Mozambique as an example where dialogue has prevailed over armed struggle, and where, in a few days' time, the people will be exercising their freedom of choice to elect those they wish to govern the country. Similarly, it is a matter of satisfaction that the constitutional problem in Lesotho has been resolved peacefully and through constant dialogue. In that respect, I should like to commend the efforts deployed by my brothers, Presidents Mugabe, Masire and Mandela.

I wish the same fervour could be demonstrated by others who are active in the Bosnia and Herzegovina conflict, where countless lives continue to be lost, where human suffering has crossed the limits of endurance, where the population seems to have resigned itself to a fate imposed upon it by the warring factions. Are we not responsible enough, human enough, to resolve the problems besetting that region, the more so as conflicts like those which have plagued Northern Ireland and the Middle East over decades, and which appeared unsolvable, are being addressed resolutely, and with positive results?

Indeed, the positive developments in the Middle East mark a turning point in the inter-State relationships in that region and augur well for peace and stability. It is my fervent wish that the spirit of moderation and compromise that has made it possible for positive results to be achieved in the ongoing negotiations will continue to prevail and helps open other avenues for peace to be restored in the entire region.

Let us, leaders of the world, on the eve of the fiftieth year of our Organization's existence, take inspiration from the positive trends that have emerged in the Middle East, from the successful transition in South Africa as a result of peaceful negotiations, and commit ourselves to resolving conflictual situations — historical as well as current — through dialogue. In this regard, let me make an earnest appeal to Pakistan and to India, countries equally dear and near to us, not to internationalize their differences but to address them bilaterally through peaceful means. We should like to encourage both Governments to resume their dialogue in a spirit of trust and compromise, in the higher interests of their countries and peoples, and indeed in the interest of the entire region.

I am gratified to learn that in Sri Lanka, following the installation of the new Government, a dialogue has been initiated between the parties in conflict. This is indeed a commendable move.

Such positive efforts can only be beneficial to the international community, for the peace dividends that will thus ensue will permit the world to tackle, with undivided attention, the agenda of economic and social development, in order to make the world a safer place in which to live. That is why we continue to hope for speedy positive developments in such places as Fiji, where equality of citizenship is yet to prevail.

Another issue that remains a major preoccupation of my country is the question of disarmament. Next year, the Conference to review the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) will take place. Mauritius has made its position amply clear on this issue. Any extension of the NPT should be linked to progress on nuclear disarmament and the achievement of a comprehensive test-ban treaty, as well as the establishment of a negotiating framework within which the discriminatory nature of the Treaty should be examined. We have stated in no uncertain terms that the world cannot be divided permanently into countries permitted to have nuclear weapons and countries not permitted to have them. A treaty perceived as making such a decision permanent is bound to fail and cannot be expected to last.

Without the convincing support of the NPT members, we may fail in our endeavours to make the world nuclear-weapon-free. The recent dispute between a Member State of the Treaty and the International Atomic Energy Agency clearly indicates that the NPT is not infallible. Equally alarming is the trading in enriched uranium and plutonium, in stark contradiction of the objectives of the Treaty. As long as there are nuclear-weapon States, there will be an urge for other States with nuclear potential to acquire such weapon-grade material, thus putting the world community in jeopardy.

Mauritius would like at this point to welcome the efforts for the conclusion of a treaty to make all of Africa, a nuclear-weapon-free zone. It is our earnest hope that the exclusive club of nuclear-haves, principally the permanent members of the Security Council, will do everything to permit the emergence of such a zone and the conclusion of the treaty.

(spoke in French)

As Acting President of the Conference of Heads of State or Government of French-speaking countries, I should like to say a few words in the French language, which brings together this community of dialogue and cooperation numbering 47 countries with more than 400 million inhabitants. Since 1986, the highest officials of these countries, which are found on the five continents, have been regularly holding summit meetings to review those problems that affect the francophone world and seek together for solutions to global problems.

My country thus had the honour of hosting the Fifth Summit of the Francophone World last October. It may seem surprising to some that a country member of the Commonwealth whose official language is English should have been selected to host such a Summit and thus to become the spokesman of the francophone group for a two-year period. In fact, for us Mauritians, this is in no way unusual, since we live with our cultural and linguistic diversity in perfect harmony. Indeed, Mauritian culture is the result of a synthesis worked out through history. We live in a society that integrates the linguistic, religious and social contributions of Europe, Africa and Asia. The theme of "Unity in Diversity", which inspired the work of that Summit, is very dear to our country. All the segments of the Mauritian nation participate in creating a national identity while preserving their ancestral cultures. This message of unity in diversity, based on the recognition of difference and on human solidarity, is even more relevant in the difficult and complex situation in today's world.

The Heads of State or Government wish the francophone world to cooperate more closely with regional and international organizations that are working for democracy, peace and the development of the world — first and foremost, of course, is the United Nations. We have adopted a series of resolutions to promote this new partnership. It is, moreover, in this context that we had the pleasure of welcoming the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to Mauritius. During the Summit, we were able to intensify a dialogue that we have been maintaining since then by various means. However, we hardly had time to acquire the means to implement our own resolutions when events began to move rapidly in the francophone world.

Indeed, on the day following the Mauritius Summit, our brother Melchoir Ndadaye, President of Burundi, was brutally assassinated. The Organization of African Unity and the United Nations were immediately notified. Then

the situation deteriorated in Rwanda, and once again we notified these two international forums. Given the lack of action during the first few days, we welcomed France's intervention for strictly humanitarian purposes, which allowed numerous lives to be saved.

In addition to their concern regarding the Great Lakes region, the countries of the francophone world are deeply moved about the situation in Haiti. We have been following developments in that country very closely, and we were gratified to note that positive steps have been taken towards re-establishing democracy. We are awaiting with great impatience, and in the interest of the Haitian people, the return of legitimate power to this country, a country that has suffered so much in the course of its recent history.

The francophone world, for its part, has adopted numerous resolutions aimed at securing for the Francophone community a more dynamic presence internationally. It will thus be able to make a contribution in the specific fields of its competence. I should like, in particular, to cite a resolution endorsing the Secretary-General's report, which is rightly entitled "An Agenda for Development". This resolution spells out those themes which the francophone world would like to see taken into consideration in the agenda and which will be put forward by our representatives within the United Nations during the preparatory stages.

At the Rio de Janeiro Summit, later in Vienna, then in Barbados and in Cairo, and tomorrow in Copenhagen and in Beijing, the countries of the francophone world are consulting on the major problems the United Nations has inscribed on its agenda. This is being done to arrive at common positions for meeting the great challenges of development.

Such concerted action is essential for the harmonious development of our world at the dawn of the third millennium; hence we are called upon to make a specific contribution to illustrate that spirit of humanism that motivates the francophone world.

The Mauritius Summit succeeded in situating the francophone world in a more political and more diplomatic context. The francophone world has an original and positive message to spread through the world, a message of liberty, solidarity and sharing. I am most pleased to have conveyed it to you.

The President (*interpretation from French*): On behalf on the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius for the statement he has just made.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted from the rostrum.



General Assembly

Fifty-first Session

29th plenary meeting
Thursday, 10 October 1996, 10 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Razali Ismail (Malaysia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 9 (*continued*)

General debate

**Address by The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam,
Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius**

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius.

The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted to the rostrum.

The President: I have great pleasure in welcoming the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

Mr. Ramgoolam (Mauritius): I join all those who have gone before me in congratulating you, Sir, on behalf of Mauritius, on your accession to the office of President of the General Assembly at its fifty-first session. I also thank Mr. Freitas do Amaral of Portugal for his skilful stewardship of the fiftieth session.

Hearing and reading the speeches of world leaders to this Assembly, I am struck by the extraordinary degree of unanimity between them — how much we seem to agree in principle but how little on the right course of action; on the necessity of diplomacy and discussion as the primary path to peace; on the necessity of according to every man, woman and child the fundamental rights and freedoms which this Organization has, over the years, done so much to establish; on the necessity of providing equal opportunities for men, women and children in all our societies; on the necessity of protecting the environment; and on the need to ensure that mankind moves forward together on the path of development.

Mr. Wilmot (Ghana), Vice-President, took the Chair.

In all these noble and commendable aims we are united. However, we often seem to suffer from a paralysis when it comes to actual implementation of these good intentions.

This Organization was the response of the human race to the catastrophic experiences of two world wars and to scientific discoveries and inventions which confronted us with unprecedented choices. It was an expression of faith in the power of human beings to be rational in the face of these choices and to choose the paths of peace and progress instead of war and destruction.

But sometimes its voice has seemed very faint and far off in the midst of the terrible troubles that have afflicted us since then. Some have begun to mutter of the ineffectiveness of the institution and to complain of the cost. I am convinced that those criticisms do not begin to express the whole truth about the work that is done by this Organization. We are embarked upon a great and necessary experiment, and that is why the work of the Secretary-General is so important. Here I should like to pay tribute to Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, whose contribution has been so valuable in recent years. It is particularly appropriate that this great office should be filled, as we move into the next millennium, by a representative of Africa, for Africa remains the great intransigent challenge which the world has scarcely yet begun to face. Only through the renewed and concerted determination of this Organization and the vision of cooperation and mutual responsibility which it represents is there any hope of successfully meeting the extraordinary difficulties which the next century will bring.

Decade after decade, many of the nations of Africa have seen their efforts at development frustrated by natural and man-made disasters, poor governance and a hostile international environment. Foreign aid has not had the desired impact on the progress of these countries, and the poorer nations have accumulated huge and unmanageable debt which they labour, with inadequate tools, to support.

As the Assembly knows, of the 36 poorest countries in the world, as classified by the United Nations Development Programme in the human development index, 29 are in Africa. The majority of them have per capita incomes lower than they were 20 years ago. The countries of sub-Saharan Africa last year attracted only 3 per cent of the foreign direct investment into the developing world, compared to 20 per cent for Latin America and the Caribbean and 59 per cent for East Asia and the Pacific region. Life expectancy is placed at 50.9 years, the lowest among developing countries.

At the same time, a new and more demanding international economic order is emerging, one in which Africa is beginning to feel overwhelmed and isolated from the mainstream of world economic development. If some of its nations have not yet caught up with the industrial revolution, what hope have they, unaided, of reaching the heights of the technological and information revolutions which are sweeping the developed countries of the world towards new horizons.

If we are to bring Africa into the general march of the economies of the world towards progress and prosperity, we must begin, at the highest level, to coordinate and to chart a course for Africa to join in. Piecemeal aid and occasional intervention on the occasion of awesome disasters will not be enough.

Therefore, we welcome the Group of Seven's commitment in Lyon to a partnership for development and to the elimination of trade barriers to exports from developing countries. These barriers must come down. But we question whether this and private investment alone will be sufficient. Swift and dramatic debt relief for countries in need of it is essential. We welcome the lead provided by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in this regard, but it must be followed by decisive and urgent action. Measures should also be designed to promote the growth of real democracy and good governance, for economic prosperity must go hand in hand with democracy and the rule of law. It may seem temporarily otherwise. It may seem that the creation of wealth can, for a while, be separated from the yearning of the people and of individuals to be free, but sooner or later the force of the aspirations which prosperity brings will burst forth, as the waters burst from the dam.

Surely we must look with dismay at many areas of our world in which human rights are discounted or denied. A case in point is Myanmar, where a democratic vote, held in 1990, has been defeated and denied by force, and where the house of the elected leader of the people is kept under constant surveillance and surrounded by soldiers.

My Government will continue to support the cause of democracy and human rights in Africa and wherever in the world such support is required. Mauritius will later this month host the twentieth session of the African Commission of Human and People's Rights, which commemorates the tenth anniversary of its African Charter. This session of the Commission will undertake, with the participation of non-governmental organizations and other interested elements of civil society, an assessment and reevaluation of the implementation of the Charter and prepare a five-year plan of action which we are confident will greatly help strengthen and improve the situation of human rights in our continent.

My country, whose only resources are the stability of its democracy and the enterprising spirit of its people, comprises many races, cultures and religions. We look to Europe, Africa, the Far East and the Indian subcontinent for our cultural inheritance. Our people cross many divides.

Therefore, we are able to witness and sense the impact of the rapid development of the modern world upon these different cultures and peoples more quickly, because we are a part of them. And I can tell the Assembly that what we see gives us cause for concern.

As the old world order passes and a new one replaces it, we are going through a period of transition fraught with pitfalls and dangers. We cannot but be dismayed at the number of countries that are falling prey to the ancient and deadly sirens of ethnicity and narrow nationalism that appeal to man's baser instincts of intolerance and xenophobic fear. Our continent of Africa seems particularly affected. Somalia and Liberia seem to descend endlessly into chaos, while Burundi threatens to blow up again.

We are concerned by recent indications that parties to the Middle East peace process may be giving in to the temptation of pandering to extremist fringes. We owe peace to this Holy Land and to the generations to come. We owe it to the memory of two statesmen who laid down their lives to this cause. The resolute pursuit of peace is the only way to defeat the assassins, those who felled President Sadat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

In the Commonwealth family of nations to which we belong, the uniqueness of which is its very diversity, a number of Member States are blighted by this affliction.

Mauritius fervently hopes that the sister island of Fiji will soon be able to resume its rightful place in the comity of nations by correcting the inequities written into that nation's constitution in a moment of tension, when racist passions were unbridled. We would be pleased to share with the people of Fiji our own constitutional experience of a pluricultural society.

In my own country, only 10 months ago in a free and democratic election, the people voted overwhelmingly for change. The Government has pledged to render our democratic process even more transparent and unequivocal. The numerous strategies and policy objectives enunciated by the new Government at the beginning of the current legislature, earlier this year, aim precisely at confronting squarely the problems that we face on all the issues that I have broached. Our overriding objective will be to ultimately make the economy work for the people and not the people work for the economy.

While a Government's overall objective is to improve the well-being of the people, sound economic

policies alone will not make our countries prosper. In order to create the right environment for the economy to flourish there must be good governance. This is also a moral imperative. The history of mankind inevitably moves in the direction of greater freedom, more transparency, wider accountability in all sectors of public life and greater access to information held by public agencies relating to citizens.

My Government is committed to a continuing process of democratization which will reinforce our institutions by creating wider confidence in them. We are convinced that this will create a climate more conducive to investment and will enhance the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of our people.

While the pursuit of happiness has perforce to be individual and private, it cannot be to the detriment of the collective good. The protection of the environment is one endeavour that has to be undertaken collectively at the national as well as the global level. Only if mankind as a whole takes care to ensure the integrity of our planet can we envisage a future for generations yet to be born. It is up to us to ensure the viability and ecological health of the planet we shall bequeath to those who come after us. My Government will pursue on its own national territory a vigorous policy of conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources. Our actions at the national level will be matched by our contributions at the international and regional levels, in concert with all our partners, to advance on these same issues.

Through our membership in regional and subregional organizations, we are undertaking, in close partnership with neighbouring countries, to advance and promote the same objectives that I have defined. Only one year after joining the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Mauritius has become an active member, putting its skills and knowledge in sectors where it has acquired valuable experience at the service of fellow members.

Mauritius informed this Assembly last year that it had initiated a process for the creation of a regional cooperation platform in the Indian Ocean region. Indeed, the Indian Ocean region was the only one in the world which did not have such a platform to discuss the economic and social development policies of its countries in a coordinated manner. I am pleased to inform the Assembly this year that the Mauritius Indian Ocean Rim Initiative has gathered considerable momentum. The Initiative, which started with only seven countries, has doubled its membership to 14 countries. A charter has been drawn up to provide the relevant framework within which to develop and implement

regional cooperation programmes. In addition, in contrast with some existing regional blocs, it has adopted an outward-looking approach, so as to be compatible with the multilateral system. The association has the distinguishing feature of having adopted a tripartite approach comprising government, the private sector and the academic community, to ensure as wide a consensus as possible.

Mauritius is convening a ministerial meeting in the first week of March 1997 to give political blessing to the Indian Ocean rim association for regional cooperation. The Indian Ocean region can now serenely look forward to playing its role, as a serious regional partner in the international arena, in the effort to uplift the standard of living of the peoples of the region. I am sure that the international community will lend its full support to this nascent regional grouping, in line with the often repeated appeal for South-South cooperation.

We have witnessed in recent years the growing significance of regional accords and blocs in determining and fashioning the orientation of multilateral financial and trading systems and institutions. We believe that regionalization is a necessary step towards a more liberal global environment inasmuch as it allows the less endowed countries and regions with specificities of their own to experiment and to test the political, economic and social reforms of their programmes. A similar approach has been adopted by the more advanced countries and regions, as evidenced by the emergence of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the consolidation of existing groupings, such as the European Union and the Association of South-East Asian Nations, to mention just a couple of them.

In addition, we have witnessed a new interpretation of the concept of regional blocs as purely geographical units that make use of their own individual characteristics to experiment, and to test political, economic and social reforms programmes within a smaller geographical entity before challenges are confronted on a worldwide scale.

Regionalization is increasingly being viewed by aid donors and international financial institutions as a means to promote overall economic development and to create an enabling environment that will attract foreign direct investment in specific regions. This process has also changed the way in which international businesses and multinational corporations are restructuring their activities. Improvements in telecommunications facilities, the adoption of advanced technology for the transmission of

information in real time and the use of more rapid and reliable modes of transportation have all contributed to giving regionalization a new dimension in political and economic issues. Hence, the prospects for ensuring a more balanced global development process are more real and attainable.

The decades-old partnership between African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States and the European Union through the Lomé Conventions, the fourth of which will come to an end in the year 2000, has served as an excellent instrument for trading agreements between the African, Asian, Pacific and Caribbean countries and the European Union. This instrument has to a very large extent helped in consolidating the links between the ACP States and the European Union. It has permitted the growth of trade, economic, political, social and cultural development, for both developed and underdeveloped countries. However, the successor agreement to Lomé IV will have to take into account the changing pattern in world trade and the acquired benefits under the Lomé Conventions, and in this context we shall wait for the publication of the green book on the subject commissioned by the European Union.

The Sugar Protocol, which provides for guaranteed prices and quotas for the ACP sugar-producing countries, has been instrumental to a large extent in the socio-economic development of Mauritius.

While I have addressed development issues mainly, we should not overlook the crucial question of disarmament. The principled stand of Mauritius in the field of disarmament has always been to advocate a world free of nuclear weapons as well as chemical and other weapons of mass destruction. On the question of nuclear weapons, we once again reaffirm our total commitment to nuclear disarmament, and hope that the world community will make all efforts to secure unanimity around the views expressed in this Assembly by Member States that have some difficulties with some treaty provisions. Furthermore, with regard particularly to the position of Mauritius on the recent decision on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, we stood by the principle that we have always applied to other issues in the past, namely that of fairness and non-discrimination against any party. It is therefore imperative that we give renewed momentum to the disarmament process in general, and address the flaws of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty urgently.

In order to meet the challenges of the next century, we believe that it is urgently necessary to pursue the reform of the United Nations. It is vital that the Security Council

should be enlarged and made more representative and balanced among its permanent members, and should include developing countries such as India. And it is equally imperative that the Working Groups of the General Assembly should complete their task of producing an effective and credible programme for reform. It seems to us self-evident that, after 50 years, some revision and redesign is necessary. We think, with Shakespeare,

“When we mean to build,
We first survey the plot, then draw the model;
And when we see the figure of the house,
Then we must rate the cost of the erection;
Which if we find outweighs ability,
What do we then but draw anew the model
In fewer offices...?” (*King Henry IV, Part 2, Act I, Scene 3*)

Some have come to this Assembly in order to complain that the world and the United Nations are not doing enough. But we should inquire of ourselves first: What are we doing to advance or to hinder these causes upon which, in principle, there is such remarkable agreement?

After this overview of the world situation, allow me to speak of a matter of national interest to us. One of the fundamental principles to which we all subscribe is that of respect for the sovereignty of Member States. Interference in the internal affairs of States and disregard for their national sovereignty has often been a source of tension and conflict. Now that the cold war is behind us and we move towards ever greater economic, commercial and cultural integration, we should be able to find amicable answers to questions of sovereignty. Mauritius has sovereignty disputes regarding the Chagos Archipelago and Tromelin Island with two countries with which we have historically close and friendly ties. These differences were referred to as friendly disputes by Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, architect of our independence and father our nation. We hope to resolve these differences through quiet diplomacy and dialogue.

The cold war has died, but the need for peace and security lives on. The state of affairs in the world today challenges us but must not daunt us. Against this background, the principle of meliorism — that the world may be made better by human effort — should prevail in our actions. Those who have the means and capabilities to help should not waver or shy away at the call of the United Nations.

These are some of the ideas that I wanted to share today. It is my hope that we will all join in a global partnership for the achievement of a better and stronger United Nations at the service of the peoples in whose name we stand here.

The Acting President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius for the statement he has just made.

The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted from the rostrum.

**General Assembly**

Fifty-second Session

17th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 30 September 1997, 10 a.m.
New York*Official Records*

President: Mr. Udovenko (Ukraine)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 9 (*continued*)

General debate

difficult and crucial issues concerning the future of our Organization.

The changes taking place throughout the world today present new challenges for the United Nations system and call for a new approach in finding appropriate solutions. It is my firm belief that the success of the United Nations cannot be contemplated without reform and renewal of the Organization. We agree that the United Nations stands at a crossroads today. Its continued role and relevance depend on its ability to adapt to the new world environment.

We now have before us a number of proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report designed to better equip the United Nations to address its tasks in the new era. I thank the Secretary-General for this in-depth and valuable exercise. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to a great son of Africa and to his sterling qualities of leadership. The report not only addresses the strengths and weaknesses of our Organization, but also contains specific proposals to enable it to face present and future challenges on a sound footing. We subscribe fully to his view that this reform exercise is a process which will have to be carried out over a continuous period of time, given all its complexity and scope. I wish to assure you, Mr. President, that my delegation will extend its fullest cooperation and will actively participate in the deliberations on the report.

We also endorse the Secretary-General's proposals for promoting greater synergy within the United Nations system. We agree that they will advance complementarity and coherence. The effectiveness of the Organization will certainly be enhanced if it operates as an orchestrated unit at Headquarters and at country level, rather than as a group of semi-autonomous players.

Likewise, we welcome the Secretary-General's idea of setting up a development account to be fed by savings from reductions in non-programme costs. We express the sincere hope that sufficient funds will be made available to produce a significant impact on development programme financing. We should ensure that this dividend for development does indeed benefit the developing world, unlike the much-trumpeted "peace dividend" of the post-cold-war era.

We uphold the proposals aimed at enhancing the strategic direction which the General Assembly should provide. However, such proposals should be subjected to the most careful scrutiny, because of all their

The President: I now call on His Excellency The Honourable Rajkeswur Purryag, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Mauritius.

Mr. Purryag (Mauritius): Mr. President, I have the distinct honour and privilege on behalf of my delegation to extend to you, Sir, our warmest congratulations upon your election as President of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly. Your election to this office is a fitting tribute to your personal qualities and recognition of the important role of your great nation in world affairs. We are confident that your wide experience and wisdom will ensure the success of our deliberations. You may rest assured of the fullest support and cooperation of my delegation.

I would also like to thank Ambassador Razali Ismail for his remarkable contribution to the last session. We thank him for his strong leadership and his hands-on approach during the discussions of some of the most

implications, particularly in respect to the smaller and more vulnerable Member States. The General Assembly, as the Secretary-General rightly points out, is the organ that

“most fully embodies the universal and democratic character of the Organization.” (*A/51/950, para. 40*)

While we support the long-standing need for focusing legislative debates and streamlining this Assembly's agenda, we must ensure that this body does not end up being dominated by the concerns of the strong and powerful members only. Countries — big or small, like mine — should have equal possibilities of articulating any issue they consider important. It is by the way in which this Organization addresses issues most relevant to its smallest members that the international community at large will judge its significance.

The debate on the reform of the Security Council seems to have registered some notable movement recently. However, the distance separating the main positions remains quite daunting. We hope that the wide spectrum of views expressed so far on this subject will eventually converge and that general agreement will be reached. Such agreement should ensure that the composition of the reformed Council is based on greater representation, transparency and equitable geographical distribution, with the inclusion of developing countries as permanent members. In this regard, we reaffirm our support for the position of the Non-Aligned Movement calling for the expansion of the Security Council on the basis of fair and adequate representation.

Africa has also stated its position on this matter at the recent Organization of African Unity (OAU) summit. The current representation of Africa in the Council does not reflect its status as the most sizeable group of the Organization's membership. Reform of this body must, therefore, restore Africa's position to the fullest extent possible.

In the same vein, my delegation would like to reiterate its support for India's claim to a permanent seat in the Security Council.

The globalization of the world economy is adding increasing pressures on the developing countries to embrace trade liberalization as a means to achieve economic growth. During the Uruguay Round negotiations developing countries made significant concessions in the hope of obtaining improved access to international markets. Many of them have still not seen the benefits of the new global

trading system. Instead, they are haunted by the spectre of imminent erosion of preferences in their major export markets. Several African countries have made strenuous efforts to adhere faithfully to structural adjustment programmes and have adopted trade liberalization policies. Unfortunately, they have registered but an insignificant, if not declining, percentage of world trade. Africa's trade should become the top priority of the international community; otherwise, the multilateral trading system will run the risk of becoming fraught with tensions and discrimination.

It is unfortunate to note that foreign direct investment, which plays a central role in the ongoing integration of the world economy, is still highly concentrated in a few countries. The recent findings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) indicate that Africa received merely \$5 billion out of \$349 billion of foreign direct investment last year. Excluding South Africa, the share of Africa in the total investment for the developing countries figured at only 4 per cent. This is the lowest share since the early 1980s, and is a further indication that the African region is not benefiting from the global foreign direct investment boom. The 33 sub-Saharan countries that are classified among the least developed countries are in fact receiving less than 1 per cent of the total foreign direct investment for Africa. It is vital that these countries be provided with greater assistance and investment and be given special attention by the international community. Otherwise, they will be further marginalized, with the risk of disappearing from the world economic map.

We therefore wish this Assembly to give more attention to the development needs of the African continent. In this context, we welcome the recent special ministerial meeting of the Security Council, which has helped focus the attention of the international community on Africa. After several years of complacency and stagnation, there is now cause for some optimism.

We agree that it is incumbent upon us Africans to put our house in order. But unless we are freed from our debt burden, future generations may never have the opportunity to have access to clean drinking water, health care or proper schooling while scarce resources have to be utilized for debt payments.

For some countries, like Mozambique, which are just emerging from years of civil conflict, the Bretton Woods initiative may have to be implemented in order to reduce debt faster. Indeed, not only do these countries have to

reduce their crushing debt load, they also have to free resources to rehabilitate their economic infrastructure and fund social expenditure.

Last week the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Robin Cook, referred to the Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting held in Mauritius earlier this month, at which the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, made specific proposals with respect to debt. These proposals, known as the Mauritius Mandate, are meant to set some of the poorest nations on a path towards sustainable development by the year 2000. We welcome this laudable initiative by the British Government to write off debts totalling 132 million pounds of heavily indebted poor countries of the Commonwealth. We hope that this important measure will encourage major financial institutions and creditor nations to come forward and participate fully in transforming the destiny of debt-ridden poor countries.

We also welcome the various initiatives recently taken by the United States to promote investment and to develop a new trade regime for sub-Saharan Africa.

We equally appreciate the partnership between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, which has, through the successive Lomé Conventions, contributed immensely to the socio-economic development of the ACP countries. We are confident that the successor arrangement to the Fourth Lomé Convention will further consolidate this long-standing economic and trade partnership, and in this context we look forward to the continued support of the international community.

We welcome the communiqué of the Denver Summit, which represents a significant advance over the New Global Partnership for Development adopted at the Lyon Summit. The Declaration "Africa: Partnership for development" focuses attention exclusively on the African continent, with particular emphasis on the least-developed and landlocked countries. However, in the pledge to integrate the poorest countries into this world economy through trade liberalization and investment policies, no specific targets were defined on trade expansion or tariff reduction. If these countries are to be completely weaned from official development assistance, not only should their capacity to produce be strengthened, but they must also be given full access to foreign markets for their products, especially those coming from their nascent and developing industries.

We are fully conscious of the fact that North-South cooperation needs to be complemented by effective South-

South cooperation. In this regard, the countries in our region have intensified their efforts to accomplish that goal.

For the Southern African Development Community (SADC), a new promising chapter was opened with the recent admission of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Seychelles. With the inclusion of these two new members, the regional grouping has become an even more important economic area in the African continent. It has the potential of becoming the driving force in promoting growth and development. There is a strong determination among the SADC members to achieve regional integration through industrial transformation and trade growth. My Government is fully committed to this goal, and I am pleased to inform this Assembly that Mauritius will have the honour and privilege of hosting the SADC summit meeting next year.

My Government is equally committed to the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), which regroups several countries of the Indian Ocean Rim in a tripartite network of Government, private sector and academia. The IOR-ARC was formally launched at a ministerial meeting in Mauritius in March this year with 14 founding members. It has generated tremendous interest among the countries of the region and internationally.

We remain confident that the international community will lend its support to these regional associations. We welcome the timely initiative announced last week by the United States Secretary of State to enhance dialogue with SADC and encourage investments and trade exchanges.

It is a matter of regret that the special session of the General Assembly held last June to review the progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21 was unable to agree on a frank assessment of the commitments entered into at Rio. Unfortunately, very little has been done on the ground. In some areas, particularly with regard to the level of official development assistance, the overall situation has actually worsened. It is disappointing that the lack of new and additional resources has not allowed the special concerns of the small island developing countries, as expressed in the Barbados Programme of Action, to be adequately addressed.

We also regret that on the question of climatic change, no consensus on limits relating to the emission of greenhouse gases could be reached. We hope that the

Kyoto Conference on Climate Change will seriously address this issue and adopt meaningful measures to cut down the production of greenhouse gases.

This year the General Assembly twice had to convene an emergency session to consider the extremely serious situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. Unilateral actions have negated the Oslo peace process. This impasse must now be broken. The recent diplomatic effort by the United States Secretary of State, Mrs. Madeleine Albright, seems to have averted a total deadlock. It is essential that the protagonists start talking to each other again.

We view with serious concern the recent events in the Islamic Federal Republic of Comoros, which have resulted in the loss of human lives on the Island of Anjouan. We appeal to all the parties to the conflict to show restraint and to strive together towards a peaceful resolution of the crisis. We reaffirm our support to the United Nations stand on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Comoros. We also welcome the constructive role played by the OAU and the League of Arab States in mediating between the various parties. We look forward to an early convening of the proposed international conference in Addis Ababa for the restoration of peace in the Islamic Federal Republic of Comoros.

The situation in Burundi continues to preoccupy the international community. We support the Arusha peace initiative and reiterate our confidence in Mwalimu Nyerere's role as facilitator in the process aimed at finding a lasting solution to the Burundi crisis.

Later this year, we will kick off the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of one of the most important seminal documents adopted by this body — the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. During the year leading to this landmark event, Mauritius will work together with all Member States in promoting and strengthening the human rights situation everywhere, especially in the communities to which we are more closely associated through shared history and culture, namely the Commonwealth and the community of French-speaking countries.

The promotion of human rights has been an article of faith for my Government. It is also an integral part of our foreign policy. In this respect we welcome the setting up of the Indian Ocean Institute of Human Rights and Democracy in Mauritius for the promotion of human rights and democracy. We pledge our full support to this Institute. Human rights for all, including women and children, and democratic values are matters of universal concern.

As a multi-ethnic democracy, Mauritius has always raised its voice strongly against discrimination based on race, religion, culture and otherwise. In this regard, we note with satisfaction the recent developments in Fiji, which has finally decided to amend its Constitution in order to promote social harmony. We hope that the Government of Fiji will tackle the remaining issues standing in the way of the full enjoyment of fundamental rights and basic economic security by all segments of the population of Fiji.

Mr. Zacharakis (Greece), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Mauritius reaffirms its full commitment to total disarmament and urges the world community to make every effort to rid itself of all weapons of mass destruction. It is in this spirit that Mauritius was among the first countries to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention and the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. We also reaffirm our support for the Ottawa initiative for a universal ban on anti-personnel landmines. It is regrettable that some major countries have decided to stay out of this process. We make a strong appeal to all Governments to become part of this unique and historic endeavour to eliminate landmines.

(spoke in French)

Allow me to take this opportunity to reaffirm the fact that my country, Mauritius, a former French island, belongs to the great community of French-speaking countries. This sense of belonging culminated with the holding in 1993 of the sixth summit of the French-speaking countries, whose central theme was "Unity in diversity", and which celebrated not only the universal values of the French-speaking countries but also made it possible for us to enshrine those same values in our society. Our people, who come from Africa, Asia and Europe, have deep roots in all the great cultures that form the French-speaking community. My compatriots can, in the course of one day, travel through all these cultures, one after another.

It is for that reason that my country attaches such great importance to the Francophone plan of promoting diversity in a world that is increasingly unipolar and uniform. The upcoming summit in Hanoi will mark a very important stage in the future of this French-speaking community, providing it with the effective political means to make its voice heard on major international issues.

(spoke in English)

This Assembly is by now well aware of the just and legitimate claim of Mauritius to the restoration of its territorial integrity through the return of the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, to its national heritage. This Assembly should also note that this issue also has a tragic human dimension. Before Mauritius acceded to its independence, all of the inhabitants of the Chagos were forced to leave the land of their birth, where they had lived for several generations. The plight of those inhabitants must now be comprehensively addressed.

Likewise, we are still awaiting the return of the island of Tromelin to Mauritius. As we pursue our efforts to recover these territories, we call upon the former colonial Powers to expedite this process through dialogue in the spirit of the friendship that characterizes our relationships. My Government looks forward to an early resolution of these disputes.

The Acting President: I now call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lesotho, His Excellency Mr. Kelebone Maope.



General Assembly

Fifty-third Session

Official Records

11th plenary meeting
Wednesday, 23 September 1998, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Operti (Uruguay)

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

His Excellency The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

Mr. Ramgoolam (Mauritius): Our presence here today is, for my delegation and my country, cause for some celebration. This is the thirtieth anniversary of our first participation in the General Assembly. Upon the attainment of our independence in 1968, the father of the nation, the then Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, addressed the United Nations.

I join the speakers before me in congratulating Mr. Operti on his assumption of the office of President of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

I would also like to thank his predecessor, Mr. Udovenko, for the manner in which he conducted the work of the previous session.

I wish to commend our Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for his wise leadership and vision, which have been a source of renewed confidence in the future of this Organization. We welcome his efforts to lead a reformed and more effective United Nations into the twenty-first century to better carry out our mission of peace, development and human rights. We wish to assure him of our total support in the continuation of the reform process.

We are alive to the intense debate on the reform of the Security Council. We reiterate our position that the Security Council should be enlarged and made more democratic and representative. In this respect, we reaffirm our commitment to the stand taken by the Non-Aligned Movement at the recent Summit in Durban.

In recent years the world has been profoundly transformed by the powerful forces of globalization and liberalization.

All countries are now inextricably linked as distances between them become increasingly immaterial through great leaps in information technology and communications.

The tremors triggered by the crises of the South-East Asian economies and, more recently, the turmoil in the world financial markets have shown in a dramatic way the dangers of the contagion effect. Even those countries which are trying to be efficient and competitive face the possibility of external shocks because of the volatility of capital markets.

Agenda item 9 *(continued)*

General debate

Address by The Honourable Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius

The Acting President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius.

The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted to the rostrum.

The Acting President: I have great pleasure in welcoming the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius,

I believe that the world community should devise creative and effective mechanisms to prevent emerging economies which have put in hard work from losing the fruits of liberalization.

We must not go back to the inward-looking strategies of the 1960s. We must continue to open our economies, but with greater caution.

This is a great challenge for a large majority of nations, particularly the least developed ones. We know only too well that a number of developing countries are among the most vulnerable and are not yet ready to integrate into the global economy.

When I last addressed this Assembly, I dwelled at some length on the generally grim situation in Africa, which remains one of the most intractable challenges to the world community. It is a continent rich in natural resources and yet afflicted by widespread poverty.

Peace and development in Africa have been, for more than a decade, the subject of endless debates and resolutions at the United Nations. But we know that sustainable development in Africa is conditional upon the achievement of a strife-free continent. It is sad indeed that year after year the number of potential flashpoints seems to grow more numerous. The situation in many regions of Africa remains a cause for great concern.

The peoples of the continent can ill afford the pointless strife and violence visited upon them at a time when the priorities should be economic and social development.

We in Africa naturally have to bear the primary responsibility for assuring lasting peace for our peoples. This is precisely what the leaders of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) are striving to achieve.

In his statement to this Assembly, on Monday, President Nelson Mandela, current Chairman of SADC, mentioned the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This difficult problem figured prominently on the agenda of the summit which Mauritius hosted a few days ago, after it was addressed earlier by the Victoria Falls meeting and the Pretoria special SADC summit.

I wish to renew here our appeal to all parties involved in this conflict to solve their differences peacefully through political dialogue and diplomacy. In the Indian Ocean region to our immediate southwest, Mauritius is

participating fully in the efforts of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and of the countries of that region to seek a peaceful resolution to the crisis facing the Comoros on account of separatist activities by a group on the island of Anjouan. Mauritius fully supports the unity and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of the Comoros.

Fortunately, however, all is not gloom when we survey Africa. We note with satisfaction the continuous positive economic growth that most sub-Saharan countries have enjoyed lately.

I had the privilege to participate in a round table together with the Deputy President of South Africa earlier this year, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, on the new competitive Africa. The consensus was that Africa stands at the threshold of a new era — an era of opportunity and dynamism. We are at the dawn of an African renaissance.

Governments in Africa are becoming increasingly democratic and responsive, putting more emphasis on economic development, greater openness, market-oriented policies and greater economic reform.

Regional cooperation is another positive feature of the new Africa, working through groupings such as SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to facilitate cross-border trade leading to the ultimate establishment of an African Economic Community.

But for Africa to realize its full potential, several serious constraints will have to be overcome.

The international economic environment should be made less hostile to Africa. Africa's shares of world trade and foreign direct investment still remain at a paltry level.

The debt burden has become in itself a crippling factor and needs urgently to be alleviated.

We also cannot sufficiently emphasize the importance of official development assistance in this regard. We therefore deeply deplore the decline in the levels of official development assistance among the major donor countries. Today, they stand at a historical low. We are now, more than ever, far off the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product recommended by this Assembly. This trend must be reversed.

Mauritius took the initiative recently of highlighting the specificities of small island economies in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the negotiations of a successor agreement to the Lomé IV Convention. As a result, recent ministerial declarations adopted by both the WTO and the OAU now contain explicit references to small economies and their high vulnerability. This reality is now gaining recognition within the Bretton Woods institution.

For the reasons I have just mentioned, small economies require time and space to adjust to the new world trade order. We therefore reiterate the need for the maintenance of non-reciprocal trade regimes until such a time as we are adequately prepared.

The Lomé Convention is a model of North-South cooperation. The proposed United States African Growth and Opportunity Act could become another. Together with the other members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), we would like to reaffirm our total support for its passage.

Mauritius has always accorded the highest priority to regionalization to break out of its insularity and enlarge its economic base. Mauritius was a major player in launching, 15 years ago, the Indian Ocean Commission and, more recently, the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation.

The Assembly will appreciate that an island State like Mauritius would be interested in the protection of the marine environment. We recommend for the particular attention of the General Assembly the report of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, according to which the very survival of the human race over the long term is jeopardized by the abuses to which the world's oceans are subjected.

We have to address as a matter of priority the three most immediate dangers identified by the Commission: the overexploitation of marine biological resources, the dumping of toxic waste and the harmful effects of global warming. While much has been achieved since the Rio Earth Summit, we deplore the fact that the initial momentum and urgency appear to have been lost in sterile and fractious debate. I urge that we address these questions, on which our very survival depends, with renewed earnestness and a greater sense of shared responsibility.

(spoke in French)

In December we will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption and proclamation by this Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For us, that will also provide an opportunity to recall another milestone in the history of human rights: the adoption by the French Constituent Assembly of the declaration of the rights of man and of the citizen more than two centuries ago.

At this historic moment, we wish to recall the preamble of the Charter of our Organization, which proclaims our

“faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small”.

We also reaffirm our profound belief in the equality of all rights — social, economic and cultural, as well as civil and political. Today, Governments can no longer flout the rights of their citizens without being subjected to the censure of the international community. Yet millions of inhabitants of many parts of the world remain deprived of their fundamental rights by oppressors and tyrants who govern by force. We have observed with horror the atrocious crimes against the dignity and worth of the human being committed during recent conflicts. My Government therefore welcomes the recent adoption in Rome of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

(spoke in English)

My Government believes that respect for human rights is but one facet of the indispensable foundation of the harmonious development of a country. Democracy and transparent and accountable government, as well as effective participation by civil society, are the other essential ingredients for successful development. Considering the complex sociocultural and ethnic mix of our population, we have taken great care to ensure that all our citizens, regardless of their origins or gender, have equal access to education, adequate health care, proper housing and employment opportunities. We will soon introduce in our own National Assembly a protection of human rights bill, which will provide for the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission.

At the continental African level, participants at the Third Conference of African Women Parliamentarians, which Mauritius was privileged to host, adopted the Port Louis Declaration, calling for increased political commitment at all levels for the promotion of gender

equality and the empowerment of women. We in Mauritius are taking legislative measures to translate our commitment into practical reality.

We have now become even more aware of the need to seek global solutions to our common problems. Climate change, illicit drug-trafficking and terrorism are problems which require a coordinated international approach. No nation can live under a dome, with its climate isolated from the rest of the world. No country can on its own fight international drug traffickers or terrorism. We therefore condemn unequivocally all forms of terrorism and call for enhanced international cooperation to combat and prevent its occurrence.

While social, economic and trade matters are increasingly — and with good reason — occupying centre stage in international forums, crucial problems of security and disarmament continue to retain their capacity to derail our efforts for development.

Earlier this year we were reminded of the dangers for humanity of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the attendant risks of a new arms race. No country can feel genuinely secure as long as the threat of nuclear weapons exists from any quarter. In this respect, we welcome the stand taken by both India and Pakistan in exercising self-restraint. We reiterate our position that any international instrument for the elimination of nuclear arsenals should be non-discriminatory in nature. Security for all will be achieved only when that threat is completely eliminated. Global nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction must remain our ultimate goal.

Finally, as on past occasions, we would like to bring up once more before this Assembly our lasting claim on the sovereignty of two territories which were taken from our patrimony: the island of Tromelin and the Chagos archipelago. We reiterate our call to the former colonial Powers to enter into constructive bilateral dialogue with my Government for the early restoration of those territories to the sovereignty of Mauritius.

Regarding the Chagos archipelago, this Assembly should also be reminded that some 1,500 inhabitants — the so-called “Illois” — were coerced to leave their homeland to clear the way for a military base. Most of the families, who had lived for generations on these islands, were moved to the main island of Mauritius, victims of the then prevailing cold war. Today, after more than 30 years, they still experience tremendous difficulties adapting to their present conditions. Many yearn to be resettled on these

islands. As we are about to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of this century’s seminal document on human rights, we consider that we owe it to these Illois to fully re-establish their rights, including the right of return.

The Acting President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius for the statements he has just made.

The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted from the rostrum.



General Assembly

Fifty-fourth session

18th plenary meeting

Thursday, 30 September 1999, 10.10

New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Gurirab (Namibia)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Rakhmanov
(Tajikistan), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 9 (*continued*)

General debate

The Acting President (*spoke in Russian*): I call on the Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius, His Excellency the Honourable Rajkeswur Purryag.

Mr. Purryag (Mauritius): It is a distinct pleasure to address the Assembly with a distinguished son of Africa and a veteran freedom fighter in the presidency. His election to preside over this last session of the closing millennium is a fitting tribute to his outstanding qualities. I congratulate him warmly and assure him of the total support and cooperation of my delegation.

We also thank His Excellency Mr. Operti for the excellent manner in which he presided over the work of the fifty-third session. The Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, whose strong commitment to the cause of the United Nations needs hardly be emphasized, has continued to lead the Organization with vision, vigour and great dedication.

Mauritius welcomes very warmly the admission of the Kingdom of Tonga, the Republic of Kiribati and the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations.

The curtain will soon fall on our eventful twentieth century, a century of tremendous achievements by mankind. The wide world has been reduced to a global village through progress in the field of science and technology during this century. The political map of the world has undergone tremendous transformation. It is hardly recognizable from what it used to be at this century's outset. Today, our world is made of independent nations, with peoples themselves in charge of their destinies. On the other hand, we did experience the horrors of wars in the first half of the century but decided never to let it happen again. We created the United Nations in the aftermath of the Second World War as a forum for all nations to carry forward together a common pledge for lasting world peace and promote development and progress for all humanity.

During this century man has paradoxically also created weapons of mass destruction that threaten his very existence. Disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, remains a major preoccupation for all of us as we step into the new millennium. The United Nations, representing the collective conscience of nations, has endeavoured to serve humanity and the cause of peace and development. The United Nations is the sole mechanism through which universal peace can be secured. We unanimously agree also that reforms to the Charter of the United Nations are necessary — indeed, overdue — as in its present form it does not reflect the tremendous changes the world has undergone since the Organization was founded half a century ago.

It is now almost six years since the General Assembly established the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council. Progress has been slow and has taken place on a limited set of issues only.

What is lacking for the process to move forward is political will on the part of some members. The fact is that the Security Council in its present form is neither adequately representative nor sufficiently transparent in its work for its decisions to be universally accepted.

Mauritius supports the proposals of the Non-Aligned Movement and of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the reform of the Security Council. We appeal to all Members of the United Nations to work together constructively and advance the much needed reform process expeditiously.

While the international community has largely been successful in averting global wars, armed conflicts have continued to endanger national, regional and international peace. In particular, the African continent has continued to be afflicted with conflicts, the worst being the crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the continued civil war in Angola.

However, the international community should take comfort in the fact that the leaders on the African continent have spared no efforts to find solutions and restore peace in the countries and areas in question. Through tireless and extensive efforts of African leaders, the OAU and the United Nations, and all the parties concerned in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, have signed the Lusaka Agreement in order to

restore peace and stability in the country. One of the fundamental aspects of the Agreement is the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force, with the task of ensuring that all parties respect the terms of the Lusaka Agreement. We deplore the fact that the United Nations peacekeeping force has still not assumed its crucial responsibility in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We call upon the Security Council to give due priority to this matter so that a peacekeeping force is dispatched expeditiously, as delay to do so may imperil the implementation of the Agreement.

The rebellion in Angola continues because of arms supplies from outside to the forces of destabilization. The Security Council is fully apprised of this and confident that those guilty of breaking the embargo on arms supply to UNITA will be identified and held responsible. The people of Angola have indeed suffered too long. We therefore appeal to all nations to take necessary steps to ensure that unscrupulous elements do not channel weapons to the forces of rebellion in Angola out of their greed of monetary windfalls. The international community needs to intensify its efforts to end the rebellion in Angola.

The armed conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea ended with the signing recently of an agreement with the help of the OAU and several African leaders and friendly countries. We hope that the spirit in which the two countries have agreed to end their differences will continue and that lasting peace will return to the region. We are also heartened by the fact that an agreement has been signed between the parties concerned to end the internal strife in Sierra Leone. We are confident that peace and stability will now return to Sierra Leone.

In the Comoros, forces of destabilization have continued to thwart the return to normalcy. Through tireless efforts by the OAU and countries of the region, a conference of all the Comoros parties concerned was held earlier this year in Madagascar with a view to reaching an agreement under which peace and stability would return to the Comoros and territorial integrity and sovereignty would be maintained. Unfortunately, the military coup derailed the whole process. We therefore call for the establishment of democratic rule in the Comoros so that the agreement reached at the Antananarivo conference can be fully implemented.

The Kosovo conflict has distressed us all. We have witnessed the horrors of ethnic cleansing, massive disruption of the life of a people and terrible destruction inflicted on a country. We must all remember many

messages from the events in Kosovo. Humanity will not sit idly by when people are flagrantly subjected to genocide for reason of ethnic bigotry or political expediency. Quick-fix military action to resolve deep-rooted problems is not necessarily the best option. The United Nations remains the most appropriate mechanism for addressing issues that relate to maintenance of international peace and security.

Mauritius is deeply distressed by the violence in East Timor, the loss of so many innocent lives and the terrible sufferings inflicted on the Timorese people in the aftermath of the recent referendum. We welcome the action undertaken by the United Nations to send a peacekeeping force to restore peace and security on the island. The verdict of the referendum must be respected by the Indonesian Government and all parties concerned.

In the Middle East, the determination shown by the new Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Ehud Barak, to move the peace process forward, together with President Arafat, is most encouraging not only to the parties concerned in the region but also to the international community as a whole. This moment of great optimism must be seized in order to work out a comprehensive and just settlement that will bring lasting peace and stability to the region.

In 1996 our delegation, led by the Prime Minister of Mauritius, The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, drew special attention to the situation in Fiji. We are pleased that the new constitutional process under which general elections were recently held has removed the iniquities which were written into that nation's Constitution before. We welcome this change and congratulate the people of Fiji on their courage and determination to bring the change in a democratic and peaceful manner.

(spoke in French)

Conflicts and wars, even after they have ended, invariably leave serious humanitarian situations behind them. The humanitarian crises in Africa seem of little interest to the cameras of international television networks. There are more than 12 million people who need urgent humanitarian assistance in Africa. The humanitarian agencies have received only \$352 million although their needs for Africa in 1999 are in the order of \$796 million.

Peacemaking efforts must be supported by effective humanitarian aid, especially for refugees. The host

countries, already faced with their own difficulties, cannot take on this heavy burden. To give lasting peace a real chance, it is also necessary to support the return of refugees so as to make the stabilization of society possible. A special financing effort on the part of the international community is necessary to that end.

(spoke in English)

Respect for human rights is of primordial importance for the prevention of conflicts and for the maintenance of durable peace. We believe that all countries should make strict adherence to the human rights instruments of the United Nations a matter of national priority. We in Mauritius always place human rights high on our national and international agenda. Mauritius was honoured to host the First OAU ministerial conference on human rights, held earlier this year in the context of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The conference reviewed the human rights situation in Africa and adopted a declaration and plan of action which aim at strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights.

We have witnessed gross violations of human rights, particularly under military regimes. In this regard, the decision at the recent OAU summit in Algiers to exclude from that organization those leaders who assume power in the continent through military coups is an important step that will help the cause of democracy and human rights.

Mr. Essy (Cote d'Ivoire), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Mauritius has welcomed the International Criminal Court and was amongst the first to ratify the Statute establishing it. We look forward to an early conclusion of the work of our experts who are currently engaged in finalizing the rules to enable the International Criminal Court to commence its work.

The easy availability of light and small-calibre weapons has given rise to numerous conflicts, particularly in Africa. These small arms, besides exacerbating conflicts, give rise to social disruption, insecurity, instability, violence and crime. In view of the magnitude of the problem, the OAU summit in Algiers last July decided to convene a regional conference to address the issue fully. We urge the international community to take measures to control the flow of small arms.

Disarmament is essential for international peace. It is regrettable that the threat of nuclear holocaust will accompany humanity into the new millennium because of the international community's failure to work out a regime for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty we have taken important steps on the issue of nuclear disarmament, but these alone cannot eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons. Mauritius continues to be firmly of the belief that the best way for the international community to address the nuclear disarmament issue effectively is to establish a clear timetable for nuclear-weapon Powers to commit themselves to dismantle all nuclear weapons and for all nations to commit themselves to not develop such weapons in the future. So far we have adopted half-way measures only; it is time for a bold step to be taken that would eliminate nuclear weapons once and for all.

Chemical weapons, as weapons of mass destruction, can inflict untold miseries on their victims. The Convention on Chemical Weapons — a very significant achievement — must be adhered to by all nations, particularly countries that have chemical weapons in their possession.

The lives of many people around the world, in Africa in particular, continue to be affected by landmines. We believe it is the responsibility of all nations to address this problem collectively. We appeal to those countries that have not yet acceded to the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines to do so and also to contribute financially to the efforts to remove all landmines.

Peace, security and development are indivisible and mutually reinforcing. As we stand at the threshold of the twenty-first century we have a historic opportunity to create a long-term visionary strategy for the sustainable development of all countries of the world, in particular African States, and thus promote international peace and security. This is extremely important if we really want to avoid the marginalization in the wake of the irreversible process of globalization and unbridled liberalization. It is increasingly being realized that market forces alone cannot resolve the problems of poverty, deprivation and marginalization, particularly in Africa, which comprises the largest number of least-developed countries. The United Nations system, in our view, has an important role to play in this respect as there is a crying need for coherence in the formulation and implementation of policies in the trade, finance and social sectors.

It is true that globalization brings both challenges and opportunities, but to many developing countries the challenges are proving overwhelming. But there does not seem to be any alternative, in a world characterized by the "*pensée unique*", to making the necessary adjustments to join a fast globalizing world economy. Higher levels of investment; technology transfer; and institutional, human resource and infrastructure capacity-building, will be required especially for African countries, if they are to make the necessary transition.

The developed world and the major financial and trading organizations must be not only cognizant of the situation but also responsive to the constraints on and needs of the developing world in general and the least-developed countries and vulnerable small island developing States in particular.

The heavy debt burden, the declining level of official development assistance — which currently stands at 0.22 per cent of gross domestic product compared to the target of 0.7 per cent — and insignificant private investment flows into Africa do not allow many African countries to implement successfully the necessary adjustment programmes to compete effectively in the world market. Only decisive action to resolve the debt problem can provide the necessary impetus.

Although we recognize that the Cologne Summit initiative represents an improvement over the original Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative, we believe that the unsustainable debt of Africa — which contains 33 of the 41 HIPC countries — should be written off, for only then can those countries embark on the path of sustainable growth and development.

In that connection, we welcome the recently announced plan to cancel \$27 billion of debt owed by the poorest countries to allow them to use those resources to finance education and health, which are important in dealing with the problem of poverty.

We also commend the World Bank for establishing the \$400 million Infrastructure Investment Fund, whose advisory board will be headed by Mr. Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa.

Capacity-building in all sectors of the economy is important if developing countries are to benefit from the opportunities arising from globalization and trade liberalization. But in view of the lack of a level playing field and the inherent obstacles facing African, Caribbean

and Pacific countries, it is imperative for them to continue to benefit from trade preferences in the European Union under the successor to the fourth ACP-CEE Convention of Lomé for a sufficiently long transitional period before they implement any alternative trade arrangement.

The euphoria created following the signing of the Marrakesh agreement in 1994 after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round has been short-lived; many developing countries today recognize that they are overburdened with World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments and obligations. There is indeed a growing recognition that implementation of these commitments is simply beyond their capacity, or rather that there is a limit to trade liberalization and deregulation.

It is, therefore, important to allow developing countries flexibility within the world trading system to implement policies in harmony with their sustainable development needs. The provisions on special and differential treatment in all areas covered by WTO agreements should be fully and effectively implemented. In this regard, it is also crucial that the multilateral trading system should facilitate the process of regional integration, because for many countries regional integration is an important step towards their integration into the global economy.

We welcome and support the recent OAU decision to accelerate implementation of the 1991 Abuja Treaty for the establishment of an African Economic Community. This process could be facilitated by effective implementation of the United States of America-Africa Blueprint adopted in March 1999 and more importantly, of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. We urge the United States to ensure early passage of this long-standing Bill with its original provisions on textiles and clothing.

Two days ago, I had the opportunity in my address to the recent Assembly special session to highlight both the inherent constraints on small island developing countries and their development needs. The special session gave us an opportunity to review the implementation of the Barbados Declaration and Programme of Action for the sustainable development of small island developing States (SIDS): we must take the process further to embrace other issues, such as concessional loans and trade preferences for SIDS.

I reiterate my appeal to the international community to give special attention to the plight of SIDS, in terms both of providing financial resources, and of encouraging

foreign direct investment, and also in the context of the negotiations for the third WTO Ministerial Conference, in Seattle. We must ensure that the Conference, which is to be held later this year, addresses the marginalization of small economies and the problems of developing countries that are net importers of food by adopting specific and practical measures. We must also see to it that the Seattle Round of multilateral trade negotiations is a "development round" that puts the issue of development firmly on the international agenda. The WTO negotiations in Seattle should be broad-based and should provide a balanced outcome from which all countries will benefit.

In this connection, it should be emphasized that agricultural trade is of vital importance to a number of developing countries, in particular to small economies including small and vulnerable island developing States. In the agricultural trade negotiations we should give just as much importance to non-trade issues such as food security, environmental protection and the viability of rural populations.

These are vital issues for Mauritius, and for many other SIDS and small economies and small economies. And that is why we are emphasizing the multifunctionality of agriculture. Planting sugar cane, which is the only crop suitable to our difficult terrains, and which is resistant to adverse climatic conditions like cyclones and droughts, also contributes to environmental protection by providing a renewable source of energy. Sugar exports earnings assure food security. Many small island developing countries are in the same situation as Mauritius. We would therefore urge that this important dimension be fully taken into account in the WTO negotiations on agriculture.

Economic growth by itself does not bring about sustainable socio-economic development. Social development should continue to be given due consideration by our Organization. We therefore welcome the follow-up conferences on social development and on women, which will be organized next year.

For the majority of small States, the United Nations continues to be the main bulwark against infringements on their sovereignty and territorial integrity. We have consistently drawn the attention of the Assembly to the issue of the Chagos Archipelago, which was detached from Mauritius by the former colonial Power prior to our independence in 1968, and also to the plight of over 2000 people who were forced to leave the land of their birth, where they had lived for generations, for resettlement in Mauritius. This was done in total disregard of the United

Nations declaration embodied in resolution 1514 (XV), of 14 December 1960, and resolution 2066 (XX), of 16 December 1965, which prohibit the dismemberment of colonial Territories prior to independence.

Mauritius has repeatedly asked for the return of the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, on which a United States military base has been built, and thereby the restoration of its territorial integrity. The over 2,000 displaced Ilois people have been facing tremendous difficulties in adapting in mainland Mauritius, in spite of all the efforts that Mauritius has made to assist them in this process.

So far the issue has been discussed within the framework of our friendly relations with the United Kingdom, with a view to arriving at an acceptable solution. Unfortunately, there has not been significant progress. The United Kingdom has been maintaining that the Chagos Archipelago will be returned to Mauritius only when it is no longer required for defence purposes by the West. While we continue the dialogue for an early resolution of the issue on a bilateral basis, we urge the United Kingdom in the meantime to allow the displaced inhabitants to return to the Chagos Archipelago. At the dawn of the new millennium, when we so strongly uphold universal recognition of and respect for fundamental human rights, the inhabitants of Chagos should not continue to be denied the right to return to the Chagos Archipelago.

The restoration of the territorial integrity of the State of Mauritius will not be complete without the return of Tromelin. We therefore call upon France to resume constructive discussions with us on the question of Tromelin.

This is the last session of the General Assembly for this century. When we meet next year it will be a new millennium. The question that comes to our minds is whether we want to come back next year and discuss the same issues and the same problems. Should we not, rather, make a pledge here and now that by the time we meet next year we will have taken the necessary measures that will put an end to regional and ethnic problems and to the abuse of human rights, and will instead create the necessary environment to enable the human race to enjoy basic freedom and basic rights in peace and prosperity? Mauritius is ready to make such a pledge.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Congo, His Excellency Mr. Rodolphe Adada.

**General Assembly**

Fifty-fourth session

19th plenary meeting

Thursday, 30 September 1999, 3 p.m.

New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Gurirab (Namibia)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 9 *(continued)*

General debate

The Acting President: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

May I remind members that statements in exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second, and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. Smith (United Kingdom): I should like to speak briefly in exercise of the right of reply to respond to the remarks about the Chagos Archipelago made this morning by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Mauritius.

The British Government maintains that the British Indian Ocean Territory is British and has been since 1814. It does not recognize the sovereignty claim of the Mauritian Government. However, the British Government has recognized Mauritius as the only State which has a right to assert a claim of sovereignty when the United Kingdom relinquishes its own sovereignty. Successive British Governments have given undertakings to the Government of Mauritius that the Territory will be ceded when no longer required for defence purposes.

The British Government remains open to discussions regarding arrangements governing the British Indian Ocean Territory or the future of the Territory. The British Government has stated that when the time comes for the Territory to be ceded it will liaise closely with the Government of Mauritius.

The question of access to the British Indian Ocean Territory is at present before the courts in the United Kingdom, and is therefore *sub judice*. The Government of the United Kingdom has the matter under careful consideration and cannot comment further.



General Assembly

Fifty-fifth session

Official Records

28th plenary meeting

Friday, 22 September 2000, 10 a.m.

New York

President: Mr. Holkeri (Finland)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Mungra
(Suriname), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 9 (*continued*)

General debate

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

The Acting President: I give the floor to His Excellency The Honourable Anil Kumarsingh Gayan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Mauritius.

Mr. Gayan (Mauritius): It gives me great pleasure to address the Assembly under the leadership of Mr. Harri Holkeri. I offer him our heartiest congratulations on his election to preside over this first session of the new millennium and assure him of the total support and cooperation of my delegation.

We would like also to thank Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, the Foreign Minister of Namibia, for the excellent manner in which he presided over the work of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly. This year again, we wish to compliment the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for his remarkable leadership in the conduct of the work of the United Nations. We pay special tribute also to the President of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly and to the Secretary-General for their imaginative and tireless efforts in achieving the resounding success of the Millennium Summit, held here just a few weeks ago. We also wish to welcome Tuvalu as the newest Member of the United Nations family.

During that historic Summit — the largest gathering of heads of State or Government the world has ever seen — the relevance and importance of the United Nations in a global society was emphasized. World leaders pledged most prominently their commitment to ensuring that the United Nations adapts to the new era and strengthens its capacity to deal with the challenges of maintaining peace and security, eliminating poverty and promoting development and progress for the benefit of all humanity.

Since its inception, the United Nations has been a beacon of hope to mankind for a more secure and prosperous world. The recently adopted Millennium Declaration provides fresh impetus to the United Nations to rededicate itself to the fulfilment of the lofty ideals of our Organization, namely to uphold world peace and security and promote cooperation and development in all areas of human endeavour.

The maintenance of world peace and security remains the biggest challenge for our Organization. The continued existence of nuclear arsenals and the threat of a nuclear disaster represent a major impediment to the maintenance of peace and security. Following the end of the cold war, the feeling of insecurity created by nuclear militarization has diminished, but the international community's aspiration to global disarmament and the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction within a defined time-frame has eluded us.

We welcome all the efforts the international community is making towards achieving universal acceptance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Yet more than 30,000 nuclear weapons are deployed around the world, including weapons that are still maintained in a high state of readiness. The risk that nuclear weapons may explode, whether by design or by accident, is ever growing. My delegation is convinced that the early convening of an international conference on nuclear disarmament to address issues of global denuclearization, including the total elimination of all existing nuclear weapons within a specific time-frame, is of critical importance. Such a conference would allow all States, most importantly those possessing nuclear capabilities and which do not fall under the purview of the NPT and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), to voice their concerns and contribute substantially towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. This is a debt we owe to generations yet unborn.

The role of the Security Council in the crucial area of international peace and security is evident. However, this central organ of our Organization will be rendered even more effective if it is further strengthened to make it respond positively to the emerging new realities which the new millennium is bound to confront.

Members of the United Nations attach great importance to the need for reform of this supreme

body. It is to be noted that under the existing provisions of the Charter, which date back from a time when two thirds of the Members of the United Nations were still under colonial rule, a handful of States on the Security Council have the power to make decisions that bind the whole membership. Such a mode of operation is completely out of tune with today's realities, and, for this institution to retain its credibility, it should undergo a comprehensive reform, taking into consideration proper and equitable geographical representation.

In this regard, Mauritius supports the position of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the expansion and representativity of the Security Council, and we look forward to an early conclusion of the work of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council.

We support an increase in the membership of the Security Council, and we are in favour of making the Council an effective representative body that can act in the interests of humankind at large at all times.

The meeting of the Security Council at the level of heads of State during the Millennium Summit was an unparalleled opportunity for the 15 Members to discuss, at the highest level, how to make peacekeeping operations more responsive. We are all aware that deployment of United Nations troops in conflict situations is seen as the last chance for the restoration of peace and, in this venture, we simply cannot afford to fail. Therefore, the discussions that took place at the summit level of the Security Council need to be seriously pursued so that the future orientation of peacekeeping operations may be effected on a sounder basis.

In this respect, we welcome the proposals for improving the United Nations peacekeeping performance, as contained in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations — the Brahimi Report — and we look forward to their speedy implementation.

It is indeed a sad reflection that at the dawn of a new century, several African nations, such as Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Somalia and the Comoros remain trapped in civil conflicts with disastrous consequences for millions of people on the continent and in the

subregion. At the regional level, the OAU, as well as leaders of the subregions concerned, have spared no efforts to address each of these conflicts, but we need to realize that no great success has been achieved so far. The intransigence of the main protagonists involved continues to remain the stumbling block towards the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa.

The involvement of the United Nations in these conflicts has unfortunately also met with little success. We need to be imaginative, and we need to explore, with the civil society in each country in conflict, ways and means to convincingly establish that the fruits of peace are achievable. We need to look at the permanence of our interests, and these are based in peace and stability.

We also note with great concern that, despite all the efforts and steps taken by the OAU for a speedy return to constitutional order in the Comoros, the Anjouanese separatists and the military leadership in Moroni have signed the Fomboni Declaration in defiance of the OAU and the international community. We urge the international community to refrain from lending any support to the Fomboni Joint Declaration which, we believe, will undermine the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros. Indeed, it is unacceptable that the future of the archipelago of the Comoros be compromised by two individuals who are non-elected and do not represent the aspirations of the population. We reiterate our support to the OAU in its ongoing efforts aimed at resolving the crisis, in accordance with the provisions of the Antananarivo accord, which remains the most viable framework for a lasting, consensual and durable solution to the crisis. We call on the military regime and the separatists in Anjouan to cooperate with the OAU so as to achieve an early resolution of the crisis.

We welcome the signing of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea this year. This is a positive step, and we urge the OAU, the United Nations and other States to continue support for these two countries to take the next steps to conclude a settlement for lasting peace. Our region deserves no less.

While, inevitably, the international community, through the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, must continue to do all it can to end the existing conflicts and prevent new ones, there is an important aspect of civil conflict that cannot

be overlooked any longer. It has been established beyond doubt that civil conflicts such as those in Angola and Sierra Leone have resulted from personal ambition or greed for private enrichment on the part of powerful individuals, rather than in pursuit of a legitimate cause and struggle for the common good. In pursuit of their sinister designs, these individuals wage long wars on and against their own people and, acting with impunity, inflict untold suffering on the masses, including women, the elderly and children, cause refugee problems within and outside their national frontiers, and retard development and progress of their countries. We believe that such dangerous persons should not only be condemned and stopped as early as possible from pursuing their unpatriotic designs, but also should be made to answer to their people and to the international community for the crimes they commit.

The proposed International Criminal Court should serve as the tribunal of the international community to try and punish such individuals and, the sooner it starts functioning, the better it will be for humanity at large. The International Criminal Court will not only be a deterrent for people who engage in heinous crimes but will also be an important instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security. Unless such a step is taken, the world will continue to face similar tragedies, and the perpetrators of such tragedies will go unpunished.

At long last, we have seen a glimmer of hope for the suffering people of Somalia. We congratulate the leaders of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) for their initiative in putting together a peace and reconciliation process that will allow for the establishment of a representative government to take charge of the affairs of the country. We appeal to all factions in Somalia to come together and to take part in this new initiative, with a view to stopping the misery that the Somali people have endured for too long.

Important steps have been made this year towards peace in the Middle East. We congratulate President Arafat and Prime Minister Barak for the courage they demonstrated recently during the difficult negotiations in Camp David under the guidance of President Clinton. We believe that, having reached such a crucial stage of the negotiations, President Arafat and Prime Minister Barak must meet the daunting challenge of taking further steps forward to reach a final agreement.

We are confident that both leaders have the capacity to bridge the gaps and reach a mutually acceptable and satisfactory agreement. We appreciate that the issues outstanding in the path of such an agreement are delicate, but we are confident that the leaders of the region will respond to the ardent wish of peoples around the world for a peaceful Middle East.

It may sound like an anachronism, but it has happened just a few months ago in the Pacific region — namely in Fiji and in the Solomon Islands — that small bands of thugs have overturned democratically elected Governments. In the case of Fiji, Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry together with his whole Cabinet of Ministers, was held hostage for as long as 56 days, in a struggle for political power. The Prime Minister was set free only after he finally conceded that his Government would resign.

The international community watched helplessly as the tragic situation unfolded in Fiji. The fact that this is not the first time that a democratically elected Government is overthrown by unorthodox and violent means makes the situation all the more serious and calls for the immediate attention of the international community. Mauritius condemns unreservedly all attempts by any group, anywhere, to thwart the will of the people by force. I am reminded here of the statement of the United Nations Secretary-General at the opening of the OAU Summit in Lomé this year when, applauding the OAU decision to exclude Governments that have come to power by unconstitutional means from participating in OAU meetings, he expressed the wish that some day the United Nations also would take a similar decision. The time has come for us to seriously consider such avenues in order to send a clear signal to people who are bent upon perpetrating constitutional violations in total disregard of the will of the people.

Mauritius remains fully committed to the respect and promotion of human rights, democracy, good governance and the rule of law. These principles are enshrined in our Constitution. With regard to human rights, our commitment goes far beyond our national borders, as reflected in our membership in various United Nations committees, where we play an active role. Multi-party, free and fair elections constitute core traditions jealously cherished by the people of Mauritius. In the exercise of our valued democratic rights, on 11 September last, just 10 days ago, the people of Mauritius, for the seventh time since our

independence in 1968, elected a new Government. This Government remains committed to supporting strongly, at the national, regional and international levels, the principles I have mentioned earlier.

Since we met in September last, we have witnessed several acts of terrorism in various parts of the world endangering the lives of numerous innocent people. The hijacking of an Indian Airlines jet, the kidnapping of unsuspecting tourists from a Malaysian holiday resort and bomb attacks in some capitals are grim reminders of the dangers we face at the hands of unscrupulous and heartless fanatics. We condemn all acts of terrorism and call on the international community to take concerted action to deal with this problem. For our part, Mauritius stands prepared to play a significant role in the United Nations and its various organs to combat all such acts which pose a threat to international peace and security.

I had some remarks on people-centred development, debt and globalization. I refer delegates to the text that will be circulated. I will now talk about regional cooperation.

Mauritius attaches great priority to global partnership in addressing the key issues of poverty alleviation, achieving sustainable growth and development, and peace and security. We believe that regional cooperation continues to be the inevitable route towards strengthening international partnership and cooperation. Regional cooperation not only is desirable, but constitutes a necessary dimension in the process of the regional integration of many economies into the global economy.

Small island developing States, which constitute one fifth of the membership of the United Nations, are in a particularly difficult situation due to their vulnerability to a wide range of ecological, climatic and economic factors. The specificities of these States have been articulated in the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Constraints to their sustainable development include a narrow resource base that does not allow them to benefit from economies of scale, and the fact that they have small domestic markets. They also rely heavily on external markets, which are usually geographically distant, and costs for transportation, energy and infrastructure are high. In addition, small island States have little resilience to natural disasters. A vulnerability index of

socio-economic and other parameters has been prescribed for these States in the Barbados Programme of Action. We urge the United Nations and other international organizations to coordinate their efforts in developing and refining such an index, which should be used, together with other factors, by the World Trade Organization and the Bretton Woods institutions to accord special and preferential treatment to this category of State.

I wish to say a few words now about the Chagos archipelago and the island of Tromelin. Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity is, under the United Nations system, an acquired and inalienable right of every State, however big or small. We are conscious that the United Nations favours the completion of the process of decolonization.

For a number of years now, we have continuously brought before the General Assembly the question of the Chagos archipelago, which has always formed part of the State of Mauritius. This Assembly will recall that the Chagos archipelago, including the island of Diego Garcia, was detached by the colonial Power just before our independence, in violation of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of December 1960 — the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples — and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965, which prohibits the dismemberment of colonial territories prior to the accession to independence. We have all along sought to resolve this issue bilaterally with the United Kingdom through dialogue, but there has been no tangible progress so far. This issue has now reached a critical stage and we are extremely anxious to have meaningful negotiations with the United Kingdom with a view to resolving this matter within the shortest possible time. We also reiterate our demand that, pending a resolution of this issue, the former residents of the Chagos archipelago and their families, who were forcibly evicted and sent to Mauritius by the colonial Power, be allowed to return to their homeland.

We launch a fresh appeal to the former colonial Power, the United Kingdom, to come forward and engage in serious and purposeful discussions with us towards the early settlement of the Chagos archipelago question. We wish to stress that Mauritius will never abandon its intention to reunite its territory and to assert its sovereignty over the Chagos archipelago.

We also urge France, with which we have been discussing the issue of the return to us of the island of Tromelin, another outer island territory of Mauritius, to work with us constructively for an early resolution of this important issue. There is an agreement in principle for the co-determination of the island and its surrounding maritime space and we need to work out further modalities so as to arrive at a final solution on this issue.

(spoke in French)

I was gratified by the meeting, on 6 September 2000, of heads of State and Government of French-speaking States Members of the United Nations. That meeting allowed us to consider and arrive at the truth that the United Nations is the keystone that will allow mankind to free itself from the chains and other prejudices that hinder the evolution of international affairs and globalization, the two main engines of a better future for all. This meeting offered French-speaking States Members of the United Nations the opportunity firmly to assert their determination to achieve that objective.

I wish to stress that the future to which we aspire and in which we place our hopes must develop in conditions of respect for and promotion of the plurality of our peoples, their cultural and ethnic diversity and their multilingualism. We are duty-bound to respect, maintain and preserve the nature of our world, that rainbow of many cultures which, through globalization and the United Nations, will be a source of enormous wealth for States and individuals.

The Republic of Mauritius daily lives out this vision of the future. Our experience prompts us to subscribe to that vision for the common good. Hopes and dreams are built on concrete action. With the assistance of all its Member States, the United Nations must enjoy better and greater means. Only thus will peace become a tangible reality. Without peace and security, any effort at development is doomed to failure and the happiness to which the peoples of the world aspire will remain dead letter.

(spoke in English)

It goes without saying that, to achieve the objectives of a more peaceful, just and prosperous world, nations need to rededicate themselves to new commitments in the twenty-first century. Our delegation is ready to assume this responsibility and

looks forward to a fruitful outcome for the session that lies ahead under Mr. Holkeri's leadership.

I wish to end on a note of optimism with regard to the capacity of the United Nations to address global issues and to spearhead development and progress. My delegation is confident that our Organization and its specialized agencies are poised to play an even greater role in global reconstruction. We live in a highly demanding world. It wants results, seeks accountability and is not ready to condone failures. We all have a responsibility to make the world a safer place and to ensure a better future for our people. We can do it. Let us do it.

Before I conclude, however, I wish to take this opportunity to confirm the candidature of Mauritius for election to one of the non-permanent seats in the Security Council in the elections that are scheduled to take place next month. As far back as January 2000, Mauritius announced to all countries of the East African region that we would seek election to a non-permanent seat on the Security Council. At that time, Mauritius was the only declared candidate. The Government of Mauritius considers itself fully qualified to serve on the Security Council, which is the supreme organ of the United Nations, in the larger interests of peace and security and to contribute in a substantial measure to the important work of our Organization.

As a multi-party democracy in a multi-ethnic society, Mauritius has a track record in international relations and we consider that the standing of the Security Council depends upon that of its constituent members. The Security Council will be called upon to take important decisions in the interests of peace and security and it is important that the Security Council act as a homogeneous body. It is the wish of my country that our candidature be considered on its merits. We will very much appreciate the General Assembly's support in this regard.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Haile Weldensae, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Eritrea.

Mr. Harrison (United Kingdom): I should like briefly to reply to the remarks about the Chagos archipelago made this morning by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Mauritius.

The British Government maintains that the British Indian Ocean Territory is British and has been since 1814. It does not recognize the sovereignty claim of the Mauritian Government. But the British Government has recognized Mauritius as the only State that has a right to assert a claim of sovereignty when the United Kingdom relinquishes its own sovereignty. Successive British Governments have given undertakings to the Government of Mauritius that the Territory will be ceded when no longer required for defence purposes.

The British Government remains open to discussions regarding arrangements governing the British Indian Ocean Territory or the future of the Territory. The British Government has stated that when the time comes for the Territory to be ceded it will liaise closely with the Government of Mauritius.

The question of access to the British Indian Ocean Territory is at present before the courts in the United Kingdom and is therefore sub judice. The Government of the United Kingdom has the matter under careful consideration and cannot comment further.

**General Assembly**

Fifty-sixth session

*Official Records***46**th plenary meeting

Sunday, 11 November 2001, 9 a.m.

New York

President: Mr. Han Seung-soo (Republic of Korea)

The meeting was called to order at 9.05 a.m.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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President of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. You may rest assured, Sir, of the fullest support and co-operation of my delegation in the daunting tasks that you will be called upon to confront during your tenure.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to thank Mr. Harri Holkeri for the excellent manner in which he steered the work of the last session of the General Assembly.

May I also congratulate a distinguished son of Africa, our Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for his unopposed election to a second term. The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to him and to the United Nations confirms the high esteem in which he and our Organization are held.

As we gather in New York, the atrocities of 11 September remain fresh in our collective memory. Allow me to pay a special tribute to the memory of the thousands of innocent victims of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania.

We condemn the attempts of the terrorists to justify their acts as being in conformity with the tenets of Islam. We do so because neither Islam nor any other religion condones the killing of innocent civilians.

In order to preserve the lives of our citizens and their way of life, we are bound to focus on the sequels of those heinous terrorist attacks.

International terrorism must be fought with all the means at our disposal. Terrorists know only one thing, and that is destruction. While Mauritius is fully committed to the global coalition against terrorism, we urge the international community to take a long-term view of international terrorism. Terrorism is the greatest threat to international peace, security and development.

We also believe that the war on terrorism must be fought on the basis of principles and standards which are accepted by every single State. Terrorism remains terrorism, and there can be no justification for it at any time or under any circumstances. We also consider that cross-border terrorism has caused and is continuing to cause immeasurable damage in many parts of the Indian subcontinent and in Africa. We are convinced that there must be no double or multiple standards in the war against terrorism. In this context, we believe that the International Criminal Court must become

Agenda item 9 (continued)

General debate

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius.

The Right Honourable Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius, was escorted into the General Assembly Hall.

The President: I have the great pleasure to welcome to the United Nations The Right Honourable Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius, and to invite him to address the Assembly.

Mr. Jugnauth (Mauritius): Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to address this Assembly under your able and distinguished leadership. May I, on behalf of my delegation, take this opportunity to extend to you our warmest congratulations on your election as

operational at the earliest date, and countries which rejected it in the past must review their stand.

We shall work closely with the Security Council and the international community at large in order to fully implement Security Council resolutions 1368 (2001) and 1373 (2001).

Together with the war on terrorism, we need to wage many other wars, particularly in the light of the Millennium Declaration adopted last year. We need to pursue wars against poverty, ignorance, hunger and underdevelopment. The war against the scourge of HIV/AIDS is a war that we cannot afford to lose. It is our belief that the international community must remain focused on these issues, as they are very often the breeding ground for dissent, crises, wars and terrorism.

Peace and security will be in danger as long as nuclear arsenals and weapons of mass destruction continue to exist and proliferate. Now that terrorists may get hold of or may already have in their possession such weapons, it becomes extremely urgent for the nuclear States to start meaningful discussions on the elimination of these weapons within a specified time frame.

With the conclusion of the recent United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, we need to move towards early implementation of the measures contained in its Programme of Action. For Africa, this is a top priority. We are convinced that disarmament cannot remain a slogan; it must be effectively addressed.

Conflicts, wars and crises still persist in many parts of the African continent and elsewhere, particularly in the Balkans. Although we are encouraged by the latest developments in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and by the direct talks between Rwanda and Uganda to defuse situations before they become explosive, we consider that peace and security in Africa deserve the closer involvement of the international community, particularly in making available adequate financial resources. We expect early and full deployment of the third phase of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) in keeping with the Security Council resolutions, and we support the inter-Congolese dialogue.

We are grateful to African leaders like former President Nelson Mandela, President Moi and former President Masire for their commitment to ridding Africa of conflicts and to paving the way for an African economic take-off.

Mauritius is committed to a major reform of the composition of the Security Council. We are convinced that we should amend the Charter in a way that would reflect the emergence of new power structures justifying an expansion of the membership. Whatever may be the criteria for an expanded membership, we believe that India ought to become a permanent member at the earliest opportunity. The expansion of the Security Council, as well as a reassessment of the absolutist veto, cannot be delayed any longer.

The birth of the African Union coincides with its role as the engine to drive forward the process of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). The New Partnership for African Development is a road map for Africa to eradicate poverty and to achieve the sustainable growth and development of the continent, thereby allowing it to find its place in the world economy. It is a call for a new relationship between Africa and its partners.

We are mindful of the setback which the events of 11 September have caused to the major economies, but we are also hopeful that the G-8 will remain committed to providing to Africa all assistance for the effective implementation of NEPAD.

Mauritius supports the liberalization of international trade under the rules of the World Trade Organization. We are, however, disappointed at the lack of progress with regard to implementation issues and the undertakings of the major trading countries under previous Uruguay Round agreements. The terms of trade as well as non-trade concerns are tilted too much in favour of the developed countries, which are still denying market access. Africa, which today accounts for less than two per cent of global trade, could, with the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers in the developed countries, significantly increase its share of global trade and thus improve the standard of living of its people. An increase in trade for Africa will also mean a lesser dependence on aid.

While globalization throws up opportunities as well as challenges, we also have to be conscious of its negative aspects. We appeal for there to be no double dealing in trade with poor countries.

The Small Island Developing States experience a variety of inherent disadvantages. In their efforts to achieve sustainable development and the need to enhance their capabilities to function effectively within the new globalized trading arrangements, my delegation calls for the urgent and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

We welcome the statement by the United States that it supports the creation of a Palestinian State. We consider this to be a major step in the right direction for the resolution of the Middle East crisis. We urge the United States to be even-handed in its relations with both Israel and the Palestinian Authority. We also believe that the unilateral imposition of conditions prior to the resumption of peace talks is unhelpful. With the support of the international community, we are confident that Israel and Palestine can, within the framework of the Mitchell report and the Tenet plan, work out a just and durable peace in which the States of Israel and Palestine can live side by side, secure within their respective boundaries.

In our region, the Southern African Development Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) are emerging as important institutions integrating our economies. These initiatives are helping the member States to better confront the challenges of globalization. COMESA is the first regional institution to have set up a free trade area. These regional institutions also address issues of good governance, as well as security and peace. We take an interest in the domestic situation of our fellow members inasmuch as whatever happens in one member State inevitably impacts, negatively or otherwise, on all member States.

We urge all parties to the Framework Agreement for National Reconciliation to take all measures to expedite the process towards the referendum in the Comoros that will usher in a new constitution. Under the aegis of the African Union, Mauritius is proposing to host a donors' meeting as soon as the Framework Agreement is implemented.

We continue to claim our sovereignty over the Chagos archipelago, which was excised by the United Kingdom from the then colony of Mauritius in violation of international law and of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). We are convinced that the time

for the United Kingdom to engage in talks for the early retrocession of the archipelago to Mauritian sovereignty is long overdue, inasmuch as problems left over from colonial days cannot remain unresolved.

We are also concerned by the plight of all those Mauritians, commonly known as the Ilois, who were forcibly and in outright violation of their fundamental rights removed from the islands forming the archipelago by the then colonial Power. We support their legitimate claim for all appropriate remedies.

With regard to Tromelin, I reiterate the position of my delegation, as expressed in the General Assembly last year, and once again call on the French Government to enter into constructive negotiations for the settlement of this issue.

As I speak here, bombs are still falling over Afghanistan. We are aware that the living conditions of the civilian population are difficult. We deplore the loss of civilian lives. We are confident, however, that the international community will rise to the occasion in providing all humanitarian assistance to the needy in Afghanistan. We are hopeful that the efforts under way to install a broad-based Government in Afghanistan will be successful.

The Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Morocco, the World Food Summit in Rome, the discussions on trade issues in Doha and a host of other meetings in recent days demonstrate the close dependence that we have on each other. No country can afford to go it alone and the many problems that we face today must be faced by us all in a spirit of solidarity, cooperation and mutual accommodation. We need to be continually engaged and to collaborate so that never again does humanity live the extremely painful moments that it lived after 11 September.

The United Nations is the forum to address all our concerns and we are sure that all countries, regardless of their might, understand that there can be no substitute for the rule of law, good governance, democracy and respect for the dignity and rights of the individual. We do recognize the threats posed by international terrorism and we are all prepared to do whatever has to be done to combat it. It is our hope that this togetherness will not be frittered away when the threat and the danger have disappeared. The world has walked away on too many occasions in the past. From

now on, we have to walk together and pave the way for a better world.

The President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I thank the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius for the statement he has just made.

The Right Honourable Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted from the rostrum.

**General Assembly**

Fifty-sixth session

47th plenary meeting

Sunday, 11 November 2001, 3 p.m.

New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Han Seung-soo (Republic of Korea)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.



Agenda item 9 (*continued*)

General debate

However, the British Government has recognized Mauritius as the only State which has a right to assert a claim of sovereignty when the United Kingdom relinquishes its own sovereignty. Successive British Governments have given undertakings to the Government of Mauritius that the Territory will be ceded when it is no longer required for defence purposes, subject to the requirements of international law. The British Government remains open to discussions regarding arrangements governing the British Indian Ocean Territory or the future of the Territory. The British Government has stated that, when the time comes for the Territory to be ceded, it will engage in close liaison with the Government of Mauritius.

Finally, the British Government values its close and constructive cooperation with the Government of Mauritius on a wide range of issues, and looks forward to that cooperation continuing.

The Acting President (*spoke in Arabic*): A number of representatives have asked to speak in exercise of the right of reply. Before calling on those representatives, I wish to recall that, in accordance with decision 34/401, statements in right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Eldon (United Kingdom): I should like to speak briefly in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks about the Chagos archipelago made today by the Prime Minister of Mauritius. The British Government maintains that the British Indian Ocean Territory is British and that it has been since 1814. It does not recognize the sovereignty claim of the Government of Mauritius.



General Assembly

Fifty-seventh session

4th plenary meeting

Friday, 13 September 2002, 10 a.m.

New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Kavan (Czech Republic)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

02-58836 (E)

*** 0258836 ***

Agenda item 9 (*continued*)

General debate

your election as the President of the present session. I wish to assure you of my delegation's support and cooperation throughout your tenure of office.

I also wish to convey my thanks to His Excellency Dr. Han Seung-soo of the Republic of Korea for the remarkable manner in which he conducted the work of the Assembly's fifty-sixth session. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan also deserves our gratitude for his inspiring and commendable initiatives in furthering the objectives of our Organization.

We are happy that the Swiss Confederation and Timor-Leste have joined us as the newest members of the United Nations family. Timor-Leste stands out as a shining accomplishment of the United Nations system to uphold the right to independence of a nation in adverse conditions.

The terrorist atrocities of 11 September will never fade from our collective consciousness, and the agony and the pain of the day are still with us. The sophisticated infrastructure of the terrorist organizations that was utilized to inflict that monstrosity must be dismantled at any cost. We owe it to ourselves and to the generations that will come after us to mobilize all our energies and efforts to never let that happen again, anywhere.

Mauritius is committed to remain fully engaged in the global coalition against terrorism, and we shall continue, together with other States, to take all measures — nationally, regionally and internationally — so that the scourge of terrorism is never inflicted on unsuspecting civilians and countries. We are alive to the chilling reality that no country is or ever will be safe until the war against terrorism is finally and completely won. We condemn cross-border infiltration; it must stop and must be made to stop.

The threats posed by international terrorism have heightened the need for collective action to preserve world peace and security. While we combine our efforts to wage a war on terrorism, we should, at the same time, continue to work towards global disarmament and a complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction within a specified time frame. My delegation reiterates its appeal for the early convening of a conference on nuclear disarmament.

The term of Mauritius as an elected non-permanent member of the Security Council will end in

Address by The Right Honourable Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius.

The Right Honourable Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius, was escorted to the rostrum.

The President: I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth (Mauritius): It gives me immense pleasure to address the fifty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly under your able leadership. Allow me, on behalf of my delegation, to extend to you our wholehearted congratulations on

December this year. During its tenure on the Council, Mauritius was instrumental in the establishment of an ad hoc working group on conflict prevention and resolution in Africa. It has made positive and constructive recommendations that have been endorsed by the Security Council.

In contrast to previous years, when the General Assembly listened to a litany of horror stories out of Africa, I am happy to note that substantial and positive developments are taking place on the continent. There is a new dawn in Africa and the stark realization that, without enduring peace and stability, there will be no sustainable development.

We congratulate the African leaders who have spared no effort in the search for African solutions to African conflicts and crises. The Pretoria Agreement between Presidents Kabila and Kagame represents a major breakthrough for the peace process in the Great Lakes region. We are aware that the implementation will be difficult. We are, however, confident that the international community will provide all necessary assistance to the leaders in the region for a smooth implementation.

With the positive developments in Angola, the successful general elections in Sierra Leone, the settlement of the boundary problem between Eritrea and Ethiopia and the progress made in the implementation of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi, there are clear signals that some of the major conflicts in Africa are being successfully resolved.

As Africa embarks on the road of peace, we wish to underscore the crucial role played by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern African Development Community in their relentless search for negotiated settlement of the conflicts in our respective subregions. There is cause for optimism, and it is gratifying that the days of doom and gloom for Africa are on their way to extinction.

Our region, the Indian Ocean, which has witnessed some turbulent times recently, is again poised for stability and development. We applaud the return to constitutional rule in the Comoros and the consolidation of democratic institutions in that country. We also welcome the formation of a Government of national reconciliation in Madagascar and the efforts under way to undo the damage caused by the recent

crisis there. Mauritius will be closely associated with the countries of our region to further enhance regional cooperation.

The launching of the African Union in Durban, South Africa, in July this year was indeed a historic and emotionally charged occasion. The birth of the African Union heralds a new era of political, economic and social transformation for our continent. The continent is more than ever determined to shape its destiny and to tackle comprehensively the burning problems of poverty, hunger, disease and underdevelopment that have debilitated millions of Africans over the years. The African Union has raised expectations that we, as leaders, are committed to honour. The African Union will be able to respond in a positive manner to the challenges confronting it, as well as maximizing the opportunities for the improvement of the lives of peoples of the continent. In that context, the decision of African countries to take responsibility for peacekeeping on the continent needs to be encouraged. Since the burden of peacekeeping must be equitably shared, I am pleased to announce that Mauritius will contribute to the United Nations civilian police for service in post-conflict operations.

Along with the launching of the African Union, the home-grown New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is another chapter in the unfolding of the success story of the African continent. NEPAD commits Africa to building a strong and enduring culture of democracy, respect for human rights and accountability for the continent. Indeed, the African Peer Review Mechanism is a credible mechanism to promote the prospects of internationally recognized norms and standards of good governance.

The establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) marks a watershed in mankind's quest to put an end to impunity and to bring to justice those responsible for crimes against humanity, for genocide and for international crimes. The ICC is the single most important institution of this millennium, and it is the duty of the international community to fully support it.

In May this year, during the special session on children, Mauritius had the opportunity to join the international efforts to pave the way for effective protection for every child in every part of the world. The children who addressed the gathering uttered words of great significance that no one can, or should, ever forget. The future is theirs, and it is for them that

we ought to ensure the sustainable development of our one and only planet. My country will ensure that the principles, goals and actions discussed during the special session are integrated in our various child welfare programmes.

The Middle East is still not at peace. The death toll rises every day, but we are encouraged by the signals being sent by both the Israelis and the Palestinian leadership. Our vision of the Middle East is to see the early establishment of a Palestinian State living side by side with Israel on the basis of agreed and secure boundaries. The Palestinians also need to have State machinery that observes the fundamental norms of a democratic system, with responsibility and accountability on the part of the leaders. They alone have the absolute right to elect their leaders when elections are held in January 2003.

We appeal to the Iraqi authorities to comply fully and unconditionally with Security Council resolutions with respect to allowing the arms inspectors to fulfil their mandate.

Small island developing States are a particularly vulnerable group of countries by virtue of their inherent natural and structural constraints. The World Bank; the Commonwealth; the United Nations Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico; and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held recently in Johannesburg, South Africa, have all recognized that those constraints, if not addressed effectively, could undermine the trade and development prospects of these countries, leading to their further marginalization. We look forward to specific and concrete recommendations for action in this regard at the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization scheduled to be held next September in Mexico.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development addressed the fundamental question of what kind of world we want for ourselves and for generations that are yet unborn. The recent devastating floods in Europe and Asia, as well as the droughts in many parts of Africa — particularly Southern Africa, where there are more than 13 million people in danger of famine — are a stark reminder of the fragility of our planet's ecosystem. The World Summit on Sustainable Development has made the whole world conscious of the havoc that nature may cause unless drastic

measures are taken immediately to redress the ecological imbalance.

(spoke in French)

The Ninth Summit of La Francophonie, which Lebanon will host next month and which will be held on the topic "dialogue of cultures", will undoubtedly enable the French-speaking community to foster sharing among various cultures with a view to maintaining peace, security and democracy.

(spoke in English)

Mauritius reaffirms its legitimate sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including the island of Diego Garcia, which was detached from the territory of Mauritius by the United Kingdom prior to our independence. We renew our call to the former colonial Power, the United Kingdom, to accelerate discussions with us for an early settlement of this issue. The persons of Mauritian origin who were displaced from the Chagos Archipelago continue to claim redress for the serious human rights violations that they endured. We support their efforts to seek redress.

We also call on the French Government to work towards the resolution of the dispute concerning Tromelin Island, over which Mauritius has sovereignty.

In conclusion, Mauritius reiterates its conviction that the United Nations system remains the best guarantee for international peace and security.

The framework within which the United Nations organizes the collective security of States may not be perfect, but it is at least one that is tested and has served us relatively well for more than 50 years. Working on the basis of the neutrality of rules and principles is far preferable to the haphazardness of expediency. We also should not be unmindful of the linkages which exist between different situations, and that is why we urge the international community to observe the principle of equality of treatment in all cases.

The President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius for the statement he has just made.

The Right Honourable Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted from the rostrum.

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
16 September 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session

Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

General debate**Letter dated 13 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of Mauritius on 13 September 2002 in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and the annexed statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 9.

(Signed) **Jeremy Greenstock**
Permanent Representative

* A/57/150.

Annex to the letter dated 13 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of Mauritius in the general debate on 13 September 2002

The British Government maintains that the British Indian Ocean Territory is British and has been since 1814. It does not recognize the sovereignty claim of the Mauritian Government. However, the British Government has recognized Mauritius as the only State which has a right to assert a claim of sovereignty when the United Kingdom relinquishes its own sovereignty.

Successive British Governments have given undertakings to the Government of Mauritius that the Territory will be ceded when no longer required for defence purposes, subject to the requirements of international law.

The British Government remains open to discussions regarding arrangements governing the British Indian Ocean Territory or the future of the Territory. The British Government has stated that when the time comes for the Territory to be ceded it will liaise closely with the Government of Mauritius.

The British Government values its close and constructive cooperation with the Government of Mauritius on a wide range of issues and looks forward to this continuing.



General Assembly

Fifty-eighth session

Official Records

10th plenary meeting

Wednesday, 24 September 2003, 3 p.m.

New York

President: The Hon. Julian R. Hunte (Saint Lucia)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Van den Berg
(Netherlands), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

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03-53011 (E)

0353011

Agenda item 9 (*continued*)

General debate

**Address by The Right Honourable Sir Anerood
Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of
Mauritius**

The President: The Assembly will hear a statement by Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted to the rostrum.

The President: I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth (Mauritius): Let me first extend to you, Sir, on behalf of my delegation and in my own name, our sincere congratulations on your election as President of the General Assembly at this session. Indeed, it is a matter of pride for all small island States, and Mauritius in particular, to see you presiding over the Assembly. My delegation wishes to assure you of its full support and cooperation during your tenure of office.

Let me also express my Government's deepest appreciation to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Jan Kavan of the Czech Republic, for the remarkable manner in which he presided over the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session and to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, for his dedicated leadership of our Organization. I wish to assure him of our full support in his appeal for radical reforms of our Organization and the setting up of a high-level panel to address the issues of peace and security, and institutional reform.

Since we were here last autumn, many events of global importance have occurred. The war against Iraq was waged and hostilities were declared at an end, but peace and stability in Iraq have yet to be restored.

Terrorism has continued relentlessly on its path of ghastly attacks and indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians. The geographical shift, however, in the terrorist attacks is becoming increasingly a disturbing development.

Multilateralism, which was almost condemned to a premature burial, is being re-energized. Unfortunately, the recurring problems of HIV/AIDS, malaria, poverty, lack of development, conflicts and the ready supply of small arms and light weapons have continued to inflict death and suffering on an unprecedented scale, particularly in Africa.

The attack against the United Nations compound in Baghdad contains countless messages. The most significant of them is that our Organization is in urgent need of major overhaul and reform, as rightly stated by the Secretary-General.

The premature deaths of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Iraq, the late Sergio Vieira de Mello, and other dedicated staff members of the United Nations, whom we deeply mourn, should make us reflect on the dangers behind foreign policy initiatives that undermine or ignore the United Nations.

The international community is deeply attached to the legitimacy the United Nations confers on its actions. It is our collective duty to refrain from taking any measures likely to weaken it.

These horrendous terrorist acts have demonstrated anew the crucial need for the international community to tackle the root causes of terrorism.

As all small islands, we in Mauritius remain highly vulnerable in respect of our security and terrorist threats. With limited means at our disposal, coupled with the multiple demands on our scanty resources, we find that it is only through international efforts and cooperation that we can win the war against terrorism. We are particularly anxious that there should be concerted and sustained action and a commitment to cooperation at the international level with a view to eradicating the scourge of terrorism. All countries must cooperate to stem the flow of cross-border infiltration. The financing of terrorism and the proceeds of transnational organized crime need to be closely monitored.

Not winning the war against terrorism as well as that against transnational organized crime is not an option for the world today. Mauritius views with concern that, despite the stated commitment of the international community to the cause of disarmament, the actions of many countries do not match their rhetoric.

The new challenges to security and disarmament should compel us to look anew at the potential threat posed by nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and to pursue more vigorously efforts towards their total elimination.

We reiterate our appeal to the nuclear Powers for the early convening of a conference on nuclear disarmament as a first step towards complete disarmament, keeping in mind that such a regime must be comprehensive and non-discriminatory.

Over the last year the international community's ability to tackle political conflicts and find lasting solutions has been dismal.

The situation in the Middle East continues to preoccupy us. Despite the various initiatives, including the latest Road Map, violence remains unabated and we fear that recent developments in the region will unleash further killings and destruction.

No solution will be possible there unless all the protagonists are taken on board. Exclusion as a policy is destined to fail. We continue to believe that President Arafat is an essential part of the solution, and any attempt to sideline him will be detrimental to any peace initiative.

We call on both Israel and the Palestinian Authority to exercise utmost restraint and to pursue their efforts for the implementation of the Road Map with a view to putting an end to the occupation and the succeeding generations of Palestinians in refugee camps. The establishment of a Palestinian State at the earliest should be the priority of the international community.

The situation in Iraq is disquieting. It is important that the Iraqis regain as soon as possible total sovereignty and assume control over their own destiny through a democratic process. The United Nations has, in the view of my delegation, a leading role to play in this process and must be empowered to do so.

The African continent has been plagued for too long by conflicts and wars, which have led to the loss of thousands of innocent lives and the squandering of enormous wealth and resources. Small arms and light weapons have in fact become the weapons of mass destruction on the African continent. These weapons drain African resources and we appeal to those countries that manufacture and market those weapons of destruction to ensure that Africa does not continue to be their killing field.

Nonetheless, during the past two years, the African continent has demonstrated an unprecedented momentum in its efforts to seriously address these conflicts and to search for lasting solutions. There is, however, some good news out of Africa and everything is not gloomy.

The transformation of the Organization of African Unity into the African Union, the coming into operation of the various commissions of the Union and

the election of commissioners on a gender-equal basis at the Maputo Summit in July last are clear indications that Africa has chosen a new path and is confident that it will be able to meet the challenges ahead.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that peace is now slowly returning to the troubled areas on the continent. The conflicts in Sierra Leone and Angola have ended. A government of national unity is in office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Efforts under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for a comprehensive and lasting resolution to the conflict in Somalia have been crowned with success. We do recognize that years of conflict will not be easily forgotten, but what is reassuring is that African leaders are maintaining a hands-on approach to these situations.

The recent developments in Liberia and the restoration of the constitutional order in Sao Tome and Principe confirm the ability of African leaders to effectively address issues affecting their continent.

There is fresh confidence in the African leaders' ability to deal with flashpoints. The implementation of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union will go a long way towards preventive action being taken. We recognize that we will have to bear primary responsibility for the peace and security of our continent.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is our basic instrument of empowerment. Having decided to take our destiny in our own hands, we are not going to engage in the blame game, but we will take action to reverse poverty and to promote good governance. We will do whatever is necessary to attract investment. The establishment of the African Peer Review Mechanism within NEPAD will ensure that economic development takes place in the spirit of good governance, democracy, transparency and accountability.

It is comforting, therefore, that this homegrown African initiative has received global recognition. The assistance of the Group of Eight and countries like India in the implementation of the objectives of NEPAD is much appreciated.

We noted with regret that the rate of official development assistance to developing countries is decreasing, contrary to the commitment made in Monterrey.

We therefore call on the developed countries and other key specialized institutions in the monetary, financial and development fields to deliver on their implementation plans for the Monterrey Consensus during the October high-level dialogue.

Monday's high-level segment on HIV/AIDS, in which more than a hundred delegations took part, demonstrates the extent of the concern of the United Nations membership to the pandemic of HIV/AIDS. We welcome the initiative of the General Assembly to maintain global awareness of the problem and to ensure that effective action is taken urgently to stop the spread of the pandemic.

I mentioned earlier the need for reform of our Organization. It is imperative that the necessary reforms of the United Nations be undertaken to reflect in a more realistic manner the political realities in the world today.

The United Nations Charter must be amended to provide for a Security Council that is more democratic and more representative of today's world. Should permanent membership of the Security Council with veto power be retained, we consider that India should be admitted with such a membership at the earliest. Likewise we believe that the African continent should be adequately represented at the same level.

We would also urge a review of the veto power, which has been used in the past and continues to be used for purposes outside the letter and spirit of the Charter.

May I welcome the decision of the Security Council to lift the sanctions on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The situation of small island developing States (SIDS) will be the focus of attention in September 2004, when Mauritius hosts an international meeting for the 10-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action. This Barbados +10 meeting will allow us to make a full assessment of the Programme of Action and evaluate its success and shortcomings.

We need to constantly remind the international community about the fragility and vulnerability of SIDS where ecology and geography combine to inflict irreparable damage.

Mauritius and all other small island developing States attach great importance to this international

meeting and hope that it will harness more efforts on the part of the international community to provide the required assistance to the small island developing States. I call on this Assembly to lend the necessary support to make this international meeting a success.

In this regard, let me express my appreciation to the Commonwealth and La Francophonie for their active interest in supporting the cause of small island States.

As the current Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), may I inform the Assembly that the 44 Alliance Member States and Observers consider the International Meeting to be a very important occasion for reaffirming the partnership for sustainable development that grew out of the Rio Conference. In Mauritius next year we expect to establish an appropriate framework for partnership and cooperation. The time has come to enshrine the special case of Small Island Developing States as an important component of focus and attention on the part of the international community.

We appeal to the international community to support this process and ensure the full and effective participation of all SIDS at the meeting and to ensure, as well, its own participation in it.

Access to information and communication technologies remains a fundamental concern in Africa. While such technologies are often promoted as an instrument that will allow countries to leapfrog stages in development, there is a real fear that the digital divide could very well prove to be yet another handicap that adds to Africa's marginalization.

We therefore urge that particular attention be paid to issues of access and infrastructure. My delegation wishes to underscore that Mauritius, like many other small island States, has high hopes that the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society will provide concrete action in favour of small island developing States, whose geographical isolation, remoteness and other inherent constraints warrant special attention.

The failure of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference at Cancún has dealt a blow to the multilateral trading system. That is very unfortunate, as there are no winners but only losers. For small developing countries in particular, a strong rules-based global trading system provides protection

against the unilateralism of powerful trading countries or blocs. The serious imbalances in the WTO system, coupled with the lack of effective and operational rules and disciplines to address their development concerns, resulted the failure of Cancún. We should pick up the pieces from Cancún and try to construct a trading system that guarantees equity and fairness for developing countries. Only such an approach will provide the legitimacy that the WTO system so badly needs to deliver on the Doha Development Agenda.

In order to successfully respond to the multifaceted challenges we are facing in the world today, we are convinced that the international community should rededicate itself to the values of solidarity, tolerance, mutual respect and cooperation.

The belief that countries can be immune from what other countries do is no longer tenable. The need for international cooperation, rather than confrontation, is critical. A new international order is essential if we are to avoid a collision of cultures and religious beliefs.

This is the last occasion on which I will address the General Assembly in my capacity as Prime Minister. In six days' time, I will relinquish my current post and accede to the presidency, while my Deputy Prime Minister will be sworn in as Prime Minister. I am confident that he will be accorded the same collaboration and friendship that I have enjoyed during my tenure in office.

Before I conclude, however, I renew my appeal to the United Kingdom to take all measures to complete the process of the decolonization of Mauritius. For years, Mauritius has consistently reaffirmed its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, here and in all international forums. I sincerely regret that this issue has not been resolved. I therefore reiterate our appeal to the United Kingdom, as a country known for its fair play and for championing human rights, and to our friends in the United States, to engage in a serious dialogue with Mauritius over the issue of the Chagos Archipelago so that an early solution may be found.

The removal of the Chagossians under false pretences resulted in gross violations of human rights. Hopefully this aspect of the matter will be resolved through the British courts shortly.

(spoke in French)

I also appeal to the French Republic, with which we have excellent relations, to resume the dialogue with a view to returning Tromelin island to Mauritian sovereignty.

(spoke in English)

With those words, I bid the Assembly goodbye.

The President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius for the statement he has just made.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted from the rostrum.

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
3 October 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session

Agenda item 9

General debate**Letter dated 30 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Right Honourable Sir Anerood Jugnauth, P.C., K.C.M.G., Q.C. Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, on 24 September 2003 in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 9.

(Signed) Emyr Jones **Parry**

Annex to the letter dated 30 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of Mauritius in the general debate on 24 September 2003

The British Government maintains that the British Indian Ocean Territory is British and has been since 1814. It does not recognize the sovereignty claim of the Mauritian Government.

However, the British Government has recognized Mauritius as the only State which has a right to assert a claim of sovereignty when the United Kingdom relinquishes its own sovereignty.

Successive British Governments have given undertakings to the Government of Mauritius that the Territory will be ceded when no longer required for defence purposes subject to the requirements of international law.

The British Government remains open to discussions regarding arrangements governing the British Indian Ocean Territory or the future of the Territory. The British Government has stated that when the time comes for the Territory to be ceded it will liaise closely with the Government of Mauritius.

The British Government values its close and constructive cooperation with the Government of Mauritius on a wide range of issues, and looks forward to this continuing.

**General Assembly**

Fifty-ninth session

*Official Records***14**th plenary meeting

Tuesday, 28 September 2004, 3 p.m.

New York

President: Mr. Ping (Gabon)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Kafando
(Burkina Faso), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

04-52433 (E)

*** 0452433 ***

Agenda item 9 (*continued*)

General debate

The President (*spoke in French*): I now call on His Excellency the Honourable Jaya Krishna Cuttaree, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Regional Cooperation of the Republic of Mauritius.

Mr. Cuttaree (Mauritius): Mr. President, I bring you the greetings and the best wishes of the Government and people of Mauritius. It is also a matter of pride and honour to see you preside over this premier world institution. That honour is not only recognition of the contribution of your country, Gabon, in world affairs but also a great moment for our continent, Africa. We are confident that, with your wide experience and vast diplomatic skills, you will successfully steer the work of the Assembly. My delegation pledges its full support to you during your tenure.

My delegation would also like to place on record our gratitude to your predecessor, Mr. Julian Hunte, for his able and excellent leadership of the General

Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. As fellow islanders, we derived great satisfaction and pride from his unequalled stewardship. He assumed and discharged the high responsibilities of President of the Assembly with commitment, dedication and great diplomacy. We thank him for his service to the world community.

Allow me also to commend the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for his relentless efforts and determination to ensure that our Organization continues to play its role effectively in the international arena.

This session of the General Assembly is taking place as we prepare ourselves to tackle and face major challenges and developments over the next 12 months. Of particular importance to small island developing States such as my own, 2005 will begin with two major events: the International Meeting for the full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, which will be hosted by Mauritius; and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, to be held in Japan.

Ten years after Barbados, small island developing States continue to face practically the same challenges in their drive to achieve sustainable development. Their small size, fragile ecosystems, geographic isolation and limited resources, compounded by the threats of climate change, rising sea levels and natural disasters, make them particularly vulnerable. While it is a fact that many developing countries face the increasing pressures posed by the combined forces of globalization and trade liberalization, such pressures are even more exacerbating for small island developing States. Their small markets and the limited market access for their products constrain them greatly in their efforts to integrate smoothly into the global economy. They also suffer from natural vulnerabilities to phenomena such as hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis. The devastation caused by the recent series of hurricanes in the Caribbean islands demonstrates the extent of our vulnerability. It is true that those vulnerabilities have been recognized in a variety of international forums, but such recognition has yet to crystallize in concrete actions in favour of small island developing States. The precarious situation of our States is of direct concern to the international community as a whole.

May we then resolve to take bold initiatives to implement meaningfully the Barbados Programme and to respond to related emerging issues so that small

island developing States can build resilience and capacity and be integrated fully into the global economy? Similarly, in the multilateral trading system, we expect the emergence of an environment conducive to enabling our States to improve their competitiveness, their market access and the diversification of their economies. We therefore expect the World Trade Organization to soon establish a work programme for small economies.

As a small island developing State, Mauritius is indeed honoured to host the International Meeting. The International Meeting should be not only a collective gathering to reflect on the specificities of our concerns. It should also be a landmark in the history of the major United Nations conferences, with deliverable outcomes and the means necessary for their implementation.

We in Mauritius are leaving no stone unturned to make that event truly historic and memorable. It is important that the entire international community participate in that meeting, which, allow me to point out, is a United Nations meeting on small island development States and not a meeting for those States alone.

(spoke in French)

The work to be undertaken by the small island developing States is based upon sustainable development and the restricted resources available to those countries. How can one not welcome, therefore, the decision taken by the Government of Burkina Faso, host of the next summit of la Francophonie, which has chosen solidarity and sustainable development as the theme of the summit.

Our preoccupation with sustainable development — the basis of the Johannesburg Summit — is even stronger in the context of globalization today. Although only a handful of developing island States are French-speaking, we trust that the Summit will highlight the need for us to find, within the international community, ways and means to help small island developing States, which may then become models for sustainable development.

(spoke in English)

Global warming, and its related effects on climate change, is now an undisputed reality, and islands suffer the brunt of it, even though — let me emphasize this — we are the least responsible for the cause. We believe that the Kyoto Protocol is the most appropriate mechanism for global action now and in the future, to address the issue of global warming. We call, therefore,

for its ratification and entry into force, as soon as possible.

Africa, home to 34 of the world's 48 poorest countries, remains an enormous challenge for the United Nations. The deadly spread of HIV and AIDS continues to claim a devastating toll on the continent, particularly in southern Africa. We in Africa are committed to further democratize our societies and give our people a rightful voice in the decision-making process. That is why at the continental level, we are doing all we can, despite our scarce resources, to consolidate the African Union and make it central in our collective bid to grapple with the development concerns of our region. Using that perspective, we have come up with our own home-grown programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in order to attain the ultimate goal that we have fixed for ourselves — the total integration of Africa.

Since we launched the African Union Peace and Security Council last May, we have received encouraging support from some of our development partners. I should like to use this platform to urge the international community to support the African Union in that field to enable it to come to grips with the conflicts that continue to divert our attention and meagre resources from our development efforts.

In addressing the issue of conflicts on the continent, the African Union has amply demonstrated that it means business, and any assistance it gets from the international community can only help it to achieve its goals. But let me hasten to say that the African Union's involvement in peace processes should not distract the United Nations Security Council from its primary responsibility to maintain peace and security in Africa. Indeed, the Security Council should not allow itself to be perceived as being selective in its approach with regard to conflicts in various parts of the world. Experiences in the Great Lakes region and in West Africa have shown that the combined efforts of the Security Council and the African Union can bring tangible results.

Before I leave this part of my statement, let me refer to the unjust treatment that continues to be meted out to the Saharawi people who are still struggling for their right to self-determination. It is the duty of this world body to ensure a speedy conclusion of that matter. In this regard, my delegation reiterates its support for the Settlement Plan and any other political initiative acceptable to the parties concerned that will help to take the process forward for a durable and

sustainable solution. The Saharawi people deserve that commitment from us.

As this Assembly is aware, Mauritius has always favoured a bilateral approach in our resolve to restore our exercise of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago which, prior to independence from the United Kingdom, was unlawfully detached from our territory, in violation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and Assembly resolutions 2066 (XX), 2232 (XXI) and 2357 (XXII). Such bilateral approaches have unfortunately not yielded any result so far and certain recent regrettable unilateral actions by the United Kingdom have not been helpful.

While we shall continue to favour a settlement of the matter through dialogue, we shall use all avenues open to us in order to exercise our full sovereign rights over the Chagos Archipelago. The Assembly should also note that this issue has a tragic human dimension. Before Mauritius acceded to its independence, all the inhabitants of the Chagos were forced to leave the land of their birth, where they had lived for several generations. The plight of those inhabitants must now be comprehensively addressed.

In the same context, my delegation looks forward to the resumption of dialogue with the French Government over Tromelin island.

Mauritius is a firm believer and, indeed, a keen player in regional cooperation and integration, not as an end in itself but as a sure means to enable us to integrate the global economy. We consider regional cooperation as a necessary step to enable Africa to benefit from globalization. We have therefore spared no effort to promote regional cooperation. Since the early 1980s we in Mauritius, have been playing a proactive role in advancing the objectives of the Abuja Treaty. Mauritius is a very active member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and of the South African Development Community (SADC).

As the new Chair of SADC, we look forward to working very closely with all our fellow member States in advancing the objectives of the organization, promoting community building through regional integration and aligning national policies for regional cooperation so that they stay on course in the globalization process. We will also endeavour to forge a strong relationship between SADC and its

development partners as well as with other subregional, continental and multilateral organizations.

After the failure of the WTO Ministerial Conference at Cancún, the successful outcome of the July 2004 General Council meeting has come as a ray of hope to put the trade talks back on track. The July package of frameworks and other agreements that the WTO members approved will greatly enhance the chances for a successful completion of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations.

We therefore welcome the decision adopted by the WTO General Council to fulfil the development dimensions of the Doha Development Agenda, which places the needs and interests of developing and least developed countries at the heart of the Doha Agenda work programme.

In that context, let me make an appeal for a meaningful synergy to be established among the development agencies and other United Nations institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in order to ensure that developing countries develop their capacity to increase their share of world trade as a necessary pathway to prosperity.

The situation in the Middle East remains extremely preoccupying for all freedom-loving nations and peoples. We go on speaking of the need for a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, without realizing that each year the peace and security situation in the region is growing worse.

Over the past year, we witnessed more targeted assassinations, increased terrorist acts, daily recriminations from both sides and an expansion of settlement activities. The illegal construction of a wall by Israel in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories has worsened an already complex situation.

Almost two years ago the road map called for a final and comprehensive settlement of the Israel-Palestinian conflict by 2005. The year 2005 is at our doorstep and we are still grappling with how to put the derailed peace process back on track. We believe that the road map remains the only viable option for peace in the region. We call on both Israel and Palestine to exercise maximum restraint, undertake confidence-building measures and create the appropriate environment, with the help of the Quartet, to implement the road map.

My delegation believes that what is needed today is not a wall, but a political solution and a renewed

commitment from the international community that would resolve the conflict altogether. Only the creation of the much-awaited Palestinian State, existing side by side with Israel with secured and recognized borders, can bring peace and stability to the Middle East.

The political process in Iraq reached an important milestone last June with the handing over of authority to the Iraqi Interim Government. My delegation believes that the holding of national elections early next year, as required by Security Council resolution 1546 (2004), will give the people of Iraq a unique opportunity to take the destiny of their country into their own hands. However, the current security situation in Iraq is very disturbing. My delegation condemns all acts of violence that can disrupt Iraq's political and economic transition. The international community must be fully engaged in its efforts to rebuild a safe, democratic and peaceful Iraq.

Given the potential threat posed by nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, it is a matter of serious concern that we still have not been able to find common ground to initiate a process leading to complete disarmament. Significant differences still persist among parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We once again appeal to all Member States to translate their stated commitments to the cause of disarmament into action.

Mauritius supports and implements fully the international disarmament treaties such as the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and has always supported the various United Nations resolutions related to the consolidation of those regimes, including resolution 1540 (2004), which focuses on non-proliferation issues.

Along with our fight against weapons of mass destruction, we should also stay the course against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, which have been the weapons of choice in recent conflicts, particularly in Africa.

Terrorist acts continue to create fear and havoc among peaceful nations and lead to the loss of lives, particularly among innocent civilians, including women and children. We should therefore reflect on the effectiveness of the international response to terrorism. It is becoming increasingly evident that the war against international terrorism cannot be won by military might alone. Several reports submitted to this Assembly have already amply demonstrated that

problems such as poverty, social inequality, unemployment and illiteracy constitute breeding grounds for terrorism. Genuine international cooperation is therefore needed to comprehensively address the root causes of terrorism.

Allow me to share some thoughts with respect to the future of our Organization. The world emerged from the Second World War resolved to ensure peace among nations, and the United Nations was born with that vision firmly in mind. Now, more than half a century later, in full recognition of the drastic and far-reaching changes that have transformed our world, there is full consensus for a reform of our Organization.

There is indeed general agreement that the current structure of the Security Council needs to be reviewed to reflect the new realities of the world. We firmly believe that a greater commitment has to be demonstrated by every member of the Organization in order to reach an agreement on a reformed Security Council based on wider representation, transparency and equitable geographical distribution with the inclusion of developing countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America as permanent members. Here, let me reiterate our conviction that India fully deserves to have that status. In that respect, I need to underscore the need for small island States, which are scattered over all the oceans of the world, to have an adequate voice in the Council.

It is therefore our sincere hope that the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change appointed by the Secretary-General will make concrete and practical recommendations to make the United Nations more credible and responsive to the expectations of people in every corner of the globe. The high-level plenary meeting, which is to be held next year, would also be an opportunity for us to take stock of progress made in respect to the goals set in the major United Nations conferences and summits.

Mauritius continues to be an active supporter of the United Nations in its efforts to save succeeding generations from war and suffering and to promote social progress and better standards of life. Mauritius believes that a strengthened United Nations, evolving within the framework of a credible multilateral system, is the only effective instrument at the disposal of the international community to bring order and ensure the coherence of international economic, social and environmental policies.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now call on His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir Rabbie L. Namaliu, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration of Papua New Guinea.

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
4 October 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session

Agenda item 9

General debate**Letter dated 30 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Jaya Krishna Cuttaree, Foreign Minister of Mauritius, on 28 September 2004 in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 9.

(Signed) Emyr Jones Parry

Annex to the letter dated 30 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Foreign Minister of Mauritius in the general debate on 28 September 2004

The British Government maintains that the British Indian Ocean Territory is British and has been since 1814. It does not recognize the sovereignty claim of the Mauritian Government.

However, the British Government has recognized Mauritius as the only State which has a right to assert a claim of sovereignty when the United Kingdom relinquishes its own sovereignty.

Successive British Governments have given undertakings to the Government of Mauritius that the Territory will be ceded when no longer required for defence purposes.

The British Government remains open to discussions regarding arrangements governing the British Indian Ocean Territory or the future of the Territory. The British Government has stated that when the time comes for the Territory to be ceded it will liaise closely with the Government of Mauritius.

The British Government values its close and constructive cooperation with the Government of Mauritius on a wide range of issues and looks forward to this continuing.



General Assembly

Sixtieth session

Official Records

13th plenary meeting

Monday, 19 September 2005, 10 a.m.

New York

President: Mr. Eliasson (Sweden)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

05-51386 (E)

* 0551386 *

Item 9 of the provisional agenda (*continued*)

General debate

Address by The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius.

The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted to the rostrum.

The President: I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

Mr. Ramgoolam (Mauritius): I should like, on behalf of my delegation and of the Government and the people of the Republic of Mauritius, to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as President of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session. We are confident that you will be able to discharge the responsibilities entrusted to you. I want to assure you, as I did during our meeting this morning, of my delegation's fullest cooperation during your tenure of office.

I would also like to convey my delegation's gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Jean Ping of Gabon for the outstanding manner in which he conducted the affairs of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. As Africans, we are proud of his exemplary stewardship.

My delegation also wishes to express its appreciation for the tireless and dedicated efforts of the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, in leading the Organization in these challenging times.

The very first words of the United Nations Charter — "We the peoples of the United Nations" — are of overwhelming significance. They imply that people should be the primary beneficiaries of every resolution that we adopt and every programme that we launch. As we engage in this debate, we should ask ourselves whether we have, indeed, put the peoples at the centre of all of our deliberations and activities. Have we done enough to ensure that ordinary people, men and women, young and old, benefit from all our initiatives and actions, collective as well as individual?

Last Friday, by adopting the outcome document, leaders of the world renewed their pledge to save humanity from the scourge of war, fear, disease, famine and poverty. The citizens of the world were witness to the sober promises we made in it. They now wait, in earnest, to see concrete results. We are therefore required to muster the collective political will to mobilize the necessary resources to fulfil those pledges.

The wealthy and powerful North should assist the less fortunate countries, which require assistance to help propel them into the orbit of irreversible sustainable social and economic growth. For its part, the South must devote energy and show creativity as it engages in a common effort to attain social development and human security.

The spirit of teamwork and partnership which resulted in the successful outcome of the United Nations world summit should allow us to adopt a fresh mindset that places the interests, security and welfare of our peoples at the centre of our socio-economic policies. That cannot be done without promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In our efforts to pursue people-centred development, we must put a premium on tackling those national and transnational issues that have a direct impact on people's welfare. Lifting peoples out of abject poverty and endowing them with appropriate means to lead productive lives is the best guarantee for long-term sustained social stability, which, in turn, will ensure prosperity and international peace. Poverty reduction and eradication must therefore remain at the core of all development efforts towards a just and equitable order.

In keeping with our democratic tradition, just three months ago, the people of my country voted, overwhelmingly, for a change of Government. Immediately upon assuming office, my Government has formulated development strategies based on the premise that economic and social policies must subserve the primacy of the people, in particular the poor. In fact, the fundamental principle of my Government's policy is putting the people first. My Government believes that the fullest possible participation of the people in the development process is the best guarantee for the success of any growth strategy.

The first set of social decisions taken by my Government, with that in mind, has been to expand the welfare State to cover free transportation for students and the elderly as well as to restore old-age pensions for all citizens. My Government's overriding objective is ultimately to make the economy work for the people, not to make the people work for the economy.

My delegation believes that assisting developing countries through increased official development assistance (ODA) is crucial; but it is only a palliative, not a remedy. Aid without trade would be not only unsustainable but, indeed, self-defeating. Trade is, and will always remain, the recognized engine of economic growth and development. Developing countries continue to face impediments in their efforts to attain sustained economic growth. Tariff and non-tariff barriers in developed countries, combined with the

non-implementation of commitments undertaken with respect to development financing and debt alleviation for developing countries, further aggravate the situation. We call on the international community to demonstrate the political will necessary to ensure that the Doha development round truly takes into account those concerns so as to achieve a fair and equitable global trading system for the benefits of our people.

My delegation welcomes the particular attention given by the world summit to the special needs of Africa. While many countries throughout the world have made significant progress in lifting their people out of poverty, for many others — mainly in sub-Saharan Africa — poverty, hunger, illiteracy, infectious diseases and the incidence of HIV/AIDS, unemployment and environmental degradation continue to take a heavy toll. My delegation therefore appreciates the resolve of the international community to address those issues and emphasizes the need for timely implementation of the relevant measures.

Despite significant efforts that have resulted in peace in several parts of Africa, the continent continues to suffer from violent conflicts and humanitarian crises. The plight of displaced people — especially women and children — in those conflict situations and in refugee camps needs to be urgently addressed. My delegation wishes to underscore the importance of enhanced measures to protect vulnerable groups, especially women and children, during and after armed conflicts.

In our own region, Mauritius continues to remain actively engaged in the reconciliation process in the Comoros. We are presently coordinating the preparations to host a donor round table for the Comoros later this year. The importance of the meeting cannot be overstated. We urge the donor community to contribute to this process for the benefit of the people of the Comoros.

The situation in the Middle East is seeing some tangible progress. We welcome the process of Israeli disengagement from Gaza and the northern West Bank, and we commend the efforts of the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict. We urge both the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples to continue the much-needed confidence-building measures so as to achieve a just and lasting peace.

With regard to Iraq, where innocent civilians are falling victim to violence on a daily basis, it is imperative that necessary support be provided to ensure the creation of an environment in which the Iraqi people can live in peace and security.

I spoke extensively on terrorism in the statement I made on 15 September 2005 during the High-level Plenary Meeting. I wish to reaffirm my country's commitment to fully cooperate with the international community to fight the scourge of terrorism, which has a direct and indirect effect on the lives of ordinary and innocent people.

At a time when there is a global consensus regarding the need to build a more secure world, it is a matter of the greatest regret that the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons failed to achieve a conclusive outcome. The proliferation of nuclear weapons poses a grave risk of fissile material falling into the wrong hands. That eventuality is too horrendous to contemplate. The devastation that could be caused by so-called low-yield nuclear weapons is unimaginable.

Mauritius advocates the eventual complete elimination of all nuclear weapons on the basis of a comprehensive and non-discriminatory disarmament regime. To demonstrate once again its full commitment to non-proliferation and to international peace and security, Mauritius recently signed the Additional Protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mauritius welcomes the agreement reached in June 2005 in New York on a politically binding international instrument on the tracing of small arms and light weapons, which will no doubt assist in combating the illicit trade in such weapons. That represents a significant step in ensuring that our peoples live in a safer world.

As regards reform of the Security Council, I wish to refer to my statement on 15 September 2005 outlining the position of Mauritius on that issue. We have a unique opportunity for substantial reform; it must not be squandered. It is imperative that Africa and India, the world's largest democracies, should find their rightful place in such reform. A reformed Security Council should reflect the present geopolitical realities to meet the aspirations of all our peoples.

The United Nations is a vital forum in which States, large and small, wealthy and less fortunate, can have their voices heard. It also provides a framework for collective action on the basis of consensus partnership and mutual understanding. I wish to reiterate the appeal I made, as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States, to our friends and partners at the special session on financing for development to continue to assist the small island developing States in their sustainable development efforts through the proper and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

Regional cooperation is an important means for developing and strengthening the economies of developing countries. To that end, we have made modest but encouraging progress with respect to regional integration. Mauritius pursues an active policy of integration through subregional organizations such as the Southern African Development Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Indian Ocean Commission and the Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation. While relations with our traditional development and trade partners continue to feature prominently in the foreign policy of Mauritius, we intend to take vigorous steps towards the development of strategic partnerships with member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as well as with Latin American countries.

Allow me to reiterate before the Assembly our legitimate sovereignty claim over the Chagos Archipelago, including the island of Diego Garcia, which was detached by the United Kingdom from the territory of Mauritius prior to our independence, in violation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 1960 and resolution 2066 (XX) of 1965. The people of the Chagos Archipelago, who were evicted from the islands, are still struggling for their right to return to their birthplace. We reiterate our call to the United Kingdom to pursue discussions with us for an early settlement of this issue. Likewise, we appeal to the French Government to expedite the process of resolving the issue of the sovereignty of Tromelin through dialogue in the spirit of friendship and trust that has always characterized our relationship.

(spoke in French)

Here, I should like to say a few words in French to show my country's attachment to and respect for

cultures and languages in all their diversity. Some of those languages, including French, have been bequeathed to us by history.

People have struggled throughout history to live better, but humankind continues to suffer. That remains true, unfortunately, for the developing countries, and those of the African continent in particular. The dawn of the third millennium has seen the expansion of assistance projects, including the Millennium Development Goals, to improve the fate of the weak and impoverished. We are committed to reducing extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.

The International Organization of la Francophonie, as announced in November 2004 at its tenth summit in Ouagadougou, is involved in that global struggle. We need to reinvent ourselves, get off the beaten track, and find new ways to attain our objectives as soon as possible. In that respect, we welcome the contribution of the French-speaking family in that joint action.

(spoke in English)

From this very rostrum 37 years ago, when Mauritius acceded to United Nations membership in 1968, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, then Prime Minister and father of the Mauritian nation, firmly advocated a secure, stable and just world:

“[M]en of goodwill are constantly trying to find a formula by which the underprivileged can banish inequality and fear and aspire to a place in the sun.” (A/PV.1643, para. 100)

Today, those aspirations are more valid than ever as the comity of nations engages in the quest for freedom from want, freedom from fear and the freedom to live in dignity. Providing mankind with those freedoms remains the primary goal of the United Nations.

In that spirit, I wish to announce that my Government has made a commitment in the Clinton Global Initiative to organizing an international conference on poverty and development, which will be results-oriented.

Today, as we celebrate the sixtieth year of its existence, let us strive to become what we were always meant to be — a truly representative body of “We the peoples of the United Nations”, acting in defence of their welfare and the advancement of their interests

above all else. That must remain our unflinching objective, and Mauritius pledges to fully play its part in that noble endeavour.

The President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius for the statement he has just made.

*The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam,
Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was
escorted from the rostrum.*

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
22 September 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session

Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

General debate

Letter dated 19 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius in the General Assembly on 19 September 2005 (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and the annexed statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 8.

(Signed) Emyr Jones Parry

* A/60/150.

Annex to the letter dated 19 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of Mauritius in the general debate on 19 September 2005

The British Government maintains that the British Indian Ocean Territory is British and has been since 1814. It does not recognize the sovereignty claim of the Mauritian Government.

However, the British Government has recognized Mauritius as the only State which has a right to assert a claim of sovereignty when the United Kingdom relinquishes its own sovereignty.

Successive British Governments have given undertakings to the Government of Mauritius that the Territory will be ceded when no longer required for defence purposes.

The British Government remains open to discussions regarding arrangements governing the British Indian Ocean Territory or the future of the Territory. The British Government has stated that when the time comes for the Territory to be ceded it will liaise closely with the Government of Mauritius.

The British Government values its close and constructive cooperation with the Government of Mauritius on a wide range of issues and looks forward to this continuing.

**General Assembly**

Sixty-first session

*Official Records***16**th plenary meeting

Friday, 22 September 2006, 10 a.m.

New York

President: Ms. Al-Khalifa (Bahrain)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.



Agenda item 8 (continued)**General debate****Address by The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius**

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius.

The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted to the rostrum.

The President: I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

Mr. Ramgoolam (Mauritius): I would like to express my sincere congratulations, and those of my delegation, to you, Madam President, on your election as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

My delegation wishes to commend Secretary-General Kofi Annan for the leadership and courage he has displayed during his tenure at the helm of the Secretariat. Secretary-General Annan assumed office at a time when the United Nations was facing severe criticism and its very relevance was being questioned. His dedication and professionalism have contributed significantly towards enhancing the efficiency and credibility of our Organization and its Secretariat. His initiatives to promote the development agenda of the United Nations have been of crucial importance, in particular to Africa. As the Secretary-General prepares to relinquish his office in the next few weeks, we thank him warmly and wish him well in all his future endeavours.

Since our last annual meeting, several ongoing conflicts have remained unresolved and new ones have emerged. The situation in the Middle East continues to be a major preoccupation for the international community. While violence is still raging in Iraq and peace still eludes the Palestinian people, the recent conflict involving Israel and Hizbullah has not only cost so many innocent lives but has also resulted in the wanton destruction of vital infrastructure within

Lebanon. Now that the guns have finally fallen silent, we urge all concerned in this unnecessary month-long conflict to abide fully by the provisions of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and to settle their outstanding issues through United Nations mediation.

There seems to be a unanimous view in the world today that the Middle East remains the epicentre of global insecurity and instability. Global peace and prosperity will remain an elusive dream unless and until the international community stretches all its diplomatic sinews to create conditions for lasting peace in the region. Mauritius strongly believes that a fair and final peace settlement in the Israel-Palestine conflict rests in the early implementation of the existing road map that has been endorsed by the international community.

We reiterate our support for an independent and sovereign Palestinian State existing side by side with the State of Israel.

The situation in Darfur remains a matter of serious concern not only to us in Africa but to the international community as a whole. We are confident that Security Council resolution 1706 (2006) has the capacity to lend strong support to the efforts already deployed by the African Union to put an end to that crisis.

Terrorism continues to be a major disruption for peace and development. The recent adoption of resolution 60/288 — the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy — sends a clear message that terrorism is unacceptable no matter who commits it, no matter where it takes place and no matter what the reason. Mauritius unreservedly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. But let us not delude ourselves into thinking that we can address the scourge of terrorism without addressing its root causes.

Fifteen years ago, the Assembly initiated discussions on the reform of the Security Council. Numerous proposals have been made since then. Each proposal, whatever its merits, has met determined resistance from some members defending their own narrowly defined interests. It is unacceptable that the African and Latin America and the Caribbean regions are not represented in the permanent membership of the Security Council. It is also morally and politically unacceptable that the world's most populous democracy is still denied a seat as a permanent member of the Council. It is imperative that a reformed Security

Council should include India among its permanent members.

The establishment of the Human Rights Council constitutes a significant step in the implementation of our common reform agenda. That new organ of the General Assembly should perform efficiently so as to establish itself as a credible universal institution for the promotion and protection of human rights. My delegation would like to thank the General Assembly for electing Mauritius as one of the 47 members of the Council at the elections held earlier this year. We will do our utmost for the universal promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the mandate conferred upon the Council by the Assembly.

The multilateral approach to disarmament has been on the back burner for some time. It is unfortunate that little progress has been achieved in respect of strengthening the foundations of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Mauritius supports the aim of the total elimination of all nuclear weapons on the basis of a comprehensive and non-discriminatory disarmament regime.

My delegation wishes to draw the attention of the Assembly to the fact that, 38 years after its independence, Mauritius has still not been able to exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia. The Archipelago was excised from the territory of Mauritius by the former colonial Power to be subsequently used for military purposes behind our back, in total disregard of Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2066 (XX). That exercise also involved the shameful displacement of the inhabitants of the Chagos from their homeland, thereby denying them their fundamental human rights. International law must prevail, as must respect for the sovereignty of all countries. We therefore call once again on the United Kingdom to pursue constructive dialogue in earnest with my Government, with a view to enabling Mauritius to exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

We view positively the visit jointly organized by the Governments of Mauritius and of the United Kingdom in April this year to enable the former inhabitants of the Chagos to visit the Archipelago for the first time since their displacement to pay respects at their relatives' graves on the Archipelago.

We hope to continue meaningful dialogue with France on the question of sovereignty over Tromelin,

given our excellent bilateral relations. We view the agreement reached in Paris at the expert level in January 2006 to set up a French-Mauritian joint commission for the co-management of the Tromelin zone as a positive first step.

My delegation is pleased that you, Madam President, have chosen development as the focus of your presidency. We welcome your proposal to dedicate this session of the General Assembly to the issue of implementing a global partnership for development. The biggest dilemma is how to secure the necessary financial flows towards developing countries. We call on the international community to honour commitments made to developing countries concerning official development assistance. Equally, we hope for conditions that will allow better access to the markets of the more affluent countries to generate resources for development.

Our meeting today coincides with the end of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. The progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including halving the proportion of people suffering extreme poverty by 2015, has been below expectations, as reflected in human development indices. Poverty continues to prevail from generation to generation in many parts of the world, in particular in the sub-Saharan region. The political, social and economic marginalization or exclusion of poor people very often undermines the stability and development potential of many countries.

Does that imply that conventional solutions have failed because they do not really address the root causes of persistent poverty? Or is it because instead of taking a bottom-up approach we have adopted a top-down approach, relying too much on the trickle-down effect? The fight against poverty is becoming more and more complex. Only a holistic and comprehensive approach will allow us to push back the frontier of the misery, conflict and hardship that afflict such a sizeable proportion of humankind.

In our own subregion, we have initiated measures to address the issue of poverty in earnest. At the recent Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit, held in Lesotho in August, we debated the issue of poverty alleviation. An extraordinary SADC summit on regional integration, scheduled for next month, will discuss a road map on poverty and development.

There is an almost symbiotic relationship between poverty and ill health, with disease often further impoverishing the poor and impacting negatively on the stock of scarce human capital in poor countries. Apart from malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis — and now avian flu — which are getting a lot of attention, other vector-borne diseases have manifested themselves, and are growing in an exponential manner.

The alarming rate with which the HIV/AIDS pandemic is ravaging our populations has far-reaching implications for our socio-economic development. It impedes our global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We appreciate the political commitment of the international community to combat this scourge so as to bring solace to those already afflicted and to prevent the further spread of the disease. Mauritius promptly and spontaneously joined the innovative financing mechanism initiated by France and Brazil to introduce a solidarity levy on air tickets to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. The launching this week of UNITAID — the International Drug Purchase Facility — has aroused new hopes.

Climate change is yet another serious threat. For too long, some of us have conveniently decided to ignore it. In fact, well-known institutions and eminent scientists have reached the conclusion that climate change may be one of the biggest threats to humankind. Of particular concern is the impact of global warming on certain vectors of disease, leading to their proliferation. It is estimated that in Africa, for example, we may witness many more millions of cases of malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases as a result of climate change.

Mauritius is fully committed to the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round. We look forward to a multilateral trading system that will be fair and equitable and that provides for the specific situations and needs of small and vulnerable economies. The recommendations of the World Trade Organization Aid for Trade Task Force, submitted in July 2006, should be implemented urgently to enable countries, particularly those with small and vulnerable economies, to access resources to undertake adjustment and restructuring programmes and to enhance their trade infrastructure and supply capacities.

Globalization does not seem to be living up to its promises. We should not allow it to be a process that

unleashes the potential of the few while suppressing the aspirations of the many. It will have to be tamed into a development process that will provide an opportunity to every single citizen of the world to achieve his or her full potential.

Mauritius, like so many small island economies with meagre resource bases, has had to adjust to the realities and challenges of increasing liberalization and global economic competition — especially the erosion of trade preferences, which have so far helped in addressing our inherent disadvantages. My Government has embarked upon a programme of bold and wide-ranging economic reforms to adapt to the new realities of the international economy.

At the end of the day, what is the ultimate role that each of us here has as heads of State and heads of Government? We have been entrusted with the destiny of our people and of our countries. We are but temporary custodians of the welfare of our people and that of humankind. If we really want to build better societies and a better world for future generations, we must indeed make a significant dent on the issue of poverty. We must channel significant resources and energy towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals. And we must ensure that we create stable and sustainable societies.

To achieve that, we can no longer afford to simply keep talking about noble intentions. We must walk the walk, not just talk the talk. Each one of us here has the responsibility to implement national policies that provide opportunities for those who have always been deprived of their human dignity as a result of living perpetually on the margins of the socio-economic mainstream.

My Government is guided by the notion of citizenship with dignity as a moral compass for action. We believe that socio-economic justice is a fundamental pillar of human dignity. We are therefore determined to provide concrete opportunities to the economically disenfranchised, in order to lift them out of the vortex of unjust economic inequalities. I have always upheld the ideals of social justice. I have therefore ensured that my Government dedicates no less than 12 per cent of our last national budget to an ambitious empowerment programme. That programme is funded by State and non-State actors, thereby heralding a new partnership for development in my country. It will provide tangible avenues for the poor

and unskilled to equip themselves with the tools necessary for them to join the economic mainstream. It also seeks to create a new and flourishing class of entrepreneurs. That is one of the effective and concrete ways by which we can truly ensure that we widen the circle of opportunities.

(spoke in French)

Resolving the problems to which I have referred to a large extent requires openness, responsiveness, dialogue and solidarity. We in Mauritius have the good fortune of being situated in a major crossroads as far as philosophies and religions are concerned. The history of the settlement of our islands has made that the case. We are the children of several traditions. Our identity has been shaped by various influences, from the East, West, North and South. Numerous ethnic groups, cultures, religions and languages have been evolving in our territory, and we are endeavouring to ensure that they enrich each other. We seek the commingling of cultures, which provides us Mauritians with a complex and dynamic identity. We believe that that is the best way to build a nation and to assert ourselves. As one can imagine, that situation requires ongoing vigilance on the part of political, religious and media leaders as well as rigorous and transparent application of the principles of justice.

We would like to believe that the experience of Mauritius can be applied at the international level. We also hope that dialogue between peoples and communities and communication between heads of State and Government will bring about the end of the disagreements that are today undermining our world, which is the only one we have.

The President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius for the statement he has just made.

The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted from the rostrum.

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
3 October 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session

Agenda item 8

General debate**Letter dated 29 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, in the General Assembly on 22 September 2006 (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(Signed) Emyr **Jones Parry**



Annex to the letter dated 29 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of Mauritius in the general debate on 22 September 2006

The British Government maintains that the British Indian Ocean territory is British and has been since 1814. It does not recognize the sovereignty claim of the Mauritian Government.

However, the British Government has recognized Mauritius as the only State which has a right to assert a claim of sovereignty when the United Kingdom relinquishes its own sovereignty.

Successive British Governments have given undertakings to the Government of Mauritius that the Territory will be ceded when no longer required for defence purposes.

The British Government remains open to discussions regarding arrangements governing the British Indian Ocean Territory or the future of the Territory. The British Government has stated that when the time comes for the Territory to be ceded it will liaise closely with the Government of Mauritius.

The British Government values its close and constructive cooperation with the Government of Mauritius on a wide range of issues and looks forward to this continuing.

**General Assembly**

Sixty-second session

*Official Records***10**th plenary meeting

Friday, 28 September 2007, 9 a.m.

New York

President: Mr. Kerim (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

The meeting was called to order at 9.10 a.m.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

07-52115 (E)



Agenda item 8 (*continued*)

General debate

The Acting President: I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

Mr. Ramgoolam (Mauritius): May I, on behalf of my delegation, and in my own name, extend our sincere congratulations to Mr. Srgjan Kerim on his election to preside over the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. I assure him of our fullest support and cooperation in the daunting tasks that lie ahead of us. His election is a personal tribute to his engagement and rich experience in international politics and diplomacy. Allow me also to convey our sincere appreciation and thanks to his predecessor, Her Excellency Sheikha Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa, for the effective and efficient manner in which she conducted the business of the sixty-first session. May I also take this opportunity to pledge my delegation's support to the new Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, in his efforts and approach in charting out a vision for the Organization that will respond to the needs and aspirations of the twenty-first century.

International peace and security constitute the bedrock of the Organization. We have come a long way since 1945 in securing peace and security in many parts of the world. However, a lot remains to be accomplished in order to have a conflict-free world. We are seriously concerned about what is happening in the Middle East. Conflicts in some parts of Africa continue to be a major source of concern to us. The trail of violence and death continues to plague the Middle East. In order to give peace a chance and allow it to take root in those regions and manifest its positive effects in the day-to-day lives of citizens, we need to redouble our efforts and explore all possible avenues to achieve peace, stability and security, in the larger interests of the citizens of those countries.

The fragility of the Middle East situation, and in particular the question of Palestine, needs a holistic approach that, inter alia, includes linkages embedded in the socio-cultural, political, economic and security issues of the region. I should also once again like to reiterate our full support for the establishment of an

independent and sovereign Palestinian State side by side with the State of Israel.

With regard to Darfur, we welcome the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur which is expected to assume the peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations there. We call on all the parties concerned in the conflict to demonstrate their real commitment and resolve to engage fully in the search for lasting peace.

In Somalia, despite the serious efforts to contain violence during the past six months, the situation remains highly volatile. In that context, I would like to add my voice to the call made by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Konaré, to the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of deploying a United Nations force to assist the African Union Peace Support Mission in Somalia.

The President returned to the Chair.

The world today is confronted with growing threats of terrorism — be it home-grown, cross-border, regional or international in nature. That scourge should be confronted with all the means at the disposal of the international community. We also believe that more effective and efficient mechanisms should be put in place to capture the financiers of terrorist organizations.

The United Nations remains the cornerstone of the fight against terrorism. Mauritius has lent, and will continue to lend, its fullest support to the numerous initiatives and resolutions of the United Nations on counter-terrorism. We are happy to note that the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism entered into force in July of this year.

The world of the twenty-first century is a world of interdependence, with the national frontiers between peoples and countries falling faster than we had envisaged. This has brought about the interphase and interaction between peoples from different parts of the world. We are today living in a world intertwined with interreligious and intercultural predicaments.

Mauritius, as the Assembly is aware, is a multi-ethnic and multicultural society. Unity in diversity is the solid foundation on which we have built the framework for the peaceful coexistence of peoples of different faiths and cultures. Cultural diversity,

understanding and respect for different faiths and religions are today part and parcel of Mauritian society.

We warmly welcome the convening of the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, which is to be held in October 2007 at United Nations Headquarters, for the promotion of tolerance, understanding and universal respect on matters of freedom and religion. We will certainly be part of the Dialogue.

Furthermore, we reaffirm our determination to support all initiatives that promote a culture of peace and tolerance. We are also happy to note that the General Assembly recently adopted resolution 61/271 to observe and celebrate the International Day of Non-Violence on 2 October each year in recognition of the great apostle of peace and non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi.

Mauritius is a strong advocate of all human rights and fundamental freedoms — so much so that the founding fathers of our constitution ensured that human rights figured prominently therein. Since our independence, in 1968, we have persistently endeavoured to place our citizens at the core of all forms of human rights and have ensured that they enjoy all political and civil rights irrespective of their status, colour or creed. We have enacted several pieces of legislation and we continue to enhance our legislative and institutional framework for the further protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We have set up the National Human Rights Commission, the Sex Discrimination Division, the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children and the Human Rights Centre to ensure and promote compliance with fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual and the international instruments on human rights.

Mauritius is party to all major international and regional human rights treaties. We continue to extend our unwavering support to the United Nations in the promotion and protection of human rights. As a member of the Human Rights Council, we are lending our fullest support to make it more effective, efficient and relevant in the eyes of the world. Our quest for universal respect for human rights demands that the perpetrators of massive violations be brought to justice promptly. Impunity gives rise to violations.

We cannot but admire the Buddhist monks of Myanmar and the courage of Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party won a democratic and fair election in 1990, only to be removed from office by a military coup. She has now spent 11 of the last 17 years under house arrest. And now the legitimate stirrings of the people's will are being brutally repressed in blood, as we are speaking here at the United Nations. It is our duty to let the people of Myanmar know that the free nations of the world stand by them. But we need to do more than just stand by them. The time has come for the most stringent sanctions to be taken against the military junta that has proved again and again that it is totally impervious to good sense and common humanity.

I am proud to say that in 1997, in my first term as Prime Minister, I took the decision to stop buying rice from Myanmar. I applaud the decision of the President of the United States of America to apply sanctions. All of us should do the same. The military junta must be sent a clear message: that the free world will not tolerate gunning down people who are demanding freedom and justice.

While the Assembly has made responding to climate change the thrust of the general debate, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has qualified climate change as the defining issue of our era. We cannot agree more with that. Climate change affects all of us. Indeed, if it is not addressed head on, it will have irreversible consequences and devastating effects on the survival of human beings and the habitability of our planet Earth. We all have a stake in addressing climate change and global warming.

We commend the laudable initiative of the Secretary-General in convening the High-level Event on Climate Change on 24 September. We remain confident that the strong message that has emanated from the High-level Event will provide the necessary impetus and political will and act as a catalyst to the Bali meeting later this year. However, in our approach to finding a global solution to climate change we should avoid making those who bear the least responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions and who are yet the hardest-hit, pay the price on the same scale as others who have led to the increase in global warming as early as the eighteenth century. Mauritius, for its part remains committed to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The rise in sea level constitutes a danger that threatens most of the low-lying island developing States. Those States have limited capacity to withstand the negative effects of natural disasters and external economic shocks. Their sustainable development becomes more trying and rigorous in the light of their inherent vulnerabilities. Mitigation and adaptation capabilities of countries may vary depending on the level of their economic development. Small island developing States (SIDS) face, in their adaptation choices, fundamental constraints of inadequate data and technical capacity, weak institutional capacity and limited financial resources.

In that respect we call for the full and effective implementation of the commitments, programmes and targets adopted in the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. A special SIDS fund to assist the development and implementation of adaptation measures in the same manner as the special fund for the least developed countries under the umbrella of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and regional climate observational systems to better monitor climate variations associated with global warming and sea-level rise, need to be set up.

While it is true that if the present pace of climate change goes unchecked, the face of the world may change dramatically in the next hundred years with devastating effects for future generations, it is equally true that underdevelopment, poverty, hunger and diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in the developing world are the present challenges that require the immediate and undivided attention of the world as laid down in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The 2007 Millennium Development Goals midterm report underscores that "the MDGs will be attained only if concerted additional action is taken immediately and sustained until 2015" (*Millennium Development Goals Report 2007*, p. 4). Africa, unfortunately, in spite of serious and strenuous efforts, continues to lag far behind on the MDGs.

Mauritius for its part, is on track to meet the MDGs by the year 2015. Nonetheless, since my Government took office in 2005, we have allocated considerable resources in our national budget for the

empowerment of the poor and the social uplifting of vulnerable groups. The development challenges of Mauritius go well beyond the achievement of the MDGs.

In order to improve the prospects for attaining the MDGs, it is essential for donors and development partners to honour their undertakings and commitments made at the 2002 Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development. In that respect, we hope that the follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development in 2008 will provide the much-awaited response from the concerned parties to adequately address international commitments on financing for development.

In our efforts to find ways and means to alleviate and ultimately eliminate poverty in our subregion, Mauritius, jointly with the Southern African Development Community will be hosting an International Conference on Poverty Alleviation and Development in April 2008.

While there is no denying the fact that globalization has led in its wake to economic growth in the world including developing countries, it is also true that many countries, especially the most vulnerable ones, are unfortunately not reaping the benefits of globalization. This is particularly true of LDCs, lower- and middle-income countries and countries in transition, which continue to face huge difficulties in integrating the globalizing economy.

We call for a new global strategy that would create an enabling economic environment for development. It would require greater coherence between the international trading, monetary and financial systems. We therefore reaffirm our dedication to the establishment of a new international economic order which emphasizes globalization with a human face whose benefits will be more widely shared.

More than six years after the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS "Global Crisis — Global Action", the pandemic still remains a global crisis requiring global action. The negative impact of HIV/AIDS on human resources in the 25-45 age group, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa is simply overwhelming. The alarming rate with which the HIV/AIDS pandemic is ravaging innocent lives in our societies has far-reaching implications for our socio-economic development. It undermines the efforts

towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Mauritius is merely 0.2 per cent, with between 20 and 30 per cent of the cases affecting vulnerable groups, such as prison inmates and intravenous drug users. Our policies are geared towards containing the level of contamination, in particular by combating transmission via the sharing of contaminated needles. We are providing substantial funds for the development of a needle exchange programme and a public awareness information and communication campaign on HIV/AIDS.

I wish here to put on record our appreciation to the Clinton Foundation for having included Mauritius amongst the countries that can benefit from the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative.

(spoke in French)

Every year at this time heads of State and Government meet here in this Assembly, because we believe in the virtues of multilateral diplomacy. All of us here are sincerely concerned about the multiple tensions across the world. I am convinced that we all wish to make our full contribution to the search for practical, viable and long-term solutions. We are all inspired by the same will to manage our differences in dialogue and understanding. We want to call attention to the problems of globalization and participate in launching and strengthening the economies of our countries.

We recognize and welcome the enormous role that the United Nations plays on the international scene, a role that needs to be considerably enhanced. The scope of diplomacy has considerably widened in recent years. Through the lever of international relations, the United Nations has the means and the duty to promote cooperation based on conflict prevention and the efficient management of natural disasters. But the United Nations still needs improvement in its structure and functioning, and we hope that reform will soon be brought about.

(spoke in English)

We continue to follow with keen interest and participate actively in the ongoing reform process of the United Nations, particularly on the question of the reform of the Security Council, the revitalization of the General Assembly, system-wide coherence, the mandate review and the management reform.

For us, meaningful reform of the United Nations must first pass through a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council. At the 2005 World Summit, we expressed our resolve to support early reform of the Security Council with a view to making it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent. There has been enough talk on this subject and it should not remain as mere words and intentions. My Government welcomes the decision of the Open-ended Working Group dealing with the reform of the Security Council, which has decided, inter alia, to start intergovernmental negotiations on the reform of the Security Council. We are convinced that the intergovernmental negotiations should be results-oriented.

Mauritius remains committed to the African common position, which calls for two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats for Africa in a reformed Security Council. We continue to support the legitimate aspirations of the Latin American and Caribbean countries for a permanent seat. Mauritius reiterates that a permanent seat for India in the Security Council is long overdue. As the largest democracy and a secular state, India is a living example of the peaceful coexistence of major religions, cultures and faiths. India can be a source of inspiration as well as a testing ground for the outcome of the forthcoming United Nations High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace.

In 1965 at the Constitutional Conference for the granting of independence to Mauritius, the Chagos Archipelago, among many other islands, formed an integral part of the territory of Mauritius and should have remained as such in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (1960) and 2066 (1965). Resolution 1514 (1960) states, inter alia:

“Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.” (para. 6)

The excision of the Chagos Archipelago by the colonial Power at the time of our independence constitutes a dismemberment of our territory in total disregard of resolutions 1514 (1960) and 2066 (1965). Furthermore, it is also a violation of the Charter of the United Nations itself. We therefore, once again,

reiterate our request to the United Kingdom to engage in bilateral dialogue with us as soon as possible with a view to enabling us exercise our sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

Equally, on the question of our sovereignty over Tromelin, we note the progress registered at the recent Mauritius-French joint commission. The United Kingdom and France, two permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, are two major and important economic, trade and development partners of Mauritius. We fully appreciate their continued support in the development of our country. We have been striving to reach an amicable agreement on these issues but we cannot — and will not — compromise on our territorial integrity and our sovereignty over those islands.

To conclude, I should like to reaffirm my country's full faith in the United Nations. It remains the only organization that offers us hope for peace and security for a better world for future generations.

The President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius for the statement he has just made.

The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted from the rostrum.

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
11 October 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session

Agenda item 8

General debate

**Letter dated 2 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
to the United Nations addressed to the President of the
General Assembly**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, on 28 September 2007 in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(Signed) John **Sawers**
Permanent Representative
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Annex to the letter dated 2 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of Mauritius in the general debate on 28 September 2007

The British Government maintains that the British Indian Ocean Territory is British and has been since 1814. It does not recognize the sovereignty claim of the Mauritian Government.

However, the British Government has recognized Mauritius as the only State which has a right to assert a claim of sovereignty when the United Kingdom relinquishes its own sovereignty.

Successive British Governments have given undertakings to the Government of Mauritius that the Territory will be ceded when no longer required for defence purposes.

The British Government remains open to discussions regarding arrangements governing the British Indian Ocean Territory or the future of the Territory. The British Government has stated that when the time comes for the Territory to be ceded it will liaise closely with the Government of Mauritius.

The British Government values its close and constructive cooperation with the Government of Mauritius on a wide range of issues and looks forward to this continuing.



General Assembly

Sixty-third session

Official Records

16th plenary meeting

Monday, 29 September 2008, 3 p.m.

New York

President: Mr. D'Escoto Brockmann (Nicaragua)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 8 (continued)

General debate

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

08-53141 (E)



The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to Mr. Somduth Soborun, chairman of the delegation of the Republic of Mauritius.

Mr. Soborun (Mauritius): I stand in for The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, who is not able to be personally present to address this Assembly at this session. The Prime Minister has asked me, on his

behalf to make this statement and to convey his kind greetings to President D'Escoto Brockmann; to his predecessor, Mr. Srgjan Kerim; and our Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The problems we face are many and daunting, but we believe that humankind has the ingenuity and resources to overcome adversity through a unified response. The goal of promoting human development and security, in all its manifold aspects, should remain our priority. In that regard, the theme of this session — “The impact of the global food crisis on poverty and hunger and the need to democratize the United Nations” — is both timely and relevant.

We are all affected by the growing global food crisis. As always, the brunt of food insecurity is borne by Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, where riots and strikes have occurred and social unrest threatens political stability. Admittedly, a number of factors underlie the present scarcity of food. Some of those factors are beyond our control. However, there is an urgent need for us to address such issues as outdated agricultural practices, inadequate infrastructure, the inequitable distribution of land ownership and insecurity of tenure. The list is long. The remedies are known. Hopefully, we can bring to bear the political will that is required.

Mauritius is a net food importing country. To reduce our dependence on food imports, the Government is implementing a plan to maximize food production. We are optimizing land use and diversifying the production of food crops, livestock and seafood. To overcome the constraints of land availability and take advantage of economies of scale, we aim, in partnership with neighbouring countries, to produce for our common domestic markets and eventually for exports to the region. Our experiments in that respect with Madagascar and Mozambique are proving to be mutually beneficial and hold great promise for the future.

The right to food is one that is very often overlooked, and yet it is intimately connected to human dignity. It is important that the international community act now to ensure that this fundamental human right is respected. In this era of scientific and technological prowess, when we are unravelling the mysteries of the immensities of the universe and subatomic particles, and when the discoveries of science daily amaze us and change our perceptions of

reality, it is unconscionable that countless children should sleep on an empty stomach. One out of every six persons in the world suffers from hunger. That is the greatest moral challenge facing humanity today.

We commend the Secretary-General for the timely establishment of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. We also welcome the recent proposal by the European Commission to create a special facility amounting to more than \$1.5 billion for a rapid response to food crises, in coordination with the United Nations Task Force and international organizations.

Over a period of almost one year, the unprecedented level of the price of oil has dealt a severe blow to the economic growth of many developing countries. Mauritius depends on imported oil for 80 per cent of its energy consumption, which makes it extremely vulnerable on that count. The share of petroleum products in our import bill went up from 12 per cent in 2000 to 18 per cent in 2007. We have recently set up the “Maurice Ile Durable” project to encourage more efficient use of energy and to tap renewable energy sources.

(spoke in French)

The Maurice Ile Durable project is bold, but we believe that the current global situation calls for boldness. The prime objective of the project is to strike a balance between our economic, environmental and social needs. Last year, we achieved a 5.4 per cent growth rate increase and this year we forecast a rate of more than 5.7 per cent. However, we realize that growth is not an end in itself.

The Government is pursuing a model of development that takes into account not only economic imperatives, but also the deep-seated aspirations of each Mauritian citizen. At the same time, we cannot allow ourselves to compromise the opportunities for future generations.

The Maurice Ile Durable project seeks to make Mauritius a fully-fledged laboratory. We will use the natural resources with which our island is so liberally endowed — the sea, the sun, the wind and a rich plant biomass. We seek an environmental solution to the problem of global warming and to our dependence on the extremely volatile hydrocarbons market. We have set ourselves the target of reducing our dependence of petroleum-based products by two thirds within

20 years. This is how we are contributing to international efforts to combat the greenhouse effect. It is the wager for the future of a very vulnerable small island economy, but I want to believe that it is also the objective of a planet threatened with suffocation on the long term.

(spoke in English)

While the causes of food insecurity and the energy crisis are multiple and complex, there is little doubt that climate change will exacerbate the situation in the future. Climate change places a particular burden on developing countries, which have done the least to cause the problem. Developing countries are in dire need of assistance to enhance their adaptive capacity and minimize their vulnerability because, on their own, they cannot bear the burden of the costs of mitigation and adaptation.

As an island, Mauritius is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, sea-level rise, beach erosion, coral bleaching and extreme weather conditions. They not only affect our local resources and industries such as fisheries and tourism, but also threaten vital infrastructure, settlements and services. The increased frequency and scale of natural disasters exacerbate our inherent vulnerability.

Mauritius is fully engaged in the post-Bali process. The meetings to be held in Poznan in December and in Copenhagen next year will be crucial to determining emission targets. It is vital that we reach a comprehensive agreement on a climate change framework. At the last high-level meeting on climate change, Mauritius made a plea for the creation of a special fund to enable the development and implementation of adaptation measures. Our appeal to international donors to provide the much-needed resources for operating the fund is yet to be answered. However, we welcome the recent declaration by the leaders of the Group of Eight of a long-term emissions reduction target of at least 50 per cent by 2050. We also welcome their undertaking to help support the mitigation plans of major developing countries through technology transfer and capacity-building.

Small island developing States are innocent victims of global warming and the degradation of the environment. Only a few weeks ago, we witnessed the devastation caused by a quick succession of hurricanes in the Caribbean. We therefore call on the international community to assist small island developing States to

incorporate adaptation and mitigation plans into their national strategies. Continued access to official development assistance, concessionary financing arrangements, the reduction of debt servicing and improved terms of trade are crucial to building up the economic resilience of small island developing States.

We are particularly concerned about the inadequate level of implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. We reiterate our request to the international community to honour the offers of assistance made during the international conference on small island developing States held in Mauritius in 2005. Furthermore, the arbitrary gross domestic product criteria applied to determine the eligibility for securing concessionary finance disqualify most small island developing States from accessing much-needed funds for important infrastructure development. It is absolutely necessary in that regard that small island developing States be treated as a distinct category.

More than halfway through, the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) track record is mixed. Some developing countries are on target while others, particularly from the African continent, are facing crippling difficulties. Even the gains painstakingly achieved in fighting hunger and poverty are tenuous and could be nullified by the current food and energy crisis. It is vital that donors and development partners honour the pledges made in the Millennium Declaration, the 2002 Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2005 World Summit.

Mauritius is on track to meet the MDG targets. Efforts are under way in all key socio-economic sectors to further improve living standards and to achieve the MDGs as early as possible. We are addressing poverty in a comprehensive and coherent manner, convinced that it will have a positive impact on the other development goals. Our experience has demonstrated that the most effective remedy to poverty is inclusive economic growth.

The Government is pursuing a number of programmes announced in its latest budget to eliminate absolute poverty. We have introduced an Eradication of Absolute Poverty Programme, which comprises a number of integrated development projects within identified pockets of poverty. We have also put in place a Human Resource Development, Knowledge and Arts

Fund to ensure that university studies become affordable to all. We aim to double enrolment in tertiary education by 2015.

In April, Mauritius hosted the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) International Conference on Poverty and Development. I am happy to inform the Assembly that the Conference formulated a regional strategy for poverty eradication in the SADC countries. The SADC secretariat has taken follow-up action on the development of an implementation plan. In line with one of the Conference recommendations, a joint ministerial task force on food security, comprising the ministers of finance, trade and agriculture, met in Lusaka on 13 July 2008 to tackle the food crisis affecting the region.

Africa's development needs were debated at the highest level on Monday, 22 September. Concrete and concerted action on the part of African States and their cooperation partners is called for to help achieve sustained and sustainable development on the continent. Furthermore, we look forward to the forthcoming Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development in Doha. It will be a unique opportunity to address the various facets of concessionary financing and to find new resources for development.

More important, the Doha Development Agenda should deliver on its promise of development through increased trading opportunities as a means of eradicating poverty. With regard to the World Trade Organization negotiations, we join those who have called for the talks to progress on the basis of what has already been achieved. We remain fully committed to the Doha Development Agenda and will contribute constructively to the negotiations.

We support the effective and quick implementation of the Aid for Trade Initiative, which should take into account the priorities and needs of beneficiary countries. At present, our limited industrial capacity prevents us from taking full advantage of the opportunities offered by globalization. On the regional front, I am pleased to say that we have made major strides in our integration process. The SADC Free Trade Area was launched on 17 August 2008, and we are aiming to fully liberalize trade by 2012.

Since the adoption of the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (resolution S-26/2), increasing numbers of people have gained access to

HIV prevention and treatment in low- and middle-income countries. However, many countries still have a long way to go to meet the goal we set ourselves under MDG 6 of achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. The high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa continues to be a cause for alarm.

Engagement at the highest level is vital in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Mauritius National AIDS Committee, under the chairmanship of The Honourable Prime Minister, oversees the implementation of a multisectoral HIV and AIDS strategic plan. That plan provides for antiretroviral treatment free of charge to all HIV-infected persons, voluntary counselling and testing service and the implementation of a mother-to-child transmission prevention programme. The Government has also increased the amount allocated to the fight against HIV/AIDS by 50 per cent in the current budget.

As we celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December, we must remain unwavering in our resolve to promote and protect human rights. Much remains to be done to ensure that the basic rights of individuals are universally protected. The Mauritian Constitution guarantees that our citizens enjoy fundamental rights in their everyday lives. The National Human Rights Commission, the Human Rights Centre, the Parliamentary Commission for the Democratization of the Economy and the proposed Equal Opportunities Act are important mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights in our country.

As an advocate of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, Mauritius severely condemns the decision of Myanmar's military junta to prolong the house arrest of Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi. My delegation believes that the national reconciliation and full democratization of Myanmar cannot be achieved without the release of Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi and other political detainees and without the participation of the National League for Democracy in the political process.

Situations of conflict and war inevitably give rise to violations of human rights and to atrocities against innocent civilians. Displacement and violent death continue to be the lot of far too many in parts of the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Mauritius has always

supported the struggle of the Palestinian people and their inalienable right to self-determination. We favour the creation of a Palestinian State coexisting with the State of Israel within secure and recognized borders. It is through dialogue, negotiations and compromise by both sides that lasting peace can come about in the Middle East.

The deteriorating humanitarian situation in Darfur remains a matter of grave concern for my delegation. We urge all parties involved in the conflict, especially the authorities, to exercise restraint in their actions and to move towards a just and lasting solution to the conflict. We welcome the power-sharing accord reached in Zimbabwe. We hope that a Government of national unity will bring peace, stability and reconciliation to the Zimbabwean people, who have suffered for far too long the brutal consequences of the political crisis and economic meltdown.

The grave and pervasive threat of terrorism knows no boundaries; no country is shielded from its pernicious and devastating impact. Mauritius is committed to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It is imperative that we conclude a comprehensive convention against terrorism as soon as possible to reinforce the existing legal framework. In June 2008, as part of its contribution to the international efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, Mauritius joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

We fully share the view of the President of the General Assembly regarding the democratization of our Organization. The ongoing discussions on the revitalization of the General Assembly, system-wide coherence, mandate review and management reform in the context of the United Nations reform process should be aimed at strengthening multilateralism. We need comprehensive reform of the Security Council so that it is able to meet the needs and respond to the aspirations of the increasingly changing political realities of the world.

We call for expansion of the Security Council in both the permanent and non-permanent membership categories and for improvement in its working methods. Mauritius remains firmly committed to the Ezulwini Consensus, which calls for two seats in the permanent category and five non-permanent seats for Africa. I should like to reaffirm once again the unequivocal support of Mauritius for India to be a

permanent member of a reformed Security Council. We also reaffirm our support for a Latin American and Caribbean country to be a permanent member of a reformed Council. Furthermore, we welcome the recent unanimous decision of the General Assembly to start intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in an informal plenary meeting of the General Assembly by the end of February 2009.

The principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations should continue to guide us in our actions. I would like to bring up once again before the Assembly our legitimate sovereignty claim regarding the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia. The Archipelago was excised from the territory of Mauritius by the United Kingdom prior to our independence, in disregard of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 1965. We have always favoured a settlement of the issue through constructive bilateral dialogue. In that regard, I wish to inform the Assembly that high-level talks are under way.

The Government is very sensitive to the aspirations of citizens of Mauritius to return to the islands of their birth in the Chagos Archipelago. I wish to recall here that they were forcibly removed from the Archipelago prior to its excision from Mauritius. Likewise, we urge France to pursue dialogue with Mauritius on the issue of Tromelin. It is our firm conviction that such bilateral dialogue will further consolidate our historical and friendly relations with both the United Kingdom and France.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that the United Nations remains the most important and credible international multilateral Organization for the maintenance of peace and security and for building a better and safer world. The President of the General Assembly can rest assured of our unwavering support in the work of the United Nations.

The Acting President: I now call on His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Khaleel, chairman of the delegation of the Republic of Maldives.

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
10 October 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session

Agenda item 8

General debate

**Letter dated 3 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to
the United Nations addressed to the President of the
General Assembly**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Somduth Soborun, chairperson of the delegation of Mauritius, on 29 September 2008 in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(Signed) John Sawers

* Reissued for technical reasons.



Annex to the letter dated 3 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Permanent Representative of Mauritius in the general debate on 29 September 2008

The British Government maintains that the British Indian Ocean Territory is British and has been since 1814. It does not recognize the sovereignty claim of the Mauritian Government.

However, the British Government has recognized Mauritius as the only State which has a right to assert a claim of sovereignty when the United Kingdom relinquishes its own sovereignty.

Successive British Governments have given undertakings to the Government of Mauritius that the Territory will be ceded when no longer required for defence purposes.

The British Government remains open to discussions regarding arrangements governing the British Indian Ocean Territory or the future of the Territory. The British Government has stated that when the time comes for the Territory to be ceded it will liaise closely with the Government of Mauritius.

The British Government values its close and constructive cooperation with the Government of Mauritius on a wide range of issues and looks forward to this continuing.

**General Assembly**

Sixty-fourth session

7th plenary meeting

Friday, 25 September 2009, 9 a.m.

New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

The meeting was called to order at 9.10 a.m.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

09-52463 (E)

**Please recycle** The recycling symbol, a triangle of three chasing arrows.

Agenda item 8 (*continued*)

General debate

Address by Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius

The Acting President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius.

Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted to the rostrum.

The Acting President: I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

Mr. Ramgoolam (Mauritius): On behalf of my delegation, and in my own name, I extend to the President our warmest congratulations on his well-deserved election to preside over the sixty-fourth session of the Assembly. I also commend the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his tireless efforts at the helm of our Organization in the cause of international peace and security.

In this globalized world, nations will increasingly face unconventional, emerging threats to their security. The recent rapid spread of the A (H1N1) virus is a case in point. The commitment of the entire membership of our Organization is required to forge a consensus to deal with the uncertainties of the times ahead. More than ever before, multilateralism will be the way forward.

As we confronted the severe food and energy crises of a year ago, little did we realize that the world was about to be engulfed in an unprecedented economic crisis. The most severe meltdown since the Great Depression has spared no country, precisely because we live in an interconnected world. Millions of people all over the world have lost their jobs, their incomes and their savings. It is estimated that an additional 50 million people have already been driven into extreme poverty. Whatever modest progress developing countries had achieved has been severely set back.

The world may be witnessing the early signs of a slow recovery. However, the aftershocks of the crisis will continue to be felt for much longer. Developing countries have experienced declining capital flows, stagnating foreign aid and a fall in remittances and export revenues.

Mauritius, with a small open economy, has been exceptionally exposed to the adverse effects of the crisis. Although both our manufacturing sector and our tourism industry have been negatively impacted, we have registered positive economic growth. This is due to the reforms my Government has implemented since 2005. Bold reforms have succeeded in making our economy more resilient. In 2008, our gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 5.3 per cent and the unemployment rate dropped to 7.2 per cent. Mauritius attracted foreign direct investment amounting to almost 5 per cent of GDP, and achieved the highest level of job creation in more than a decade.

However, the global crisis has been a severe blow. Growth has been slowed; we expect growth of around 2.7 per cent this year. But our economy is now structurally more sound, more competitive and resilient. We are concerned that a prolonged crisis could drive our export-oriented economy into reverse gear, with further declines in trade and capital flows, exchange rate volatility, and further falls in tourist arrivals.

To mitigate the damage to our economy, we reacted as soon as the first signs of the subprime crisis started in the United States. We introduced an expansionary budget with emphasis on infrastructural projects, and as the crisis spread into a worldwide financial and economic crisis we put in place a stimulus package to save jobs, protect people and prepare for the recovery. We have, in other words, been

ahead of the curve. In this uncertain economic situation, the priority of Mauritius is to safeguard the hard-earned gains from past reforms.

We have been collateral victims of financial imbalances, over-leveraged financial institutions, inadequate regulation and deficient supervision. Developing countries benefit little from periods of boom, and pay an inordinately high price for the busts that often follow. We hope that strengthening regulations and supervision will prevent the accumulation of high-risk, toxic assets that led to the crisis in the first place.

The crisis has also made it clear that the Bretton Woods institutions stand in need of fundamental reform. However, reforms will be effective only if they take into account the long-term stability and sustainability of the global economy. Institutions that make global decisions must reflect the changing nature of the global economic environment.

For too long we have condoned a clear democratic deficit in global economic governance. We need to reshape the global economy into a more equitable system, responsive to the needs of all countries and reflecting the realities of the day. In this regard, we appreciate the convening of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, held last June. The Conference provided a uniquely inclusive platform to address the urgent concerns of all nations. It has allowed the formulation of proposals to lessen the impact of the crisis, especially on vulnerable populations.

The implementation of the Conference's recommendations should avoid a further deterioration in the conditions of the world's poor. And we look forward to the recommendations of the Group of 20 (G20) Summit, which starts today in Pittsburgh.

In coping with the effects of the crisis, we have to resist the temptation to resort to trade protectionism. We should not forget that international trade has been a powerful engine for development and has generated substantial economic growth. From our perspective as a vulnerable small island developing State, it is vital that markets remain open and that international trade flows are not impeded.

It is essential that the Doha Round, with development at its core, be successfully concluded,

without, however, any unravelling of the July 2008 convergence package. We look forward to significant progress at the seventh session of the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, scheduled for December in Geneva.

The negative impact of the economic crisis on the most vulnerable populations causes us great concern. The global economic slowdown has further delayed the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Confronted with this grave setback, the developing world looks for a strong demonstration of solidarity.

We hope that the donor community will do more than just honour its previous commitments. The Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development have been overtaken by the events of the past year.

But I strongly believe that what we need now is a change in our approach in the developing economies. We need to urgently apply ourselves to making pro-business policy reforms instead of just relying on aid. That is the way to create wealth and prosperity. Charity is a noble endeavour, but relying on charity alone is not the answer to future prosperity and opportunity for all.

We need to unleash the entrepreneurial drive of our people. That is the ultimate answer to the eradication of poverty. We all know that it is better to show a man how to fish than to give him a fish every day. And we need to coordinate our actions to bring down trade barriers. In fact, what the developing countries need is a Marshall Plan, with a single coordinated programme. To qualify, countries need to meet benchmarks for good governance, respect for human rights, accessible health care and education and predictable economic policies.

Such a plan was successful in uplifting the economies of Europe after the Second World War. I have no doubt that it can be adapted to meet the same measure of success for developing countries.

At the national level, my Government is mobilizing considerable resources to meet the Millennium Development Goals. In a relentless drive to fight poverty, we have introduced an eradication of absolute poverty programme, which aims to break the vicious circle of poverty begetting poverty. And, to show our commitment to eradicating poverty in our

region, Mauritius took the initiative to host the Southern African Development Community (SADC) International Consultative Conference on Poverty and Development last year so that we can develop a common pragmatic approach. We are committed to the attainment of the MDGs on schedule, and look forward to the high-level review meeting next year.

Ensuring the fulfilment of the MDGs demands a stronger commitment by national Governments in the fight against HIV/AIDS. We are heartened in this instance by the response of the international community, which has been timely, generous and effective. Each and every nation must be fully engaged in this fight.

In Mauritius, we treat HIV/AIDS as a national priority. I have set up a National AIDS Committee, which I chair. We have put in place a multisectoral strategy to protect the population at large, with special emphasis on vulnerable groups. And yesterday I was delighted to learn about the breakthrough of an HIV/AIDS vaccine which could be available in the not too distant future.

Recently, the A (H1N1) pandemic has rapidly taken on alarming proportions. Although we have taken all possible steps to effectively deal with this new influenza virus, the escalation of the outbreak could stretch our health resources and infrastructure. In this connection, developing countries require early access to the vaccines that are in the pipeline, once their safety is assured.

Food security should have been an absolute priority of development strategies. It has for far too long been neglected. Many countries struggle to guarantee adequate food for their people. The present economic recession compounds an already difficult situation. Over a billion people, mostly in developing countries, do not have sufficient food to meet their daily basic nutritional needs. One in six of the human family goes to bed hungry and angry.

The present relative decline in food prices must not make us lose sight of the structural long-term deficit the world faces. This age-old problem is complicated by uncertainties linked to climate change and the diversion of food crops for bio-fuel production.

We must strengthen measures to improve food security globally. Existing funding mechanisms must

be improved to assist the World Food Programme to effectively avoid recurrent outbreaks of famine.

Mauritius welcomes the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to convene the World Summit on Food Security in Rome in November. It is our earnest hope that it will not be just another conference, but will propose practical measures to alleviate hunger and malnutrition.

In Mauritius, we have adopted a comprehensive strategy to achieve a reasonable level of food self-sufficiency. We are mobilizing technological, financial and human resources to produce locally as much food as is practically possible. To this end, we have set up a one-billion-rupee Food Security Fund to optimize efficiency and boost agricultural production.

To benefit from economies of scale, we are encouraging production in surplus of local consumption for export. We are establishing partnerships regionally to jointly produce food crops, livestock and marine products. The effective implementation of this strategy will contribute to improving our national food security.

We are currently working with Mozambique on a rice production project which will contribute to improving food availability in both countries, and probably in the region.

Climate change poses an existential challenge to mankind. Our profligacy puts at stake the very future of our planet and the forms of life it supports. This is an environmental threat with far-reaching social and economic implications that we have yet to mainstream into our national planning and decision-making processes.

We cannot with impunity treat our home planet with contempt. We can yet forestall bringing upon ourselves the full wrath of nature. But time is running out. Divergences must be resolved at all costs, and quickly, at Copenhagen. To move forward in a pragmatic manner, we need to break away from the finger-pointing, recrimination and brinkmanship of the past.

In Copenhagen, it is imperative that we agree to a targeted reduction in greenhouse gas emissions that will restrict global temperature rise to no more than 1.5° C. But any action, to be fair, must be proportional. Those who have polluted the most should bear most of

the burden. Developing countries need extra help so that their growth path is not thwarted.

We must create a financial mechanism to assist developing countries to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. This mechanism has to be credible and sustainable, and be managed according to the principles of good governance. It should also be a channel for the transfer of technology.

I therefore make a strong appeal that we unite to act collectively and quickly in our own interest and that of future generations.

For its part, Mauritius is implementing the “Maurice île durable” project to respond to climate change and the energy crisis. This is an ambitious programme focusing on the use of renewable energy and the emergence of small power producers. Its implementation will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels considerably and facilitate the transition to a clean, energy-efficient economy.

We have mobilized appropriate resources, with the collaboration of the private sector and development partners, to build a green and ecological future for Mauritius. We are doing our utmost to contribute, in full measure, to the global effort required.

The inherent constraints faced by small island developing States (SIDS) — in particular limited resources, remoteness, small domestic markets and vulnerability to natural disasters — cannot be ignored. We share a common future, and the welfare of one is unsustainable without the welfare of all.

We appeal to the international community to be more forthcoming in assisting SIDS in their efforts to become integrated into the global economy. A one-size-fits-all approach to development threatens to further marginalize SIDS in an increasingly globalized world. It is patently obvious that SIDS deserve special treatment and need to be recognized as a group of countries having specificities of their own.

The promotion and protection of human rights is a key priority of my Government. I wish to extend our appreciation to the United Nations membership for the re-election of Mauritius to the Human Rights Council. We will continue to work with other members of the Council in a spirit of dialogue, cooperation and objectivity to ensure that human rights violations are effectively addressed.

In line with our commitment to see that perpetrators of grave human rights violations are brought to justice, we wish to reaffirm our unflinching support for the International Criminal Court (ICC).

At the national level, we have adopted legislation such as the Equal Opportunities Act and the Truth and Justice Commission Act to further entrench human rights. Our achievements in the field of human rights were widely acknowledged during the Universal Periodic Review conducted earlier this year by the Human Rights Council. We were gratified by the unique opportunity provided to us by the Review to make a critical self-assessment of the situation in Mauritius.

When I addressed the Assembly in September 2007 I called on the international community to do more than just stand by the people of Burma. This appeal is more than ever relevant. We cannot condone the condemnation of Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi by a kangaroo court. We reaffirm our solidarity with and support for Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi, an emblematic lady who personifies the courage and dignity of her people, a people battered and bruised but unbowed.

It is imperative that we convey a clear and strong signal to the military junta that the international community will not tolerate its confiscation of the Burmese people's sovereignty. In this respect, I welcome the recent decision of the EU to extend the sanctions imposed on Burma.

For its part, Mauritius will continue to implement the decision I took in 1997 to suspend importations of rice from Burma. This decision has a cost, but it is a price we are prepared to pay in defence of principles we hold dear. We must show the world that there will be no double standards in our approach. I urge those countries that give comfort and sustenance to the regime not to let their short-term, mercantile interests perpetuate the misery of this long-suffering people.

The Arab-Israeli conflict, with the question of Palestine at its core, remains an issue of deep concern not only to the region, but also to the world at large. We take heart in the efforts of the Administration of President Obama to impart new impetus to the Middle East peace process. And we could not agree more with President Obama that continuing to build new settlements flies in the face of logic if lasting peace is to be achieved.

As a long-time proponent of a two-State solution, Mauritius welcomes the Quartet's commitment, renewed in Trieste in June, to actively and vigorously work for a comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Arab League's commitment to peace with Israel and the Arab Peace Initiative have been encouraging developments. We hope that those most directly concerned will display the courage and maturity to engage in meaningful dialogue in earnest.

The United Nations is, more than ever, the ultimate guardian of mankind's aspiration to global peace and security. I salute its unceasing effort in resolving conflicts around the world, in particular on the African continent. Conflicts and insecurity in Africa have been a major cause of the continent's underdevelopment. A study carried out by Oxfam last year indicates that between 1990 and 2005 conflict cost the continent \$300 billion, which is almost equivalent to all the international aid received by sub-Saharan Africa during that period.

The African Union has moved ahead with the creation of an African Standby Force. Once fully established, the Force will, hopefully, help in the advancement of peace and security at the continental level. The creation of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution is also a positive step in improving the peace and security architecture of Africa.

I take this opportunity to commend the United Nations and the European Union for helping Africa enhance its capacity to respond adequately and in a timely manner to security threats on the continent. The European Union deserves our appreciation for its contribution, to the tune of €500 million under the 10th European Development Fund, for the implementation of the Africa Peace Facility.

Allow me also to highlight some of the progress that has been achieved on the continent this year, including the formation of an all-inclusive Government in Zimbabwe and the holding of presidential elections in Mauritania.

We welcome the Agreement of Goodwill and Confidence-Building for the Settlement of the Problem in Darfur reached in February by Sudan's Government of National Unity and the Justice and Equality Movement.

We commend the role played by the African Union-United Nations joint mediation team and particularly the Government of Qatar, which has done so much to drive the process. We call on all the parties to the conflict to join in the search for peace in Darfur. We hope that conditions will speedily be created for the return of refugees and internally displaced persons.

We have high expectations that the preliminary agreement reached in Maputo will provide the political framework for resolution of the troubled situation in Madagascar. We are heartened by the active involvement and solicitude of various international bodies in trying to return the country to constitutional order. We cannot and should not condone unconstitutional Governments anywhere, be it in Honduras or Madagascar.

Somalia reminds us that we cannot with impunity wash our hands of any country, however remote it may be or however unimportant it may seem. The international community's neglect of the country and its indifference to the suffering of the Somali people have resulted in a quintessential failed State. That neglect and indifference have come back to haunt us in the form of piracy. Armed bands led by warlords have filled the political vacuum left by the delinquency of the Somali State. Today the territory of Somalia provides not only a haven for pirates, but also a base for terrorist groups. The Transitional Federal Government has to be assisted to regain control of the country, to put an end to the suffering of the Somali people and to deal with the problem of piracy.

Terrorism is an insidious, tentacular malignancy — a bane of our times. It is not only a security threat. It is a moral challenge, the negation of the fundamental values of civilization: the sanctity of human life and the intrinsic worth of the human person.

Every terrorist attack causes us pain, anguish and revulsion. But the one in Mumbai last November took on a special poignancy for the people of Mauritius. In the blind and mindless carnage unleashed by the terrorists on that city, one of the victims was a compatriot of ours. We have condemned in no uncertain terms this dastardly, cowardly act, and we expect that everything will be done to ensure that the terrorist organization behind it is brought to justice. My Government unreservedly supports all campaigns and initiatives against terrorism.

Mauritius nurtures the hope of the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons one day. Pending its ultimate realization, we support all measures aimed at halting the further spread of such weapons. In this regard, we welcome the comprehensive agenda of President Obama to achieve the goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Multilateralism is the cornerstone of the United Nations, and should be strengthened in the face of the current global challenges. Global challenges need a global response.

We follow with keen interest the process under way to revitalize the General Assembly and improve its working methods, to bring more coherence to the United Nations system, and to reform the Security Council.

We are particularly satisfied by the start of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform earlier this year in an informal plenary session of the General Assembly. The comity of nations should work together, in a spirit of solidarity, to reach a unified position on the reform of this important body. The reform of the Council should cover the categories of both permanent and non-permanent members, with a revised set of working methods.

We fully support India's having a permanent seat in a reformed Security Council. And we once again express our unequivocal support for the Common African Position. We also support permanent membership of a Latin American and Caribbean country in a reformed Security Council.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, which was detached by the United Kingdom from the territory of Mauritius prior to our independence. The dismemberment of the territory of Mauritius was in total disregard of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965.

As President Obama said two days ago from this very rostrum, we must "demonstrate that international law is not an empty promise" (A/64/PV.3). We must all abide by it.

We have consistently urged the United Kingdom to engage in a meaningful dialogue with Mauritius for the early return of the Chagos Archipelago. We are pleased to inform the Assembly that two rounds of

talks have been held with the United Kingdom this year. We look forward to those discussions coming to fruition, and hope that Mauritius will be able to exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, in the near future.

My Government and the French authorities are also in the process of addressing the issue of Tromelin. We are discussing the modalities of co-management of the island in a spirit of friendship and trust, pending the settlement of the sovereignty issue, which has to be resolved and not left on the back burner.

(spoke in French)

Nobody can deny the key role that the United Nations is called upon to play in the concert of nations. At the same time, we agree that the Organization needs to be reformed. The attendance at this session of the Assembly, where each year a number of points of view and perceptions converge, emphasizes our desire to act and build together.

The concerns and aspirations of our peoples are echoed and thus take on universal resonance. We are indeed becoming aware that, whatever latitude we develop in, we have a common destiny.

I am one of a people steeped in several cultures, whose men and women worship Shiva, Jesus, Allah and Buddha, in diverse languages. The history of the

populating of our island and its geographical position have made our country a true crossroads of cultures. We have made the right to difference on the one hand and the right to equality on the other our watchwords. I am happy to remind my multi-ethnic people that each individual shares with all other humans 99.9 per cent of the same genetic code.

Those of us gathered here have much to learn from each other. Exchanging our experiences and knowledge enriches us and makes us stronger.

The respect for plurality that this forum demands must neither make us forget our differences nor contribute to the emergence of a dominant discourse.

I commend the topic that the President has chosen for this year. If the Assembly manages to foster cross-pollination of cultures and to highlight what human beings have in common, we shall, to a large extent, have achieved our goal.

The Acting President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius for the statement he has just made.

Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted from the rostrum.

The meeting rose at 2.10 p.m.

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
6 October 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session

Agenda item 8

General debate**Letter dated 28 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by His Excellency Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, on 25 September 2009 in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and the annexed statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 8.

(Signed) John Sawers



Annex to the letter dated 28 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of Mauritius in the general debate on 25 September 2009

The British Government maintains that the British Indian Ocean Territory is British and has been since 1814. It does not recognize the sovereignty claim of the Mauritian Government.

However, the British Government has recognized Mauritius has the only State which has a right to assert a claim of sovereignty when the United Kingdom relinquishes its own sovereignty.

Successive British Governments have given undertakings to the Government of Mauritius that the Territory will be ceded when no longer required for defence purposes.

The British Government remains open to discussions regarding arrangements governing the British Indian Ocean Territory or the future of the Territory. The British Government has stated that when the time comes for the Territory to be ceded it will liaise closely with the Government of Mauritius.

During recent meetings, British and Mauritian officials discussed the latest legal and policy developments relating to the British Indian Ocean Territory. Both delegations set out their respective positions on sovereignty. The United Kingdom also set out its need to abide by its treaty obligations with the United States and its ongoing need of the British Indian Ocean Territory for defence purposes. There was mutual discussion of fishing rights, the environment, the continental shelf and future visits to the Territory by Chagossians.

The British Government values its close and constructive cooperation with the Government of Mauritius on a wide range of issues and looks forward to this continuing.



General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

21st plenary meeting

Tuesday, 28 September 2010, 9 a.m.

New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Deiss (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m.

Agenda item 8 (*continued*)

General debate

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

10-55264 (E)



Please recycle 

The President (*spoke in French*): I now call on His Excellency Mr. Arvin Boolell, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius.

Mr. Boolell (Mauritius): I congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, and I thank your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Ali Treki, for his excellent stewardship of the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session. I seize this opportunity to convey to you the warm greetings of the Honourable Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius.

We are meeting this year against the backdrop of the triple blow of food, fuel and financial crises, which have significantly slowed the social and economic progress of many, particularly developing, countries. Although we are now witnessing signs of gradual recovery, we are nonetheless aware of the fact that the world is still mired in the consequences of the recession.

These crises have exposed the deficiencies of the international financial and governance structure and made us realize that the pre crisis status quo has to be challenged, if we are to ensure a better future for our people. While we acknowledge the pre eminent role that the Group of 20 is playing in addressing the financial and economic crisis, the widening and acceleration of global integration and interconnectedness dictate the necessity of democratizing the international economic and financial decision-making processes in order to ensure that the future development of our global economy is balanced and equitable.

It was therefore reassuring to hear the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Mr. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, stating last Monday,

“To regain momentum, we need a sense of shared responsibility among the various actors — the developing countries themselves, the advanced

economies and, in part, the international financial institutions.” (A/65/PV.3)

The statistics are eloquent regarding the negative impact of the multitude of crises on the progress achieved on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As global economic output has declined, the ranks of the poor have swelled with the newly poor.

A week ago, from this very rostrum, an impressive number of world leaders reaffirmed their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals. In our drive to enable the less fortunate to lead a dignified life, it is imperative that we have closer cooperation and collaboration between Government, civil society and the private sector, supplemented by innovative thinking, cutting-edge knowledge and path-breaking initiatives.

Success in achieving the Millennium Development Goals is inextricably linked to the broader agenda of climate change. The effects of climate change and global warming threaten the very implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. While climate change is affecting all countries, it is abundantly clear that the small islands and low-lying and coastal States are the most affected by its consequences.

We therefore urge that the small island developing States be given simplified access to financing from the \$30 billion of fast-start funding pledged in the Copenhagen Accord and similar access to the longer-term funds proposed for the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund. That adaptation funding should be in the form of grants and not loans.

We hope that the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Cancún later this year, will build on the 2009 Copenhagen Accord to ultimately arrive at a legally binding agreement on limits to greenhouse gas emissions based on the principle of common but differentiated capabilities and responsibilities and the establishment of mitigation and adaptation funds. Let us therefore join our efforts and not miss the opportunity, because a world that is climate-smart is within reach, if we act now, act together and act differently.

In its effort to contribute towards the global momentum to attain a low-carbon future, Mauritius is implementing the Maurice Ile Durable project, which

aims at protecting the environment and minimizing dependence on fossil fuels through increased utilization of renewable energy and a more efficient use of energy in general.

The High-level Review Meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States re-emphasized the fact that, owing to their inherent specificity, small island developing States should be recognized as a distinct category of countries and should be granted special treatment, particularly in accessing official development assistance and concessionary funding. The present gross domestic product criterion applied in graduating least developed countries to middle-income status is most unfair to small island developing States, since it does not take into account the unique vulnerabilities of those States.

The time has come for a shift in how we think of development. We need to articulate strongly a new development paradigm, one where developing countries are part and parcel of the solution to create a more vibrant world economy in this truly multipolar world.

We therefore look forward to the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round at the earliest possible date. It is also crucial to close the gaps in the provision of Aid for Trade so as to support the building of supply capacity, which lies at the core of development.

At the subregional level, Mauritius, in its capacity as the new chair of the Indian Ocean Commission, will continue to lay greater emphasis on the creation of an economic and commercial space, the implementation of a regional strategy on fisheries and aquaculture, the promotion of tourism in our region in traditional and emerging markets, and the development of a comprehensive regional anti-piracy programme.

A fundamental precondition for socio-economic development can be found in a process of social inclusiveness, with human rights at its core. As a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Mauritius is firmly committed to the safeguarding and protection of human rights, at both the national and the international levels. In this regard, we unreservedly condemn the serious human rights violations committed by warring factions in conflict zones, where

vulnerable members of the society, particularly women and children, are being targeted. At the national level, a truth and reconciliation commission has started the challenging task of compiling a report on slavery and indentured labour in Mauritius during the colonial period.

Mauritius continues to be preoccupied with the fate of pro democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whose heroic and unbreakable determination and steadfastness to free her people from years of subjugation compel all of us who are strong advocates of democratic values to stand and speak up. Depriving Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi of the right to stand as a candidate in the forthcoming general elections scheduled in November this year is considered by my delegation as the deprivation of the basic rights of the people of Myanmar to freely choose the leaders to whom they wish to entrust the destiny of their country.

Democracy and the rule of law are essential elements for the development, stability, security and prosperity of any country. The world has made significant strides in this respect. Nonetheless, it is regrettable that conflicts in certain parts of the world continue to undermine progress. The imperatives of a globalizing world require the international community to remain seized of these issues and not to shirk its responsibilities.

In the Indian Ocean region, Mauritius is particularly concerned with the current political impasse prevailing in our neighbouring sisterly country — Madagascar. We are actively engaged in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU) and the Indian Ocean Commission, working to assist Madagascar to find a peaceful solution to the political crisis.

In this regard, we wish to state that we are supportive of the initiative led by the *Coordination National des Organisations de la Société Civile* to organize an inter Malagasy dialogue in order to find a solution designed by all Malagasies to the crisis in Madagascar. And we sincerely hope that the dialogue will be credible, transparent and include all sections of Malagasy society in the search for durable peace in the interest of both the country and the region. Mauritius has offered its assistance in setting up an SADC liaison office in Madagascar in order to provide support in moving the Malagasy-Malagasy dialogue.

Two decades of civil unrest have inflicted untold miseries and difficulties on the Somali people and rendered governance of the country almost impossible. We commend the Intergovernmental Authority on Development for its efforts to promote peace and security in Somalia through the Transitional Federal Government. We believe that the people of Somalia deserve greater commitment from the international community towards restoring law and order inside the country and also towards putting an end to the piracy problem off the coast of Somalia.

In order to promote a more proactive engagement of the countries of the region in the fight against piracy, Mauritius will host the Second Regional Ministerial Conference on Piracy on 6 and 7 October, in collaboration with the European Union, the Indian Ocean Commission and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. Mauritius is also envisaging the possibility of trying piracy suspects caught in the Indian Ocean in its courts, if the logistical, infrastructural and financial support of the international community is adequate.

The current process for talks between Israelis and Palestinians has given renewed hope for lasting peace through the creation of an independent sovereign Palestinian State existing side by side with the State of Israel within secured and recognized borders. Mauritius has always supported the legitimate and inalienable right of the Palestinian people to live in peace and security in an independent Palestinian State. We therefore commend President Barack Obama for his initiatives and leadership in enabling the direct talks between President Abbas and Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Global governance in the maintenance of international peace and security will remain incomplete until we achieve a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council — a reformed Security Council that meets and responds to the geopolitical realities of the twenty-first century. In this respect, Mauritius fully supports the Common African Position, as enshrined in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. We reiterate our support for India, the largest democracy, obtaining a permanent seat in a reformed Security Council. We also support the rightful aspiration of Latin America and the Caribbean for a permanent seat in the Council.

We have in no uncertain terms drawn the attention of this body every year to the fact that Mauritius has sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia. The Chagos Archipelago was illegally excised by the United Kingdom from the territory of Mauritius prior to our independence. This dismemberment was done in blatant violation of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965. We have raised the issue of the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Archipelago with successive British Governments and initially pursued the matter as a friendly dispute. In view of the lack of progress, we suggested that the issue be addressed in bilateral talks. Although the process of bilateral talks was initiated in January 2009, the issue of our sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago has yet to be addressed.

We are deeply concerned that the British Government decided on 1 April 2010 to unilaterally declare a marine protected area around the Chagos Archipelago — our territory — allegedly to protect the marine environment. The unilateral establishment of this marine protected area infringes the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Archipelago and constitutes a serious impediment to the eventual resettlement there of its former inhabitants and other Mauritians, as any economic activity in the protected zone would be precluded. The Government of Mauritius has decided not to recognize the existence of the so called marine protected area.

The illegal excision of the Chagos Archipelago from the territory of Mauritius has indeed a tragic human dimension. All the inhabitants of the Archipelago were at that time forced by the British authorities to abruptly leave their homes there, in total disregard for their human rights. Most of them were moved to the main island of Mauritius. The Government of Mauritius is sensitive to and fully supportive of the plight of the displaced inhabitants of the Chagos Archipelago and to their desire to resettle in their birthplace there.

Mauritius greatly appreciates the unflinching and unanimous support it has consistently received from the African Union and the Non-Aligned Movement for the assertion of its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. The last AU Summit held in Kampala last July and the last Non-Aligned Movement Summit held in July 2008 in Sharm el-Sheikh both reaffirmed that

the Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius. They also called upon the United Kingdom to expeditiously put an end to its unlawful occupation of the Chagos Archipelago with a view to enabling Mauritius to effectively exercise its sovereignty over it.

We urge the United Kingdom once again to take the necessary steps for the unconditional return of the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, to Mauritius without further delay. In our annual statement, we also reaffirmed the sovereignty of Mauritius over Tromelin Island. The Governments of Mauritius and France reached an agreement earlier this year on the co management of the island and its maritime zones without prejudice to the sovereignty of Mauritius over Tromelin. This is considered to be a first and positive step towards the resolution of the sovereignty issue.

(spoke in French)

The Republic of Mauritius is a crucible of civilizations and cultures. We are proud to be a haven of peace, where people of various backgrounds and traditions live together in harmony. The people of Mauritius are inspired by the philosophy of multiculturalism and consider their diversity to be a rich human resource. Based on the vision expressed in our motto, “Unity, equality and modernity”, we have committed to place humanity at the centre of all development in our pluralistic society — a society based on diversity, respect for cultural individuality, non-discrimination and sharing common values.

The United Nations is the pre-eminent forum for intercultural dialogue. My country will fully play its part in the combined global effort for all human beings to enjoy the consideration and respect that are their birthright.

(spoke in English)

Finally, I should like to reaffirm Mauritius’ unwavering faith in the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace, security and development.

The President *(spoke in French)*: I now call on His Excellency Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria.



General Assembly

Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

22nd plenary meeting

Saturday, 24 September 2011, 9 a.m.

New York

President: Mr. Al-Nasser (Qatar)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Körösi
(Hungary), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

The meeting was called to order at 9.05 a.m.

Agenda item 8 (*continued*)

General debate

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11-51360 (E)



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**Address by Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam,
Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home
Affairs and External Communications, Minister
of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms of
the Republic of Mauritius**

The Acting President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms of the Republic of Mauritius

Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted to the rostrum.

The Acting President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms of the Republic of Mauritius, and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

Mr. Ramgoolam (Mauritius): The primary purpose of the United Nations is to maintain peace and security, as set out in the very first Article of its Charter. This remains the top priority of the international community and of the United Nations.

However, 66 years after the adoption of the Charter, our definition of peace and security differs from what it was in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War. Our concerns today are wider than the mere suppression of aggression or similar breaches of peace. We are now equally concerned about the threats to peace and security resulting from factors other than armed aggression. Tensions exist, within nations and among nations, as a result of unequal access to resources, the lack of food security, or existential threats because of the inability to address climate change issues. Insecurity also results from the absence of an adequate international mechanism for the redress of grievances and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

I propose to deal with four of the constitutive elements of present-day security that the international community and the United Nations should address,

namely, the elements of economic, environmental, human and legal security.

When peoples and nations feel inextricably mired in poverty and face bleak prospects for development, they are insecure about their future. That economic insecurity may ultimately threaten global peace. The current economic turmoil is deepening the despair of those who live in need and is spreading despondency, even in relatively affluent countries. The world economy has yet to recover from the crisis of 2008.

Today, Europe and North America struggle with budget deficits, unsustainable debts and high unemployment. At the same time, the recent political turmoil across the Middle East could mean that oil and food prices will continue to rise. As developed economies grapple with these serious challenges, the developing world finds itself negatively impacted by economic and financial crises resulting from failures in which it had absolutely no part.

While the ability of established developed countries to deal with economic and financial problems is in question, the world is witnessing the rapid rise of a number of emerging economies. As the economic centre of gravity shifts eastward and creates new opportunities, we must ensure that those formidable global challenges do not create economic insecurity for those who feel left behind and that they do not lead to other threats to international security.

It is imperative that we manage these transformations judiciously and with pragmatism. In that context, I must stress the particular economic vulnerabilities of small island developing States (SIDS). The economies of SIDS remain highly volatile because of their open economies, small economic size, narrow resource base, disadvantages in economies of scale, high export concentration, dependency on imports and high vulnerability to energy- and food-price shocks.

We reiterate that SIDS need to be granted preferential treatment as part of a global strategy to ensure economic security. Regrettably, SIDS have been denied the formal recognition of their specific vulnerabilities that would entitle them to special consideration. My delegation fully supports the implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

As there are increasing concerns over issues such as employment, food security, climate change and access to water, it is a matter of regret that trade talks that could give a boost to international trade, and therefore to economic security, are stalled.

On a broader note, I must say that talks on trade and other economic issues, to the extent that they take place at all, are held in sectoral and often restricted forums. While the specialized nature of these negotiations, or of the scope of the matters being addressed by standard-setting organizations, may require dedicated sectoral frameworks, it is imperative that the international community ensures that those frameworks are legitimate ones, with universal membership. It is also imperative that, as an apex body, the United Nations have a holistic view on global economic, financial, trade and development issues.

During the 1970s, the United Nations played a significant role in shaping the conceptual framework for a new international economic order. The United Nations has adopted a number of landmark resolutions that have laid the normative foundation for a more equitable economic order. The United Nations still has a role to play in shaping the world economic order to ensure economic security, in accordance with its mandate under the Charter. The United Nations is the only international organization with not just the necessary legitimacy and universality but also the responsibility to have an overview of global economic development. In doing so, the United Nations will ensure policy coordination among forums for various sectors, set principles and guidelines for sector-specific negotiations, and assume its ultimate responsibility for the economic security of all nations.

To reaffirm its responsibility with respect to economic security, the United Nations must not only undergo reforms in its institutions and working methods, it must also re-balance its focus on political and economic issues. In this regard, the Economic and Social Council must be given the prominence it was intended to have as one of the principal organs of the United Nations. And in assuming its responsibility with respect to economic security, a reformed and revitalized United Nations will have to work more closely with regional cooperative institutions, which are the pillars of international cooperation.

The high food prices of 2007 and 2008 and the global economic crisis led millions of people into food

insecurity and raised the total number of people who go hungry to more than 1 billion. Commodity prices remain high and the risk of repeated crises is real. With the projected increase in world population to 9.1 billion by 2050, and the rising costs of production, there is a risk of persistent price volatility. That will be exacerbated by the effects of climate change. The international community must therefore seriously address the issue of food insecurity around the world.

Economic security also entails working towards a more inclusive national society without discrimination, eliminating inequalities and fostering wider participation on the part of all sections of the community in national development and governance.

Two days ago, at our 14th meeting, we gathered to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. We welcome the progress achieved in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance since 2001. We nonetheless recognize that in spite of these efforts, many people continue to be victims of these despicable practices.

We commend the United Nations on the success of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth (see A/65/PVs.111 and 112) and the adoption of the outcome document (resolution 65/312). Development and security will require greater participation by young people in the formulation of strategies and policies.

In that same spirit, we welcome the establishment of UN-Women and its overarching vision of a world in which societies are free of gender-based discrimination and where women and men have equal opportunities, respect and consideration. A more inclusive world, where women's intellectual and economic potential is fully realized, will promote economic security.

In June of next year, world leaders will meet in Rio de Janeiro to renew their political commitment to sustainable development and, hopefully, to adopt concrete measures that will contribute to greater economic security. But before we can move ahead, we will also have to consider why so many past commitments have not been honoured. We look forward to the oceans receiving the attention that they deserve at Rio, as part of the broader economic agenda. Small island States in particular are relying on the international community to give due attention to the sustainability of the oceans in the context of the United

Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and beyond. The sustainability of oceans is crucial to the security and, in some cases, the very survival of many small island States.

Humanity as a whole is now increasingly concerned about its environmental security, probably more than it has ever been in its history. For some small island nations, this concern is, in fact, an existential one. In recent decades the United Nations has brought to the fore the concept of sustainable development and the measures required to promote such development. The preparatory work under way for Rio+20 has highlighted the serious gaps we still face in this area. The disruptions resulting from climate change pose a real threat to global security.

Climate change is real. Extreme weather phenomena such as super-storms, floods, droughts and heat-waves are already upon us. Climate change is affecting us in our daily life, and it threatens the very survival of many small islands. Mauritius is already experiencing the adverse effects of climate change. Air temperature has risen by 0.6° to 1.1°C in different microclimates over recent decades. The sea level is rising at the rate of 1.2 millimetres per year in the south-west Indian Ocean. Our annual rainfall has decreased by 8 per cent compared to the 1950s. Extreme weather conditions such as flooding are becoming more frequent.

Without international cooperation and concerted action, the impact of climate change will be devastating for all our nations. My delegation firmly believes that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. Small island nations are economically vulnerable, and their vulnerability is exacerbated by the dramatic consequences of climate change. Small island States rely on the international community for their security.

Mauritius is committed to the concept of the green economy. We recognize that it is not a one-size-fits-all notion. Countries need to reflect their own national priorities and realities in their implementation of it.

My Government has been pursuing a sustainable development strategy. The Maurice Ile Durable project, which we adopted in 2008, is taking shape, and a whole range of measures have already been

implemented. We propose to increase the share of renewable energy in the generation of power from the present 18 per cent to 35 per cent by 2025, by making more intensive use of biofuels and wave, solar and wind energy. To that end in May last year I set up a full-fledged ministry with responsibility for sustainable development. We are engaged in a national consultation process to formulate strategies and policies that have public support and are designed to protect the environment, deliver social justice and create a sustainable economy.

Climate has impacted the water cycle both directly and indirectly, and will continue to do so, by affecting precipitation and evaporation cycles as well as water availability and patterns of water consumption. Many regions of the world are already experiencing reduced rainfall. As climate change intensifies and water scarcity becomes more acute, the threat of tensions among different nations and different users may increase. The international community must therefore work together to address this pressing issue. Environmental security must be a priority of the United Nations in promoting global security.

As well as dealing with the existential threat that climate change poses for some nations, people around the world continue to be concerned about their own security. I will mention four such concerns.

Disarmament is a major component of international security strategy. The threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction is a universal concern. Our failure to resolve the issue of disarmament continues to undermine global development and security. A significant reduction in the production of conventional weapons and eventually a world free of nuclear weapons are goals that will be achieved only over time, and that will require patience and perseverance. As a matter of fact, the international political environment is now probably more conducive to the realization of these goals than it has ever been.

Terrorism continues to be a threat to security. Recent events have reminded us that acts of terrorism can be perpetrated by extremists from all points on the political spectrum, and that terrorism is equally capable of breeding in both poor and rich countries. The international community needs to follow up on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and enhance international cooperation in that regard.

The *World Drug Report 2011* again shows that drug trafficking and consumption remain significant. Narco-trafficking and drug money in organized crime and terrorist activities are a threat to stability and security at the national and regional levels. As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, let us recommit our efforts to fight drug trafficking as part of the global strategy to ensure human security.

We are 30 years into the fight against HIV/AIDS, which is an ever-present threat to human security. I am convinced that we have achieved more in the 10 years since the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS than we did in the previous two decades. It is heartening that the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS held in June renewed the political commitment of Governments to halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and to ensuring that, by 2015, no child is born with HIV (see resolution 65/277, annex).

Mauritius fully adheres to the UNAIDS vision of uniting for universal access. The National AIDS Secretariat, which I set up in May 2007, pursues its work to achieve zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths in Mauritius.

Article 2 of the United Nations Charter provides that all Members shall settle their disputes by peaceful means. Article 33 spells out the means and ways of doing so. In the same spirit, the Charter provides in Chapter XIV for the establishment of the International Court of Justice.

However, recourse to international adjudication for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States has, historically, required the consent of the States concerned. In recent times, a number of bilateral or multilateral agreements have provided for the prior commitment of States to submit to arbitration or adjudication. We welcome that development.

Security requires the appropriate legal framework for the redress of grievances or the settlement of disputes. The international community has yet to set up adequate machinery for the peaceful settlement of disputes that is available to all States.

The General Assembly has decided to convene a high-level meeting during the sixty-seventh session on the rule of law. We welcome that decision, but we want

to stress that the debate on the rule of law must apply at both the national and international level. We would therefore look forward to the Assembly discussing the rule of law as it applies to inter-State relations as part of the forthcoming debates.

Allow me to give as an example the difficulties that my own country has experienced in resolving a dispute with the former colonial Power, the United Kingdom, relating to decolonization. The Chagos Archipelago, which is part of Mauritian territory, was excised from Mauritius prior to independence, in total disregard of resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2066 (XX) and the principles of international law, and was declared the so-called British Indian Ocean Territory. The United Kingdom has failed to engage in any meaningful discussions with us on the matter.

When the Government of Mauritius consequently announced in 2004 that it would refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice, the United Kingdom immediately amended its declaration, under Article 36 of the Court's Statute, to reject the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to certain disputes with a member or former member of the Commonwealth. That illustrates the kind of difficulties that a State may face in settling a claim under international law. The States involved in the dispute may refuse to negotiate in good faith and seek to ensure that no international tribunal can determine the law applicable to the dispute.

We call on the United Nations to keep under review the whole issue of the settlement of disputes, including by judicial means, and to set standards of conduct for all States with respect to negotiation, conciliation, mediation or other forms of non-judicial and peaceful settlement of disputes or, alternatively, to the submission of the dispute to adjudication.

In that context, Mauritius is particularly pleased to welcome the decision of the President of the General Assembly to adopt as the theme of its current session the role of mediation in settling international disputes. We affirm our full support in advancing that cause.

Greater legal security also requires better global governance. In that respect, the United Nations must lead by example. The United Nations must recognize that the world has changed since 1945. Current efforts to adopt reforms in relation to the Security Council, the revitalization of the General Assembly and the working methods of our Organization must be given the sincere and strong support that is required.

My delegation continues to believe that comprehensive reform of the Security Council should include reform in the membership of both the permanent and the non-permanent categories. Africa should no longer be deprived of its right to permanent representation on the Council. My delegation fully supports the African common position enshrined in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration.

We equally believe that Latin America also fully deserves permanent representation on the Council. Mauritius further reiterates its support for India's rightful aspiration to a permanent seat in a reformed Security Council.

We also look forward to a more all-inclusive United Nations system that can effectively address issues of international security, with the admission of Palestine as a Member State. The United Nations and the international community have a duty to restore to the Palestinian people their dignity and their right to statehood and security. Mauritius supports the application for full membership of the United Nations, submitted to the Secretary-General yesterday by the President of the State of Palestine (A/66/371, annex), and the legitimate aspiration of the Palestinian people to take their rightful place in the international community. We welcome the statement by President Abbas at the 19th meeting that Palestine extends its hands to the Israeli Government and the Israeli people for peacemaking and for building cooperative relations between the States of Palestine and Israel.

We are also pleased to welcome the emergence of South Sudan as an independent and a sovereign State and its admission to the United Nations.

Before I conclude, I wish to say a few words about matters of interest to our region.

As a coastal State of the Indian Ocean, Mauritius is concerned by piracy, which poses a threat to global commerce. It hinders economic development and has become a major security issue in the region and beyond. We welcome the response of the international community to that serious threat. Cognizant of the problems that arise in connection with the prosecution and detention of pirates, Mauritius has offered to assist with the prosecution and detention of pirates. Mauritius and the European Union signed an agreement in July this year to enhance our capacity to contribute to the international effort under way in that regard.

If the international response to the famine in Somalia is not commensurate with the immense and immediate needs of the people, we fear that the problem of piracy will only worsen.

The continued unlawful occupation of the Chagos Archipelago by the United Kingdom is a matter of concern for the region. Mauritius welcomes the support of the African Union and of the Non-Aligned Movement for the territorial integrity of our country. The purported declaration of a marine protected area around the Chagos Archipelago by the United Kingdom, in breach of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, is another cause for concern. That is why, in December of last year, Mauritius commenced arbitration proceedings against the United Kingdom under the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea.

As regards Tromelin, Mauritius and France made progress with an agreement on joint management, without prejudice to our sovereignty. However, we need to continue our dialogue for at the end of the day, the territorial integrity of Mauritius will not be complete without the return of Tromelin.

As a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and current Chair of the Indian Ocean Commission, Mauritius welcomes the signing last week of an agreement between leading stakeholders on a road map for the restoration of democracy in our neighbouring State of Madagascar. That agreement was reached following the relentless efforts of SADC and the Indian Ocean Commission to bring the parties together. Implementation of the road map requires the holding of national and local elections, for which significant resources need to be mobilized. We call on the United Nations and the international community to extend all their support for the successful implementation of the road map.

(spoke in French)

The lack of security on the economic, environmental, legal or even, in some cases, existential fronts calls for a review of the mandated obligations of the United Nations. While the initial concerns of the founding fathers about threats to international security remain valid, the international community today is just as concerned by other threats to its security and other challenges to be tackled.

I would add that, in updating this concept of security and, by extension, in redefining the role of the United Nations, the international community must also foster dialogue among cultures and civilizations. We welcome the Secretary-General's initiative to create the Alliance of Civilizations, whose mission is to improve understanding and relations among nations and peoples of different cultures and religions and to assist efforts to halt the forces that fuel divisions and extremism.

Tensions are often caused by ignorance, by fear of others and by feelings of justice denied. Thus it is crucial not only to maintain dialogue among nations and peoples, but also to promote the understanding of cultures and civilizations.

The Acting President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms of the Republic of Mauritius for the statement he has just made.

Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted from the rostrum.

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
7 October 2011

Original: English

Sixty-sixth session

Agenda item 8

General debate**Letter dated 26 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by His Excellency, Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, on 24 September 2011 in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(Signed) **Mark Lyall Grant**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 26 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of Mauritius in the general debate on 24 September 2011

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland maintains that the British Indian Ocean Territory is British and has been since 1814. It does not recognize the sovereignty claim of the Mauritian Government. However, the British Government has recognized Mauritius as the only State which has a right to assert a claim of sovereignty when the United Kingdom relinquishes its own sovereignty. Successive British Governments have given undertakings to the Government of Mauritius that the Territory will be ceded when no longer required for defence purposes.

The British Government believes that the Marine Protected Area, established in the British Indian Ocean Territory on 1 April 2010, is the right way ahead for furthering the environmental protection of the Territory and encouraging others to do the same in important and vulnerable areas under their sovereign control. As has previously been made clear, the decision to establish the Marine Protected Area is without prejudice to the outcome of the current pending proceedings at the European Court of Human Rights.

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
10 October 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session

Agenda item 8

General debate**Letter dated 2 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius, Arvin Boolell, on 1 October 2012 in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(Signed) Mark **Lyll Grant**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the dated 2 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The British Government maintains that the British Indian Ocean Territory is British and has been since 1814. It does not recognize the sovereignty claim of the Mauritian Government.

The British Government values its close and constructive cooperation with the Government of Mauritius on a wide range of issues and would like this to include a more constructive dialogue on British Indian Ocean Territory.

**General Assembly**

Sixty-eighth session

*Official Records***18**th plenary meeting
Saturday, 28 September 2013, 9 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda)

The meeting was called to order at 9.05 a.m.

Agenda item 8 (*continued*)

General debate

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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**Address by Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam,
Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home
Affairs and External Communications, Minister
of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms of
the Republic of Mauritius**

The President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms of the Republic of Mauritius.

Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted to the rostrum.

The President: I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms of the Republic of Mauritius, and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

Mr. Ramgoolam (Mauritius): As we meet this morning to address global concerns and seek ways to ensure progress and lasting peace, the people of Kenya are emerging from a terrorist attack that has cost them many lives and shaken the continent. In expressing our solidarity with the Government and the people of Kenya and with the families of the victims, Mauritius would also like to express its unreserved condemnation of that abominable and dastardly act of terrorism. The Nairobi attack should also compel us to revisit regional and global responses to national and international security threats, including extending support to countries, particularly those on the African continent.

Mauritius commends you, Mr. President, for the theme you have proposed for the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, namely, “The post-2015 development agenda: setting the stage”. The goals we set ourselves for the sustainable development of our national and global economies will shape the lives of generations to come. I would like to say at the outset that Mauritius welcomes the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development*, and in particular the recommendation that deliberations on a new development agenda must be guided by the vision of eradicating extreme poverty for all in the context of sustainable development. We also welcome the Panel’s view that one of the transformative shifts for the post-2015 agenda should be to bring a new sense of global partnership into national and international politics.

Climate change should be one of the top priorities for the global agenda. The report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis*, released only yesterday, is unequivocal. It provides clear scientific confirmation

that we humans are responsible for global warming, and that it is up to us to take appropriate measures to try to save our home planet. We cannot and should not any longer ignore the evidence that we humans are putting life on Earth in jeopardy.

In our region, we have recently seen an increased and unprecedented intensity and unpredictability of weather events. In March, my country experienced unprecedented flash floods that caused losses of human life and heavy economic losses. No country is safe from natural disasters and the damaging effects of climate change. But for many small island developing States (SIDS), the foreseeable consequences of climate change threaten us even more dramatically, in terms of both human and economic development. For some SIDS, they pose an existential threat.

We fully support the Secretary-General’s proposal to convene world leaders to a climate summit in New York in 2014. We hope that that meeting will provide an opportunity for world leaders to focus political attention on climate change and take meaningful action to mitigate its effects. We must start putting the interests of our home planet above everything else. The world needs a global, legally binding agreement on climate change by 2015. At the Paris meeting of the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, we should adopt a treaty that is universal and ambitious and that concretely addresses the concerns of all, including those of the most vulnerable States.

The international community should also pay more attention to disaster risk reduction and adopt a more concerted and accelerated approach to reaching the goals set out in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (see A/CONF.206/6). The time has come to address disaster risks and climate-change adaptation through an integrated approach, and to adopt resilience as a common and shared vision. Mauritius welcomes Japan’s decision to host the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in early 2015 to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework and chart an ambitious post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

In that regard, the holding in Samoa next year of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States could not be more timely. We hope that the Conference will be a landmark in the history of a more active and collaborative partnership among SIDS and between SIDS and the international community.

Furthermore, it could be an opportunity to give new meaning to the concept of global concerns, issues that are, or should be, the concern of the global community at large, and not only of those who are more vulnerable and more at risk. That would be in line with the spirit of the global partnership that the High-level Panel has called for.

The prospects for growth in the global economy remain uncertain, largely as a result of the multiple challenges faced by developed countries. In such an interconnected and interdependent world as ours, no nation is immune to external shocks. Small developing countries are very concerned about the slowdown in global growth, declines in international trade, decreasing job opportunities and rising inequality. Small States are particularly susceptible to external shocks, as they are heavily dependent on foreign markets for trade, tourism and investments. They are also concerned about energy and food prices, which are subject to high volatility.

My Government believes that the post-2015 development agenda should include a road map for an interconnected world economic system, premised on the assumption that the global economy could very well be as weak as its weakest links. Of course, the specificities of some countries or regions and the pace at which the transformative shifts are implemented may not always be appropriate for universal targets. But the conceptual approach to, and the design of, the post-2015 agenda should, more than ever before, start with the shared conviction that economies are interdependent.

Eradicating extreme poverty, empowering more women, providing wider opportunities to young people for education and jobs, improving health care and the management of energy, water and food are all universal concerns. The conventional divides of the past are no longer valid. We need a common development framework but with differentiated milestones and implementation strategies, given the existing disparities in the levels of development. Actions taken at the national level are not sufficient; there should also be reinforced cooperation and partnerships at the regional and international levels. It is therefore imperative that the weaknesses and the inequity of the current global economic governance should be addressed urgently.

We are at a juncture where we have no option but to revisit the existing global economic governance mechanisms. An overhaul of the current economic

governance is clearly long overdue. We must have a more participatory system of global economic governance, where developing countries would be more involved in international economic decision-making and norm-setting. The voice of all nations, big or small, should be equally heard and taken into consideration.

Mauritius has, on several occasions, reiterated that the United Nations Economic and Social Council needs to play a more prominent role in global economic, social, and environmental issues. We cannot overstate the importance of coordination and synergy for avoiding duplication among parallel United Nations processes and initiatives so as to ensure optimal benefit for all.

My Government is of the view that all the processes initiated in the Rio+20 Conference last year, including those relating to strengthening the Economic and Social Council, sustainable development goals and sustainable development financing, should converge towards a single post-2015 development agenda that should be adopted during a high-level development summit in 2015. The post-2015 development agenda should complete the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals. However, it should also go beyond them and provide for a systemic change and a new global economic governance. The guiding principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted in December 1986 (resolution 41/133), are still relevant today and should not be overlooked in the formulation of a post-2015 development agenda.

My country will follow, with particular interest, the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, especially since it replaces the Commission on Sustainable Development, which was the primary intergovernmental forum for monitoring the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

As we set the stage for the post-2015 development agenda, we must, as global leaders, define a new global vision for the world's oceans. The United Nations system has played a crucial role in formulating, implementing and enforcing a new international order relating to the oceans. Indeed, the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982 will remain one of the landmarks of the twentieth century.

The jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has contributed to the settlement of maritime disputes and the promotion of international peace,

security and equity in a manner not always witnessed in other areas of international relations. The establishment of the International Seabed Authority is another significant example of what international cooperation can lead to in other sectors. The International Maritime Organization and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO are also making significant contributions.

I believe that the United Nations must now take the lead in formulating a global vision for the oceans that will, in particular, expand the economic space for small island States while ensuring sustainable use of living and non-living resources. The health of our economies will depend on the health of our oceans. Our vision for the future must also preserve the inherent values of the ocean space, to which we are looking for economic expansion.

Mauritius has taken the initiative of launching a national dialogue on how to promote the ocean economy as one of the main pillars of development. We urge the international community to build on what the world has achieved so far in relation to ocean-related economic activities and conservation, and we propose for future generations a fundamental paradigm shift with respect to economic space. While such a global vision and strategy will be beneficial to all nations, it will be of particular interest to small islands. With limited land areas, the islands can potentially be large ocean States and thus overcome some of their vulnerabilities as small island developing States. As the world realizes the tremendous potential of marine renewable energies, we will see the oceans from a different perspective.

The United Nations has a key role to play in promoting the rule of law at both the national and the international levels. The rule of law at the international level must be an integral part of the post-2015 agenda. Open and participatory democracy, accountability and transparency are not concepts that should be promoted only at the national level. The United Nations should lead by example here. We should focus on reforming our Organization and on making it more responsive to the needs and aspirations of its constituents.

In that context, we should work together on the reform of the Security Council and the revitalization of the General Assembly and on improving the working methods of our Organization. Mauritius believes that a comprehensive reform of the Security Council should include reform in the membership of both the permanent

and non-permanent categories. We reaffirm our commitment to the African common position enshrined in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. We believe that Africa should not be deprived of its right to permanent representation in the Council. Likewise, we believe that Latin America deserves permanent representation in the Council and that SIDS should also be entitled to a seat on the Council. Mauritius further reiterates its support for India's legitimate aspiration to a permanent seat in a reformed Security Council.

Mauritius also reiterates its firm conviction that the rule of law should prevail in the resolution of disputes, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. We believe that the international community has an obligation to ensure that, in line with the principles of the rule of law, nations should submit their disputes to conciliation, mediation, adjudication or other peaceful means, both judicial and non-judicial.

The dismemberment of part of our territory, the Chagos archipelago, prior to independence, by the then colonial Power the United Kingdom, was in clear breach of international law and left the process of decolonization, not only of Mauritius but of Africa in general, incomplete. Yet, the United Kingdom has shown no inclination to engage in any process that would lead to a settlement of that shameful part of its colonial past. I am confident that the United Kingdom and the United States of America want to be on the right side of history. States that look to the law and to the rules of the comity of nations for the resolution of disputes should not be frustrated by the lack of avenues under international law for the settlement of such disputes.

Tromelin, which is also an integral part of our territory, is the subject of ongoing discussions with the French Government, and pending a final resolution of the issue, Mauritius and France have concluded a framework agreement on the co-management of the island and its surrounding maritime areas, without prejudice to the sovereignty of Mauritius over Tromelin.

In our part of the world, we welcome the rise of a re-energized Africa. The return to normalcy in Mali and the recent holding of elections there show the relevance of international partnerships. The situation in Madagascar and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will, hopefully, be resolved soon through the support of the international community for the initiatives of the Southern African Development Community in that regard.

Earlier this year, Mauritius hosted an African ministerial conference on regional integration. We are convinced that African nations will benefit significantly from a greater focus on regional cooperation, and I am pleased to note that the solemn declaration adopted on the fiftieth anniversary of the African Union supports that view.

The tragic events in Syria over the last two years are of serious concern to the global community. There is also concern about attempts to bypass the Security Council and to initiate action in breach of the United Nations Charter. Respect for the rule of law at the international level entails compliance with internationally agreed norms. Mauritius will support the decisions taken by the organs of the United Nations under the Charter.

We welcome the Security Council resolution that addresses one of the issues in the Syrian crisis. However, the international community needs to go further and address the issue of political dialogue, which will enable the Syrian people to live in peace.

Mauritius also supports a Middle East that is free of weapons of mass destruction. That means that no country in the region should hold nuclear or chemical weapons.

Mauritius is convinced that an essential condition for peace and prosperity in the Middle East is the peaceful coexistence of the States of Palestine and Israel. Mauritius wishes to reiterate its solidarity with the Palestine National Authority and the Palestinian people in their rightful aspiration to win full recognition as a State Member of the United Nations.

Mauritius also supports the peaceful restoration of democracy in Egypt, which has a key role to play in promoting stability and security in the region. But the international community cannot condone the removal by force from office and the detention of a democratically elected leader.

(spoke in French)

The general debate of the General Assembly offers us a unique opportunity to highlight the most urgent challenges that humankind is currently facing. We must take advantage of this opportunity to review recent events and to outline new approaches that will enable us to respond to these challenges in keeping with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We must address those challenges through a

shared vision of peace, security, interdependence and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms.

We must remain staunch in protecting the right to development. We also have the duty to take a differentiated approach so as to ensure that our development model is sustainable and allows us to leave to future generations the values our world holds dear. Our success will depend on the collective will and commitment. If we succeed, we will go down in history as having met today's challenges and expectations in terms of the future.

(spoke in English)

To conclude, let me say that we need to act together, in a spirit of compromise and tolerance. We should constantly remind ourselves that we are of one kind, humankind. There are not, and never will be, ideal solutions that will satisfy all of us. But we, the leaders of our respective countries, need to look beyond the horizon and have the moral courage to look at our common humanity so that we may move forward towards making our world a better, more prosperous and safer place for the whole of humankind.

The President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms of the Republic of Mauritius for the statement he has just made.

Mr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted from the rostrum.

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
14 October 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session

Agenda item 8

General debate**Letter dated 1 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
to the United Nations addressed to the President of the
General Assembly**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, Navinchandra Ramgoolam, on 28 September 2013 to the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 8.

(Signed) Mark **Lyll Grant**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 1 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of Mauritius in the general debate on 28 September 2013

The British Government maintains that the British Indian Ocean Territory is British, has been since 1814, and was never part of Mauritius before independence. It does not recognize the sovereignty claim of the Mauritian Government.

The British Government values its close and constructive cooperation with the Government of Mauritius on a wide range of issues, and would like this to include a more constructive dialogue on British Indian Ocean Territory.

United Nations



General Assembly

Sixty-ninth session

Official Records

20th plenary meeting
 Tuesday, 30 September 2014, 9 a.m.
 New York

President: Mr. Kutesa (Uganda)

The meeting was called to order at 9.05 a.m.

Agenda item 8 (*continued*)

General debate

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506. Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org>).

14-55200 (E)



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The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Milan Jaya Nyamrajsingh Meetarbhan, Chair of the delegation of the Republic of Mauritius.

Mr. Meetarbhan (Mauritius): The year 2015 will be a crucial one for the United Nations and the international community. In the coming year, we will reach the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and adopt a post-2015 development agenda, which will include our sustainable development goals. In 2015, we should adopt a new, legally binding global climate agreement. And the international community will also commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

At this juncture, we have to ask ourselves to what extent we have achieved the ideals set out in the Charter of the United Nations, and what is still to be done. We must also ask to what extent the institutional framework laid down almost 70 years ago is still valid today. Inequality, both among and within nations, is still a matter for great concern. In spite of the constant references to the rule of law at national and international levels, we still do not always have the possibility of recourse to machinery adequate to resolving legal disputes between States.

Within the United Nations itself, the principle of equality is not always honoured, whether in its constitutional framework or in practice. The twin pillars of peace and security, on the one hand, and development, on the other, as established by the Charter, have been undermined by the ascendancy of political issues at the expense of those of development, which are still often seen largely in terms of safeguarding dominant interests rather than from a perspective of global cooperation. Inequality and vulnerability are increasing in rich and poor countries alike. Unemployment, precarious employment, lack of social protection, access to human development services and financial services are still matters of universal concern.

The post-2015 development agenda cannot be only about human rights — civil, political, economic — at the national level; it must also ensure that the right to development is upheld at the international level. As we

work on a new, comprehensive development agenda, we must ensure that no right is ignored and no one is left behind. The United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda has proposed that the transformative efforts to achieve inclusive, people-centred sustainable development be guided by three fundamental principles — human rights, equality and sustainability — and have four core dimensions: inclusive social development, environmental sustainability, inclusive economic development and peace and security. Mauritius is in broad agreement with those core principles and dimensions, as outlined in the Team's report *Realizing the Future We Want for All*, for guiding this transformation at both the national and international levels.

The war against Ebola demands robust action from all of us and requires exceptional international cooperation. We welcome the initiatives announced last week, and we commit ourselves to giving our full support to addressing this global challenge.

The water we drink, the food we eat and the energy we require are vital to meaningful development. It is estimated that by 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and two thirds of the world's population could be living under water-stress conditions. One in eight people in the world today — 842 million — are undernourished. Approximately 2 billion suffer from micronutrient deficiencies. In 2030, it is estimated that food demand will have increased by more than 50 per cent. In that regard, Mauritius supports the Secretary-General's call for a Zero Hunger Challenge. Promoting sustainable agriculture must therefore be an essential component of the new development framework.

It is also estimated that by 2035, global energy demand will have increased by at least 33 per cent. Currently, 1.2 billion people have no access to electricity. Those growing demands will make water, food and energy crucial issues not only on the development agenda but also in the wider context of international peace and security. The international community should support developing countries, particularly vulnerable countries such as small island developing States (SIDS), in their efforts to promote water governance and integrated water resources management, increase the share of renewables in the energy mix and improve energy conservation and efficiency.

In order to support global development, it is crucial that we have an international regime based on structured global cooperation designed to promote technology facilitation, and a technology facilitation mechanism established under the auspices of the United Nations could play a central role in that regard. It is also important that the international community recognize the vital role of women and young people and their enhanced participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development. Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment should be a core issue on the post-2015 development agenda. All sections of the population should be at the heart of a people-centred vision of sustainable development.

The contributions of all the initiatives launched at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), including the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, and options for a technology facilitation mechanism, should feed into the preparations for a 2015 development summit. They should also be included in the Secretary-General's synthesis report. The deliberations of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, mandated by the Rio+20 outcome document (resolution 66/288, annex), should be reflected in the synthesis report and the post-2015 development agenda.

Since accountability is essential to assessing progress, the post-2015 development agenda should also include an accountability framework that would be universal but flexible enough to take into account different capacities and responsibilities. And we need more accountable and equitable global economic governance that ensures wider, more inclusive participation in decision-making. The United Nations, given its universal membership, should assume leadership and a proactive role in promoting sound and equitable governance in a more resilient global economic architecture.

Beyond those immediate concerns, there are a number of longer-term threats that may dramatically affect all of us, particularly SIDS. One of them is climate change. Climate risks are real and must be addressed. From melting glaciers to more frequent wildfires and intense cyclones, flash floods, extreme heatwaves and ocean acidification, the challenges are not a future threat; they already exist. The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate*

Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, made it clear that an increase in the world's temperature of 2°C would be dangerous, while one of 4°C would be catastrophic.

Climate risks are global challenges that require global solutions. Climate change poses risks to global economic prosperity, development and security as well as to the environment. We must build on the momentum of the Climate Summit and use the opportunity of the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Lima, to raise the level of ambition in the lead-up to a new universal climate agreement in Paris next year.

The strong connections between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction should be recognized. No country is immune to natural disasters, but it is the most vulnerable countries and people who are hit the hardest. Mauritius looks forward to a renewed and ambitious international framework for disaster risk management that establishes disaster risk reduction as a key element of the post-2015 development agenda. We also believe that the exogenous risks of climate change and natural disasters should be integrated into mainstream economic thinking and assessment of macroeconomic risks.

We welcome the decision of the most recent Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting to establish a Commonwealth climate finance skills hub, to be hosted by Mauritius. It will address critical gaps in building the capacity of SIDS and least-developed countries to identify, access and manage climate finance. The special circumstances, vulnerabilities and low resilience of SIDS should be taken into account with regard to financing and trade issues. SIDS need special and differential treatment to access concessionary sources of financing for sustainable development and to effectively participate in multilateral trade. Mauritius strongly supports SIDS-SIDS partnerships. SIDS can build on their commonality of interests to share experiences, pool resources and act collectively in commissioning technology or formulating legal and regulatory frameworks, for instance.

The oceans are the new frontier for economic development. For SIDS in particular, they are the best scope for expanding economic space. Following a national dialogue on the ocean economy, the Government of Mauritius has published the Road Map for the Mauritian Ocean Economy. The Road Map sets

out the vision, goals and strategies for the development and expansion of a new pillar of our economy. In order to provide the best possible conditions for investors to operate and create wealth, Mauritius is putting in place an enabling environment that will support our ocean economy through an integrated and holistic approach to ensure coherence and balance among economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

Promoting the ocean economy will unleash the potential for SIDS with respect to all ocean-related economic activities, both onshore and offshore. It will also enable them to enhance their nations' food security, harness the winds and waves for their energy needs, develop new ocean-related industries and services that will create opportunities for entrepreneurs and youth employment.

It is essential that we strike a balance between the various uses of the oceans and the need to protect our oceans. At the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa, the international community agreed to build upon existing partnerships and promote new ones in order to expand the economic space of large ocean States. We wish to reiterate our call for the United Nations to adopt a global oceans strategy that will be the operational counterpart to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). While it will be for individual States to decide on their own ocean economy policies, the global ocean strategy will provide an overall vision and framework for the sustainable development of ocean-related economic activities for policymakers, investors and all stakeholders.

The situation in the Middle East and in certain parts of Africa could not only have dramatic consequences for the people of these regions, but also impact on global development and peace. We urge the international community to spare no effort in resolving the plight of the people of Palestine. Mauritius supports the two-State solution to the conflict. The people of the State of Palestine have suffered for too long from the grave injustice done to them, and must be allowed to live in dignity and peace within recognized borders.

If it is to remain credible and play the constructive role it can and must play in the new world order, the United Nations must respond to the call of its membership for reform. We have a duty to engage in meaningful discussions on the reform of the Security Council, the revitalization of the General Assembly and the working methods of our Organization. Mauritius

reaffirms its commitment to the African Common Position that reform of the Security Council should include expansion in the permanent and non-permanent categories alike. The historical injustice done to Africa should be redressed, and Africa should be accorded permanent representation on the Council. Latin America also deserves permanent representation, and the SIDS should be entitled to a seat on the Council. Mauritius further reiterates its support for India's rightful aspiration to a permanent seat in a reformed Security Council.

In the mid-1960s, when a wave of decolonization was sweeping across the world, the United Kingdom purported to create a new colony, the so-called British Indian Ocean Territory, by carving out part of the territory of Mauritius. Thus, part of Mauritian territory remains under colonial rule. As long as part of Mauritian territory remains under colonial rule, the decolonization of Africa will still remain incomplete. The dismemberment by the United Kingdom of part of the territory of Mauritius prior to independence was and continues to be a blatant breach of international law and total disregard of United Nations resolutions.

Speaking before the Assembly last week, President Obama said that there was

“one vision of the world in which might makes right” [but that] “America stands for something different. We believe that right makes might, that bigger nations should not be able to bully smaller ones” (*A/69/PV.6, p. 10*).

This is why, last year in this very forum (see *A/68/PV.18*), Mauritius urged the United States to be on the right side of history, and not condone illegal acts by maintaining its presence on Diego Garcia under an unlawful arrangement with the United Kingdom that has no valid title to the island, but and instead to ensure that, in the future, the United States presence is on the right side of the law.

Both the United States and the United Kingdom should recognize the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos archipelago, and engage in meaningful discussions with Mauritius in good faith over arrangements to be made in that regard. Following the statements we have heard over the past year with regard to sovereignty and territorial integrity, there should not be one set of standards for one part of the world and a different one for another part of the world. Those who show no respect for fundamental principles

across the board lose all moral authority to preach to the rest of the world. Following bilateral discussions on Tromelin, which forms an integral part of the territory of Mauritius, Mauritius and France agreed on interim measures without prejudice to the sovereignty of Mauritius. An agreement reached in a spirit of cooperation and dialogue is a step in the right direction.

As we embark on a new session that could herald a new chapter in the history of the United Nations, we should renew our commitment to multilateral cooperation for peace, development and prosperity for all nations in the new agenda to be adopted next year.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. José Antonio Dos Santos, Chair of the delegation of the Republic of Paraguay.



General Assembly

Seventieth session

25th plenary meeting
Friday, 2 October 2015, 9 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Lykketoft (Denmark)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Ruiz Blanco
(Colombia), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

The meeting was called to order at 9.05 p.m.

country, surrounded by its mountains — both isolated

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Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius, and inviting him to address the Assembly.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth (Mauritius): Twelve years ago, I bade farewell to the Assembly, as I had decided to retire from active politics thereafter, which I did. However, destiny and the wish of the people of Mauritius brought me back into the political arena, and I stand here anew as Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, following my electoral victory in December 2014 through free and fair elections.

This is yet another affirmation of the fact that Mauritius upholds a high tradition of democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law and peaceful coexistence. We will solemnly continue to uphold those universal values, which require our careful nurturing as States Members of the United Nations. For indeed, there can be no better tribute to the United Nations, as we celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the Charter, than to see nations working together to sustain those values and to promote the establishment of peace and security.

In that context, we commend the Secretary-General for the timely setting up of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations to review the United Nations peace architecture. We are particularly supportive of the recommendation for stronger and deeper partnerships among global and regional organizations aimed at promoting international peace and security. For we in Mauritius have witnessed how the collective efforts of the United Nations, the African Union, the Southern African Development Community, the Indian Ocean Commission and other regional economic communities unlocked the political stalemate in Madagascar, enabling our neighbour and brother nation to pursue its path to development. Similar collaboration has also enabled the African Union to deploy robust operations in complex situations in Mali, the Central African Republic and Somalia.

Mauritius strongly condemns the recent coup in Burkina Faso and appreciates the current initiatives of the United Nations, the African Union and Economic Community of West African States to keep that country on the path of democracy. Mauritius is fully committed to the implementation of Agenda 2063 of the African Union, which represents the collective vision of Africans for a peaceful, united and prosperous Africa.

We congratulate the Palestinian Authority on the occasion of the formal recognition by the United

Agenda item 8 (continued)

General debate

Address by Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear an address by the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted to the rostrum.

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National

Nations of Palestine as an Observer. Mauritius calls on the international community to put in even greater efforts to ensure that the two independent, secure and viable States of Palestine and Israel live peacefully side by side. Similarly, we wish to see an end to the phenomenon of refugees fleeing one tragedy only to face an even greater disaster.

The spread of armaments, nuclear proliferation, terrorism and piracy remain important threats to world peace and require our constant vigilance. My country will therefore pursue its fight against piracy as a member of the Contact Group on Somali Piracy and welcomes the decision to review the boundaries of the High Risk Area, so as to reduce inflationary pressures on maritime and freight costs. We welcome the agreement reached on the Iranian nuclear issue and call for the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as it can contribute to international peace and security.

Let me share with the Assembly the fact that Mauritius acceded to the Arms Trade Treaty in July, and yesterday I deposited our instrument of accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. As we deal with the issue of armaments, we must remain conscious of the fact that the biggest weapon of all remains fear — the fear that terrorists use so extensively to curtail freedom of thought, freedom of expression and impose their intolerance upon those who dare to be different. Mauritius unreservedly condemns terrorism, in all its forms and remains committed to combating intolerance and extremism, whether at the domestic level or internationally.

As we focus on peace and security, let us continue to let ourselves be inspired by the life and deeds of Mahatma Gandhi, whose birth date we are commemorating today. We have another golden opportunity here to pay tribute to the Mahatma, the apostle of nonviolence, the man who shunned intolerance and who asked us to live simply so that others may simply live.

As a small island developing State (SIDS) that is vulnerable to natural hazards, Mauritius believes that the greatest challenge to peace and security in the years to come will be climate change, which requires our utmost attention now. If we do not act collectively and in a spirit of solidarity, if we are unable to reach a binding climate agreement at the coming United Nations Climate Change Conference that would limit the world temperature increase to less than 1.5°C compared to

1990, we will be failing in our duty towards Mother Earth and future generations.

Let there be a space carved out for small island developing States, the most vulnerable of all, for the least developed countries (LDCs) and for Africa to enable them to implement fully the necessary mitigation and adaptation measures. Let financing be available and predictable, in addition to the sharing of technology to address a collective threat. In this respect, Mauritius is pleased to host the Commonwealth Climate Finance Skills Hub, which will be launched at the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta. This mechanism aims to assist SIDS and LDCs access much-needed funds for adaptation and mitigation.

Mauritius particularly welcomes Sustainable Development Goal 5, relating to women's and girls' empowerment. Mauritius has made steady progress on this agenda and continues to put in place appropriate strategies to further promote gender equality in all spheres of development. I am proud to announce that for the first time in history, my country has three women in high positions: President of the Republic, Vice-President, and Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius.

There can be no democracy without human rights and no human rights without development. A balance needs to be maintained in the trident of peace, human rights and development.

We are living at a time of uncertainty when not a single nation is immune from external shocks, but some are more exposed than others.

As a small developing State, my country is highly vulnerable to external shocks and a high current account deficit. We depend on foreign markets for tourism, trade and investments, and we have limited fiscal space to manoeuvre. In addition, our ageing population not only leads to a reduction of our productive capacity, but also costs significant resources in terms of health care financing and retirement benefits. However, against this bleak backdrop, my Government is making sure that the welfare State, of which we are so proud, is maintained. We are re-engineering our economy. We have pledged to achieve an average gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 5.5 per cent annually as from 2017 on the back of a technology- and innovation-driven economy focusing on sustainability and human development.

More than ever, Mauritius needs the support of the international community to untangle itself from the middle-income web and reach the high-income country status. Financial institutions and development partners need to look beyond our relatively high GDP, which obscures the real cost that we have to pay for our development and precludes us from accessing vital development finance and support. Development partners should not forget that the specific and unique vulnerabilities of SIDS have been reiterated, highlighted and acknowledged by world leaders in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and now in the post-2015 agenda.

It is gratifying to note that the Addis Ababa International Conference on Financing for Development has pledged to support the economic transformation of SIDS and LDCs through domestic resource mobilization, catalytic use of official development assistance and strong trade commitments. These promises should be effectively translated into reality to drive forward our sustainable development agenda.

Mauritius is committed to upholding good governance, transparency and the rule of law at all levels. We have been very active in ensuring effective implementation of international standards of transparency and exchange of information, with a view to combating tax evasion, money laundering and other malpractices. Mauritius was one of the earliest States to sign a Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), to automatically exchange information on financial matters, and in June we reaffirmed our commitment by officially signing the OECD's multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.

In March this year, Mauritius was privileged to host the signature ceremony for the United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration (resolution 69/116, annex), otherwise known as the Mauritius Convention on Transparency. By being the first country to sign and ratify the Convention, we are forcefully demonstrating our commitment to democratic participation, transparency and good governance.

The rule of law should be promoted not only at the national, but also at the international, level. We need to pursue meaningful efforts to reform the United Nations to make it more responsive to the needs and aspirations of all the Member States. If our Organization is to

remain legitimate, there should be a comprehensive reform of the Security Council. The status quo is not an option. The legitimate aspiration of Africa for permanent representation in the Council should not be denied. Mauritius reaffirms its commitment to the African Common Position, enshrined in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. Small island developing States, which represent over a quarter of United Nations membership, deserve representation on the Council. Likewise, Mauritius supports India's rightful aspiration to a permanent seat in a reformed Security Council.

Mauritius has always firmly supported the resolution of disputes by peaceful means, as inscribed in the Charter of the United Nations. We believe that, in accordance with resolutions of the Assembly, it is high time to complete the process of decolonization in Africa.

It is also high time to resolve the situation that prevents Mauritius from effectively exercising its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and the island of Tromelin, which form an integral part of the territory of Mauritius. The Chagos Archipelago was illegally excised by the United Kingdom from the territory of Mauritius prior to its accession to independence, in breach of international law and resolutions of the Assembly. In the wake of that illegal excision, the Mauritians who were residing at the time in the Chagos Archipelago were forcibly evicted by the British authorities, in total disregard of their human rights. Most of them were moved to the main island of Mauritius. The Government of Mauritius is fully sensitive to their plight and to their legitimate aspiration, as Mauritian citizens, to resettle in the Archipelago.

Mauritius welcomes the Award of the Arbitral Tribunal delivered on 18 March against the United Kingdom, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. We welcome the Tribunal's decision that the Marine Protected Area purportedly declared by the United Kingdom around the Chagos Archipelago was established in violation of international law. We also welcome the Tribunal's unanimous recognition that Mauritius has an interest in significant decisions bearing upon the uses of the Archipelago pending its return to the effective control of Mauritius.

This arbitral proceeding was the first occasion on which any international judge or arbitrator has considered the facts and history lying behind Mauritius' entitlement to sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

Mauritius appreciates the fact that two arbitrators have confirmed the opinion that the United Kingdom is not the coastal State in relation to the Chagos Archipelago. That view has not been contradicted by any other judge or arbitrator. It unquestionably confirms our stand that the Chagos Archipelago is and always has been an integral part of the territory of Mauritius.

The Tribunal underscores the United Kingdom's legally binding obligations to Mauritius. It establishes beyond doubt that under international law Mauritius has real, firm and binding rights over the Chagos Archipelago and that the United Kingdom must respect those rights. The Tribunal recognized that Mauritius has a legal interest in the Chagos Archipelago such that decisions affecting its future use cannot be taken without the involvement of Mauritius.

Despite the Tribunal's clear ruling, we regret that the United Kingdom appears to be adopting a different approach to Mauritius's rights. It recently launched a so-called consultation exercise on the potential resettlement of Mauritians of Chagossian origin in the Chagos Archipelago under conditions that again amount to a gross violation of their most basic human rights. Mauritius rejects this purported consultation exercise unreservedly. We wish to assure the international community that once Mauritius is able to effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, our brothers and sisters of Chagossian origin who resettle there will be able to live in dignity and enjoy their basic human rights, as they currently do in Mauritius.

Considering the Tribunal's decision, we urge the United States of America, which is currently using Diego Garcia for defence purposes, to engage in discussions with Mauritius regarding the long-term interests of Mauritius where the Chagos Archipelago is concerned, particularly in view of the affirmation by the President of the United States when he said so earnestly in his address to the Assembly on Monday that "we cannot stand by when the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a nation is flagrantly violated" (*A/70/PV.13, p. 12*).

The Government of Mauritius is resolutely committed to making every effort that accords with international law to enable it to effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including the possibility of having further recourse to judicial or arbitral bodies. We urge the Assembly and the international community in general to support

Mauritius in its legitimate endeavours. The Assembly has a direct institutional interest in the resolution of the matter.

The Assembly has of course historically played a central role in addressing decolonization through the exercise of its powers and functions, especially in relation to Chapters XI through XIII of the Charter of the United Nations. In its resolution 1514 (XV), of 14 December 1960, on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, the Assembly declared that any attempt to disrupt the territorial integrity of such a country was incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter. In resolution 2066 (XX), of 16 December 1965, which dealt specifically with Mauritius, the Assembly drew attention to the duty of the administering Power not to dismember the territory or violate the territorial integrity of the then colony.

The Assembly therefore has a responsibility to help to complete the historic process of decolonization that it so successfully instigated and oversaw in the second half of the twentieth century. That is why we are convinced that the Assembly should now establish a mechanism to enable and monitor the full implementation of its relevant resolutions.

I would like to take this opportunity to express Mauritius's deep appreciation for the unflinching support it has consistently received from members of the African Union, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77 and China, and other friendly countries on the issue of its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

As regards Tromelin, we urge France to pursue a dialogue with Mauritius in order to quickly resolve the dispute over that island in the spirit of friendship that has always characterized the relationship between our two countries.

(spoke in French)

We know we can count on France's nobility and its ideals of justice and fraternity to ensure that Mauritius can exercise effective sovereignty over Tromelin.

(spoke in English)

I will conclude by saying that for peace, security and inclusive and sustainable development to prevail in our countries, we must act from our hearts. Only then will we succeed in building the world we all dream of. We should take inspiration from the wisdom-packed message of Pope Francis, who blessed us with

his presence in the Assembly last week. As he said so magnanimously:

“It must never be forgotten that political and economic activity is only effective when it is understood as a prudential activity, guided by a perennial concept of justice and constantly conscious of the fact that, above and beyond our plans and programmes, we are dealing with real men and women, just like the Government leaders, who live, struggle and suffer, and are often forced to live in great poverty, deprived of all rights.”
(A/70/PV.3, p. 4)

The Acting President (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius for the statement he has just made.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted from the rostrum.



General Assembly

Seventieth session

27th plenary meeting
Friday, 2 October 2015, 6 p.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Lykketoft (Denmark)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Fornell
(Ecuador), Vice President, took the Chair.*

The meeting was called to order at 6.10 p.m.

Agenda item 8 (continued)

General Debate

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including the recent arbitral tribunal constituted under annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, has ever cast doubt on the United Kingdom's sovereignty over the territory.

Moreover, the United Kingdom does not recognize the claim of the Republic of Mauritius to the sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago. It has repeatedly undertaken to cede it to Mauritius when it is no longer required for defence purposes. We maintain that commitment, although it is for the United Kingdom to determine when that condition is met. In the meantime, the defence purposes contribute significantly towards global security and are central to efforts for countering regional threats, including those from terrorism and piracy.

It is clear that the recent Arbitral Tribunal award does not have the effect of rendering the marine-protected area illegal. The tribunal found that there had been no improper motive in its creation and explicitly stated that it took no view on the substance of the marine-protected area, a measure that preserves the Indian Ocean's fish stocks and safeguards their importance for the economy and food security of the region. The tribunal's finding was actually more narrow — that the United Kingdom should have consulted the Republic of Mauritius more fully about the establishment of the marine-protected area so as to give due regard to its rights.

As the tribunal noted in its final observation, it is open to both parties to enter into such negotiations now and to do so without reference to matters of sovereignty under a sovereignty umbrella. The United Kingdom has made extensive efforts to engage the Republic of Mauritius about conservation matters. Following the award, it has once again invited the Republic of Mauritius to join in bilateral consultations. We hope that the consultations will begin shortly and are committed to working with the Republic of Mauritius to explore all aspects of its interests in relation to the marine-protected area.

Mr. Meek (United Kingdom): I wish to exercise the right of reply to some of the comments made by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius earlier today.

The British Government has no doubt about the sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago, which has been British since 1814 and which it administers as the British Indian Ocean territory. No international tribunal,



General Assembly

Seventy-first session

17th plenary meeting
Friday, 23 September 2016, 9 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Thomson (Fiji)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Balé (Congo),
Vice-President, took the Chair.*

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org>).

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Agenda item 8 *(continued)*

General debate

Mr. Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted to the rostrum.

The Acting President: I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius, and inviting him to address the Assembly.

Mr. Jugnauth (Mauritius): It pleases me at the outset to convey my heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Peter Thomson on his election as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session. I also seize this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his exemplary stewardship of the Organization as Secretary-General throughout the past decade. As he leaves office at the end of this year, I wish him the very best in his future endeavours. He will be remembered for the rich legacy that he is leaving behind.

Last year, the Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, setting new benchmarks that will shape our future. We acknowledged the importance of every Goal, every target and every indicator as steps towards a better world. Our collective response and our solidarity in the face of the challenges that will arise as we try to carve out a sustainable world will determine whether we succeed in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each country has its priorities and will need to formulate a unique set of actions in order to achieve the universal goals that we have set for ourselves.

In that context, the United Nations will have an important role to play in supporting the efforts of individual countries. In Mauritius, we have chosen to focus our attention primarily on the eradication of extreme forms of poverty. My Government, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme, has already undertaken to establish a social register of those living in dismal conditions and who require targeted measures and assistance.

As a first unprecedented measure, we have introduced in this year's national budget a subsistence allowance for the extreme poor based on a threshold of 2,720 Mauritian rupees per adult. That threshold is 40 per cent higher than the World Bank International

Address by Mr. Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius

The Acting President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius.

Extreme Poverty Line of of \$3.10 per day per individual, calculated on the basis of purchasing power parity.

There are yet many miles to go, and we will resolutely pursue our journey towards attaining all of the SDGs by working together with the private sector and civil society. We are fully committed to creating a more equitable system, to safeguarding rule of law and to ensuring equal access to justice for all, as encapsulated in Goal 16 on peace and justice. The United Nations will be tested in the effort to achieve Goal 16 on an international scale, for we are conscious of the power of 'Might against right'. Nevertheless, Mauritius will persevere in its fight for the vulnerable.

For a small island developing State like ours, Goal 13 on climate action and Goal 14 on the oceans are of paramount importance for our survival. We are pleased that we have now crossed the first threshold for the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The 60 countries that have ratified the Agreement are responsible for 47.76 per cent of global emissions. For small island developing States (SIDS), the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement is of paramount importance.

The tourism industry in SIDS faces particular challenges owing to the negative effects of global warming. Taking measures to reverse that trend is essential to us in order to preserve marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity, and to foster the clean and sustainable use of our oceans. Mauritius will ensure that the steps it takes to advance its ocean economy are in synergy with sustainability principles.

In that context, I am pleased to inform the Assembly that on 1 and 2 September Mauritius, with the support of the World Bank, hosted the African Ministerial Conference on Ocean Economies and Climate Change. The Mauritius Communiqué, which encapsulates the outcome of the Conference, will serve as an input for the Green Climate Fund Africa Dialogue to be held next month in Cape Town. Mauritius will also contribute to the discussions at the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa, scheduled for 15 October in Togo, and at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, from 7 to 18 November, in Morocco.

Let me highlight the fact that during the Conference in Mauritius, African Ministers, along with our development partners — in particular the World Bank

Group, the African Development Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations — agreed that a technical and financial assistance package is imperative in order to support ocean economies and ensure the resilience of oceans and coastal areas to climate change. We look forward to the adoption of such a package at the Climate Change Conference in Morocco.

Addressing the causes and effects of climate change will require robust determination and strong political will, as well as extraordinary means, in terms of both financing and technology transfer. We highly appreciate the pledges made by countries such as France and Canada to provide financing to fight climate change. However, access to those resources needs to be simplified and needs to take into account the specific circumstances of individual countries.

Two days ago, Mauritius and the Commonwealth Secretariat signed a host country agreement for the establishment in Mauritius of a Climate Finance Access Hub, as had been decided at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Malta in November 2015. The Hub will help small island developing States and least developed countries to unlock critical climate funds.

All our efforts to make our planet sustainable and to leave a proud legacy for future generations will be in vain if we are unable to maintain peace and security in the world and if we do not adhere to the invaluable principles of the rule of law and democracy. That is why Mauritius vehemently condemns, without reservation, the multiple acts of terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms.

We believe that a reformed United Nations, including a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, is essential to the global capacity to respond effectively to terrorist threats and new situations. An enlarged and more representative Security Council will further strengthen the United Nations role in furthering peace and security and the rule of law across the globe. Mauritius adheres to the African position on the reform of the Security Council, as elaborated in the Ezulwini Consensus. We believe that the historical injustice done to Africa with regard to representation on the Council should be redressed. We also support a dedicated seat for SIDS. In addition, Mauritius fully supports India's aspiration to a permanent seat.

While the formal recognition of Palestine by the United Nations as an observer is a very positive development, we must exert relentless efforts to work towards the goal of having two distinct, independent, secure and viable States, Palestine and Israel, living peacefully side by side.

The firm belief of Mauritius in the Charter of the United Nations and in the legitimacy of a fair and just multilateral system is unshakable. Every nation has a right to peace, justice, the rule of law and democracy, and every human being has the right to basic human rights. That is the basis on which the Mauritius Constitution is built. Those are also the principles enshrined in the Charter. The full realization of those principles will not be possible, however, unless complete decolonization is accomplished.

It was 48 years ago that my country became a free and sovereign nation, an independent country in the eyes of the world. Yet even today, it is unable to exercise its sovereignty over parts of its territory, namely, the Chagos Archipelago and Tromelin Island. On 8 November 1965, prior to granting Mauritius its independence on 12 March 1968, the United Kingdom illegally excised the Chagos Archipelago from the territory of Mauritius, purportedly in order to create the so-called British Indian Ocean territory. That excision was carried out in violation of international law and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, and 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967.

Resolution 1514 (XV) stipulates that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It clearly prohibits the dismemberment of any colonial territory prior to independence. In addition to excising that integral part of our territory, the Mauritians living in the Chagos Archipelago were forcibly evicted from their home and moved to the main island of Mauritius in total disregard for their human rights. The Government of Mauritius is fully sensitive to their plight and their rightful aspiration to resettle in the Chagos Archipelago, as per their legitimate right as citizens of Mauritius. We are determined to resettle those who were forcibly evicted from the Archipelago upon its return to the effective control of Mauritius, in full respect of all their rights and dignity.

My delegation includes the spokesperson for Mauritians of Chagossian origin. He represents a whole community whose human rights have been flouted. His presence also testifies to the fact that the issue of sovereignty and the right of return of Mauritian Chagossians to their native lands cannot be dissociated. Mauritius has consistently protested against the illegal excision of the Chagos Archipelago and has unequivocally maintained that the Chagos Archipelago, including the island of Diego Garcia, forms an integral part of its territory, under both Mauritian law and international law. Mauritius has also consistently pressed for the completion of the decolonization process.

For decades, Mauritius has called on the former colonial Power to engage with us in order to find a fair and just solution, but our efforts have been in vain so far. Despite the blatant violation of resolution 1514 (XV), the United Kingdom maintains that its continued presence in the Chagos Archipelago is lawful. Yet the United Kingdom also tacitly admits the impropriety of its action in dismembering the territory of Mauritius, as evidenced by the undertaking which it has given on various occasions that the Chagos Archipelago will be returned to Mauritius when no longer required for defence purposes.

That undertaking has been held to be legally binding by the arbitral tribunal established in the case brought by Mauritius against the United Kingdom under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to challenge the legality of the marine protected area purportedly established by the United Kingdom around the Chagos Archipelago. However, the United Kingdom has not honoured that undertaking so far. It keeps changing the criteria, which rely on the contention that the use of the Chagos Archipelago is still required for defence purposes.

The arbitral tribunal ruled that the creation of the purported marine protected area around the Chagos Archipelago by the United Kingdom was in violation of international law. Two of the arbitrators found that the excision of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 showed a complete disregard for the territorial integrity of Mauritius by the United Kingdom, in violation of the right to self determination, and that the United Kingdom is not the coastal State in relation to the Chagos Archipelago. That finding was not contradicted by the other two members of the arbitral tribunal.

The General Assembly has a direct institutional interest in the matter, given the historic and central role that it has played in the process of decolonization throughout the world. The Assembly has a continuing responsibility to complete the process of decolonization, including that of Mauritius. That is why, at the request of the Government of Mauritius, the General Assembly has included in the agenda of its seventy-first session item 87, "Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965". An advisory opinion would assist the Assembly in its work on decolonization in general and the decolonization of Mauritius in particular, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

I would like to insist on the fact that the decision to have recourse to that action was not taken with an adversarial intent. This is not the first time that an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice is being sought on such a subject. In our view, the procedure represents a legitimate recourse, and it abides by the provisions of the Charter and past practice of the United Nations. We have noted that the United Kingdom has now expressed the wish to engage in dialogue with Mauritius in order to sort the matter out by June 2017. Mauritius has always believed in true dialogue. We are acting in good faith, and we expect the same from our interlocutors.

We believe that the Assembly has the duty to assist in the completion of the decolonization process. Mauritius is of the view that an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice in respect of the Chagos Archipelago will undoubtedly assist the Assembly in the discharge of that responsibility. I wish to heartily thank member States of the African Union, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the Non-Aligned Group, and the Group of 77 and China, among others, which have openly expressed their support to my country. I know that when it comes to justice, human dignity and territorial integrity, the Assembly will live up to its mission. We concur with the position of the United Kingdom on a rule-based international system. However, we have to be coherent, not only in what we say, but also in what we do.

The decolonization of Mauritius will also not be fully resolved until the issue of Tromelin is settled. We have had very constructive dialogue with France, and we urge France to pursue that dialogue with Mauritius

for the early resolution of the dispute over the island in the continued spirit of friendship that has characterized the relationship between our two countries.

(spoke in French)

Territorial integrity is a principle of international law. The United Nations recognizes it as such, it is therefore our duty to ensure that it is respected.

(spoke in English)

To conclude, I would like to call on the entire membership of the United Nations to stand by the right to justice, to show that a better and safer world is possible only when it is compatible with the rule of law, and to show commitment to the principles of the Charter.

The Acting President: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius for the statement he has just made.

Mr. Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Rodrigues and National Development Unit of the Republic of Mauritius, was escorted from the rostrum.



General Assembly

Seventy-first session

19th plenary meeting
Friday, 23 September 2016, 6 p.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Thomson (Fiji)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Bouah-Kamon
(Côte d'Ivoire), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

Agenda item 8 (continued)

General debate

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The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the general debate for this meeting.

The exercise of the right of reply has been requested by several delegations. May I remind members that statements in the exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second intervention, and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. Sornarajah (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom wishes to exercise its right of reply in the light of comments made in the statement of His Excellency Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius, in the debate this morning. The British Government has no doubts about its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, which it administers as the British Indian Ocean Territory. No international tribunal, including the recent arbitral tribunal constituted under Annex 7 to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, has ever called the United Kingdom's sovereignty of the territory into doubt. While the United Kingdom does not recognize the claim of the Republic of Mauritius to the sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago, it has repeatedly undertaken to cede the Archipelago to Mauritius, once it no longer requires those islands for defence purposes. We maintain that commitment, although it is for the United Kingdom alone to determine when that condition is met.

In the meantime, the defence purposes referred to contribute significantly towards global security and are central to efforts to counter regional threats, including those stemming from terrorism and piracy. We do not consider that the International Court of Justice is the appropriate way to resolve this matter. We have therefore asked the Government of Mauritius not to continue with that course of action and to resolve those issues through the bilateral discussions that have been ongoing. We will continue to engage bilaterally with Mauritius.



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

VOLUME I

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 23 (A/7623/Rev.1)

UNITED NATIONS

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OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
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UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1974

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Special Committee is divided into four volumes. The present volume contains chapters I to V of the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly, which had previously been distributed as document A/7623, parts I, II and III. Chapters VI to VIII are found in volume II; chapters IX to XXII in volume III, and chapters XXIII to XXXIII in volume IV. A list of contents of all the chapters appears in each volume.

For documents A/7200 and addenda mentioned in the present report, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 23 (A/7200/Rev.1).

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* Note by the Rapporteur: See chapter I, paragraph 41 for the new designation of the Territory.

CHAPTER III

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

A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 659th meeting, on 14 March 1969, the Special Committee, by adopting the fortieth report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.537), decided to take up separately the item entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", and to refer it to Sub-Committee I for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 720th meeting, on 29 October.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, particularly resolutions: 2465 (XXIII), of 20 December 1968 concerning the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968 concerning twenty-four Territories with which the Committee is concerned. By resolution 2465 (XXIII), the General Assembly, in paragraph 3, approved the programme of work envisaged by the Special Committee during 1969, including the study of military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration, and, in paragraph 9, requested "the colonial Powers to dismantle their military bases and installations in colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones and from using those that still exist to interfere with the liberation of the peoples in colonial Territories in the exercise of their legitimate rights to freedom and independence". By resolution 2430 (XXIII), the General Assembly, in paragraph 4, reiterated "its declaration that any attempt aimed at... the establishment of military bases and installations in these Territories is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)".
4. At the 720th meeting, on 29 October, the Chairman of Sub-Committee I, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.720), introduced the report of that Sub-Committee on the item (see annex to this chapter). The Sub-Committee's report included ten working papers prepared by the Secretariat at the request of that Sub-Committee, which contained information on military activities and arrangements in a number of Territories.
5. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Ivory Coast, Italy, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Iran and Venezuela (A/AC.109/PV.720).

6. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the report of Sub-Committee I by 16 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions, and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, it being understood that the reservations expressed by certain members would be reflected in the record of the meeting. These conclusions and recommendations are set out in paragraph 7 below.

B. DECISION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

7. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 720th meeting on 29 October, to which reference is made in paragraph 6 above, is reproduced below:

Conclusions

(a) The structure, objectives and purposes of military establishments in colonial countries remain essentially the same as those outlined in its report of the previous year. 1/ The Special Committee is therefore compelled to reaffirm the conclusions drawn from its study of the question in 1968 and to re-emphasize that those military arrangements and activities constitute one of the most serious impediments to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

(b) After having re-examined fully the situation in more than sixteen colonial Territories, the Special Committee notes with regret that none of the States having responsibility for the administration of colonial and Trust Territories has complied with the provisions of paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 2105 (XX) of 20 December 1965, paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 2189 (XXI) of 13 December 1966, paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 2326 (XXII) of 16 December 1967 and paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 2465 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, whereby the General Assembly requested all colonial Powers to dismantle their military bases and installations in colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones. Consequently, the grave and ever-increasing threat to international peace and security created in several cases by the military activities of the colonial Powers, as stated in the report of the Special Committee for the previous year, remains unabated. On the basis of information available to it, the Special Committee is compelled to reaffirm its earlier conclusions and to stress that, far from decreasing, military activities have actually increased in the Territories.

(c) The Special Committee wishes to draw particular attention to the situation in southern Africa which, in its present form, poses an even greater threat to international peace and security. In Angola, Mozambique, Southern Rhodesia and Namibia, the Special Committee notes that the Governments of Portugal and the Republic of South Africa and the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia have strengthened their military hold over the African Territories and peoples and still deny them their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

(d) In Mozambique, Angola and Guinea, called Portuguese Guinea, the Portuguese authorities have further intensified their war of colonial repression against the liberation movements in the Territories. It was estimated that Portugal had increased its military budget for 1968-1969 by \$50 million compared

1/ A/7200 (part II), chapter IV.

with the figure for 1967-1968, bringing it to a total of \$400 million. Most of that expenditure was directed against Mozambique, Angola and Guinea, called Portuguese Guinea. According to conservative estimates, there are now 130,000 Portuguese soldiers fighting in the African Territories under Portuguese administration. The Special Committee also notes that Portugal continues to receive arms from its allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and that Portugal alone, without the aid of its allies, would be incapable of holding Angola, Mozambique and Guinea, called Portuguese Guinea, for so long.

(e) In Southern Rhodesia, the illegal régime has also increased its activities against the African people and the national liberation movement. It is estimated that there are now 3,000 members of the South African security forces fighting alongside the security forces of the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia. Although no figures are available, it is believed that the security forces of the illegal régime have increased considerably since 1968.

(f) In Namibia, the Republic of South Africa, in defiance of the United Nations, is holding down the Territory by the sheer force of its military might and is further enhancing its capabilities in the production of various kinds of advanced weapons. It is reported that South Africa is now equipped with missiles of all kinds.

(g) As regards southern Africa as a whole, the Special Committee notes that South African forces have joined their Rhodesian and Portuguese counterparts in the fighting on all fronts in southern Africa, creating a formidable threat to the independence and territorial integrity of neighbouring African States, thus giving further evidence of their military entente and intensive co-operation against the liberation movements. Petitioners who addressed the Special Committee in 1969 laid strong stress on the military and economic support these régimes receive from various Western countries, all members of NATO.

(h) In the case of smaller Territories such as Guam, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas and Gibraltar, it is obvious that the military personnel, equipment, naval and air force facilities, and bases maintained by the colonial Powers go far beyond the defence requirements of these small Territories and that they are directed against third parties in the global military strategy of the colonial Powers and their allies. The net result of these arrangements in the smaller Territories is that the military and strategic requirements of the administering Powers and their allies are prevailing over the interests of the peoples of these Territories.

(i) From the above information, the Special Committee wishes to reaffirm once again its conclusions of the previous year regarding military activities by the colonial Powers in Territories under their administration. It wishes to emphasize in particular that, such activities, in addition to creating a threat to international peace and security, also present a serious impediment to the implementation of the Declaration and affect adversely the economic, social and political advancement of the Territories and have resulted in alienation of the land and natural resources of colonial peoples.

Recommendations

(a) The Special Committee reaffirms the recommendations contained in its report of 1968 (A/7200 (part II)) and emphasizes that, on the whole military

activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration constitute a serious impediment to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

(b) The Special Committee condemns once again the military entente between the Governments of South Africa and Portugal and the illegal racist minority régime of Southern Rhodesia aimed at suppressing by armed force the inalienable right of the oppressed people of the area to self-determination and independence; and calls once again upon all States to withhold all support and assistance, including the supply of arms and military equipment, to those régimes whose existence and activities run counter to the interests of international peace and security.

(c) The Special Committee deplures the attitude of all States having responsibility for the administration of colonial and Trust Territories, which have not complied with the General Assembly resolutions requesting all colonial Powers to dismantle their military bases and installations in colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones.

(d) The Special Committee requests all States having responsibility for the administration of colonial and Trust Territories to comply unconditionally with the provisions of paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 2105 (XX) of 20 December 1965, paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 2189 (XXI) of 13 December 1966, paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 2326 (XXII) of 16 December 1967, and paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 2465 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, whereby the General Assembly requested all colonial Powers to dismantle their military bases and installations in colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones.

(e) The Special Committee once again requests the colonial Powers to cease forthwith alienating land belonging to the people of the Territories for the construction of military bases and installations and to return such land already alienated to its rightful owners and also to desist from utilizing the economic resources and manpower of the Territories for the furtherance of military activities against the legitimate interests of the colonial peoples.

ANNEX*

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE I

Chairman: Mr. Rafic JOUEJATI (Syria)

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.604.

A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE

1. At its 659th meeting, on 14 March 1969, the Special Committee, by adopting the fortieth report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.537), decided to include in its agenda for 1969 an item entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples". The Committee also decided to refer this item to Sub-Committee I for consideration.
2. The Sub-Committee accordingly considered the item at its sixty-ninth to seventy-second meetings held between 23 August and 22 September 1969.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Sub-Committee had before it ten working papers prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Sub-Committee containing information available to the Secretariat concerning military activities and arrangements in the following Territories: Namibia; Territories under Portuguese administration; Southern Rhodesia; Gibraltar; Seychelles; Papua and the Trust Territory of New Guinea; Guam; the Bahamas; Bermuda, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (see appendices I to X).
4. In addition, the Sub-Committee had available to it relevant extracts from statements by petitioners who had appeared before the Special Committee in 1969 which related to military activities in colonial Territories (A/AC.109/SR.672, 673, 677 to 681, 683, 684 and 688 to 691).
5. In formulating conclusions and recommendations on the question under consideration, the Sub-Committee also took into account additional relevant information provided by its members.

B. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

6. The Sub-Committee, having considered the question and having studied the documentation and other information available to it, unanimously adopted the following conclusions and recommendations a/ at its seventy-second meeting on 22 September 1969.

a/ The conclusions and recommendations submitted by Sub-Committee I for consideration by the Special Committee were adopted by the latter body without modification. They are reproduced in paragraph 7 of this chapter.

APPENDICES

WORKING PAPERS PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT AT THE
REQUEST OF SUB-COMMITTEE I ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES
AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES
UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION

APPENDIX V

THE SEYCHELLES

"British Indian Ocean Territory"

1. As was stated in the previous working paper submitted to the Sub-Committee, a/ by the terms of a United Kingdom Order in Council dated 8 November 1965, three of the ninety-two islands and atolls comprising the Seychelles (namely the Farquhar Islands, Aldabra and Desroches) were administratively detached from the Territory and, together with the Chagos Archipelago, formerly part of Mauritius, were set up as a separate administrative unit entitled the "British Indian Ocean Territory". According to the administering Power, this arrangement was made with the consent of the Governments of Mauritius and Seychelles, which were to be compensated for the loss of the islands and atolls. The purpose of the arrangement was to make the islands available for the construction of military staging facilities by the United Kingdom and United States Governments. However, although these two Governments entered into an agreement in 1966 for the joint use of any military facilities which might be constructed in the "British Indian Ocean Territory", the United Kingdom Government subsequently announced that it had decided not to utilize the "Territory" as a staging area and had no plans to establish any military installations there.

2. In the case of the Seychelles, it was agreed in 1965 that the United Kingdom would compensate the Seychelles Government by paying the cost of constructing an international airport on Mahé, where the capital of the Seychelles, Victoria, is situated. In fulfilment of this undertaking, the United Kingdom Ministry of Public Building and Works was reported in October 1968 to have awarded a £3.4 million contract to Costain Civil Engineers, Ltd., for the construction of the airport, which was begun later in 1968.

3. In an editorial published in the Seychelles Weekly on 1 February 1969, Mr. Mancham, the leader of the Seychelles Democratic Party (which controls four of the eight elected seats in the Governing Council) expressed disagreement with the position taken by the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States of America at the United Nations in regard to the "British Indian Ocean Territory". He subsequently explained in a letter published in Le Seychellois that his disagreement was not related to the proposed joint military use of Farquhar, Aldabra and Desroches by the United Kingdom and the United States of America but to their detachment from the Seychelles. He said that when the former Legislative Council had been asked to consent to their inclusion in the "British Indian Ocean Territory", his party had given its approval on the understanding that it would involve only a change of administrative arrangements and would not affect the status of the islands which his party regarded as an integral part of the Seychelles. He said that he had no objection to the use of those islands for military purposes, provided the United Kingdom maintained its responsibility for the whole Territory of the Seychelles.

a/ A/7200 (part II), chapter IV, annex, appendix V.



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UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1974

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Special Committee is divided into four volumes. The present volume contains chapters IX to XXII of the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly, which had been distributed as documents A/7623/Add.4, A/7623/Add.5 (Parts I and II) and A/7623/Add.6 (Parts I and II). Chapters I to V are contained in volume I, chapters VI to VIII are in volume II and chapters XXIII to XXXIII are in volume IV. A list of contents of all the chapters appears in each volume.

For documents A/7200 and addenda mentioned in the present report, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 23 (A/7200/Rev.1).

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SEYCHELLES AND ST. HELENA, IFNI AND SPANISH SAHARA,
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* See "Note by the Rapporteur" on page 64 concerning the new designation of the Territory.

CHAPTER IX

SEYCHELLES AND ST. HELENA

A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 659th meeting, on 14 March 1969, the Special Committee, by approving the fortieth report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.537), decided inter alia to refer the Seychelles and St. Helena to Sub-Committee I for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered this item at its 699th and 700th meetings, on 18 and 19 June.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2465 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, as well as other resolutions of the General Assembly, particularly resolution 2430 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968, concerning twenty-four Territories, including the Seychelles and St. Helena, by operative paragraph 7 of which the General Assembly requested the Special Committee "to continue to pay special attention to these Territories and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution".
4. During its consideration of this item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex I to this chapter) containing information on action previously taken by the Special Committee and the General Assembly, as well as on the latest developments concerning the Territories.
5. At the 699th meeting, on 18 June, the Chairman of Sub-Committee I in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.699), introduced the report of that Sub-Committee on the Seychelles and St. Helena (see annex II to this chapter).
6. At the same meeting, statements on the report were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Syria (A/AC.109/PV.699), and, at the 700th meeting, on 19 June, by the representatives of India, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, the United Kingdom and Syria (A/AC.109/PV.700).
7. At the 700th meeting, the Special Committee adopted the report of Sub-Committee I concerning the Seychelles and St. Helena, and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, it being understood that the reservations expressed by certain members would be reflected in the records of the meeting. These conclusions and recommendations are set out in paragraph 9 below.
8. On 5 September, the text of these conclusions and recommendations was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations for the attention of his Government.

B. DECISION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

9. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 700th meeting, on 19 June 1969, to which reference is made in paragraph 7 above, is reproduced below:

Conclusions

(1) The Special Committee notes with regret that, since it last examined the situation in the Territories, the administering Power has taken no significant additional steps to implement the Declaration on the Granting of Independence in the Seychelles and St. Helena. Under the constitutional arrangements for the Seychelles, introduced by the administering Power in late 1967, extensive powers remain in the hands of the Governor. The Governing Council does not reflect fully the views of the people and still includes nominated representatives. Moreover, its decisions are subject to approval by the Governor and can be overruled by him. A similar situation exists in St. Helena.

(2) The Special Committee notes that during December 1968 and March 1969, there were governmental crises in the Seychelles created by the withdrawal of elected members of the Governing Council from its meetings. The Seychelles People's United Party decided to boycott public sessions of the Council, stating that "the present constitution has been shown to be unworkable". The representatives of the Seychelles Democratic Party withdrew in protest against certain measures taken by the Government. Furthermore, demonstrations were held in the Territory to demand an end to colonial rule. The Special Committee notes the information that a minister of the United Kingdom Government will visit the Seychelles, possibly in the summer of 1969, to discuss ideas on future constitutional changes and other matters which the political parties or others wish to put forward.

(3) The Special Committee regrets to note that the administering Power continues to violate the territorial integrity of the Seychelles. It reiterates its position that any plans by the United Kingdom and the United States for the construction of military bases in the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory" would have the effect of heightening tension in Africa and Asia.

(4) The Special Committee notes that, owing primarily to insufficient diversification, the economy of the two Territories remains stagnant, and that among their main problems are poverty, unemployment and rising living costs. The economic situation in the Seychelles is aggravated by the unfair distribution of the land and the discontent of the workers. In the case of St. Helena, the economy still depends largely on servicing the establishments maintained by the United Kingdom and the United States. In both Territories, there has been increasing infiltration by foreign monopolies and settlers. The Special Committee expresses deep concern at the infiltration of South African interests into certain key economic sectors of the Territory of St. Helena, in the face of the repeated condemnation by the General Assembly of the activities of certain foreign economic interests in colonial Territories and the vehement protests made by the people of the Territory against such infiltration. The Special Committee notes the action taken by the administering Power in securing an agreement whereby the St. Helena Government would have a controlling interest in one of the companies concerned.

At the same time, it draws attention to the fact that overriding powers rest not with the Government but with the Governor, who is directly responsible to the United Kingdom Government. It is also concerned that South African interests will have a substantial share in the company. The Special Committee considers that the exploitation by foreign interests of the economy of the Territories, particularly by interests based in South Africa, is detrimental to the genuine interests of the inhabitants.

(5) The Special Committee notes that no appreciable progress has been made in the fields of public education and health, and considers that the necessary action should be taken to ensure such progress.

Recommendations

(6) The Special Committee reiterates its call to the administering Power to enable the peoples of the Seychelles and St. Helena to exercise their rights to self-determination, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) without further delay;

(7) It urges the administering Power not to impose upon the Territories a future status not freely accepted by the population;

(8) It calls upon the administering Power to take the necessary steps to transfer powers to freely elected representatives of the peoples of the Territories;

(9) It reiterates its decision that any actions, whether on the part of the administering Power alone or in conjunction with another power, to construct military bases in the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory" are incompatible with the Charter and would lead to increased tension in Africa and Asia;

(10) It again urges the administering Power to respect the territorial integrity of the Seychelles by returning the islands detached from it in 1965;

(11) It calls upon the administering Power to intensify its efforts to strengthen the economy of the Territories through the promotion of economic diversification and the introduction of land reforms, taking into account the urgent need to reduce the economic dependence of the Territories and cope with the problem arising from the shortage of natural resources and skilled personnel;

(12) It calls upon the administering Power to take more effective steps to prevent infiltration by foreign economic interests and settlers into the Territories, particularly those from South Africa, with a view to safeguarding the interests of the local population;

(13) It urges the administering Power to take action to improve the social situation in the Territories, particularly to eliminate the vast economic gap between the rich and poor and between landowners and workers and to hasten progress in education and health;

(14) It again stresses the importance of visits to the Territories by missions of the Special Committee and calls upon the administering Power to enter forthwith into consultations with the Special Committee in order to make arrangements for a visiting mission to the Seychelles as soon as possible.

ANNEX I*

WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.530 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

A. ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4. The Special Committee deplored all actions by the administering Power to separate certain islands from the Seychelles. Such actions, it stated, constituted a violation of the territorial integrity of the Seychelles, a violation aggravated by the fact that the separation was intended to serve military purposes. The Special Committee reiterated its decision that any action on the part of the administering Power to establish the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory" and any action, whether on its part alone or in conjunction with another Power, to construct military bases therein were incompatible with the Charter. It urged the administering Power to respect the territorial integrity of the Seychelles and to desist from any action designed to establish military bases or installations in the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory" since such action would lead to heightening tension in Africa and Asia. It also detected military considerations incompatible with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) behind the agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America on the use of portions of the Territory of St. Helena.

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, annex No. 8 (A/5800/Rev.1), chapter XIV; *ibid.*, Twentieth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (A/6000/Rev.1), chapter XIII; *ibid.*, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (A/6300/Rev.1), chapter XIV; *ibid.*, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (part III) (A/6700/Rev.1), chapter XIV; A/7200/Add.5, chapter XII.

B. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORIES^{b/}

8. Information on the Territories is contained in the previous reports of the Special Committee. c/ Supplementary information on recent developments is set out below.

1. SEYCHELLES

b/ The information presented in this section is derived from published sources and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom under Article 73 e of the Charter for the year ending 31 December 1967.

c/ For the most recent see A/6700/Rev.1, chapter XIV and A/7200/Add.5, chapter XII.

"British Indian Ocean Territory"

37. Information concerning the "British Indian Ocean Territory" prior to January 1968 is contained in documents A/7200 (part II), chapter IV, annex, appendix V, paras. 1-25 and A/7200/Add.5, chapter XII, annex I, paras. 27-37.

38. Briefly, it will be recalled that under a United Kingdom Order in Council dated 8 November 1965, three of the Territory's ninety-two islands and atolls were administratively detached to form, together with the Chagos Archipelago, a separate administrative unit entitled the "British Indian Ocean Territory" under a Commissioner who is also the Governor of the Seychelles. As compensation agreed with the Seychelles Government the United Kingdom undertook to construct an international airport on Mahé in the Seychelles.

39. On 30 December 1966, the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America entered into an agreement for the joint use of any military staging facilities which might be constructed in the "British Indian Ocean Territory". According to reports, however, no such facilities have been constructed and on 22 November 1967, the United Kingdom Prime Minister announced in Parliament that his Government was abandoning plans to establish a military staging post in the islands. Meanwhile, a proposal was made to establish an international ecological research centre on Aldabra, the principal island involved, but as at 20 February 1968, it was reported that no final decision on the proposal had been reached.

40. According to Mr. Mancham, leader of the SDP, there has been little public discussion of the question in the Seychelles since the general elections in December 1967.



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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 23 (A/8023/Rev.1)



UNITED NATIONS

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SEYCHELLES AND ST. HELENA

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CHAPTER VIII

SEYCHELLES AND ST. HELENA

A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 737th meeting, on 13 April 1970, the Special Committee, by approving the forty-seventh report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.623), decided, inter alia, to refer the Seychelles and St. Helena to Sub-Committee I for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered this item at its 755th to 757th meetings, between 11 and 13 August.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2543 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, as well as other resolutions of the General Assembly, particularly resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, concerning twenty-four Territories, including the Seychelles and St. Helena, by paragraph 3 of which the General Assembly requested the Special Committee "to continue to pay special attention to these Territories and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution".
4. During its consideration of this item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex I below) containing information on action previously taken by the Special Committee and the General Assembly, as well as on the latest developments concerning the Territories.
5. At the 755th meeting, on 11 August, the Chairman of Sub-Committee I in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.755 and Corr.1), introduced the report of that Sub-Committee on the Seychelles and St. Helena (see annex II below).
6. At the same meeting, statements on the report were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Republic of Tanzania (A/AC.109/PV.755 and Corr.1); at the 756th meeting, on 13 August, by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, India and Syria (A/AC.109/PV.756 and Corr.1 and 2); and at the 757th meeting, on 13 August, by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania (A/AC.109/PV.757).
7. At the 757th meeting, the Special Committee adopted the report of Sub-Committee I concerning the Seychelles and St. Helena, and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, it being understood that the reservations expressed by certain members would be reflected in the records of the relevant meeting. These conclusions and recommendations are set out in paragraph 9 below.

5. On 20 August, the text of these conclusions and recommendations was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations for the attention of his Government.

B. DECISION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

9. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 757th meeting, on 18 August 1970, to which reference is made in paragraph 7 above, is reproduced below:

(a) Conclusions

(1) The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples notes that under the new constitutional arrangements for the Seychelles, agreed upon at the Constitutional Conference held in London in March 1970, the Government of the Territory will be vested in the Governor, with a Council of Ministers consisting of the Governor as its President, a Chief Minister, not more than four other ministers and three ex officio members, and a Legislative Assembly consisting of a Speaker, fifteen elected members and the ex officio members of the Council of Ministers. The Special Committee considers that although this step represents some progress in the process of self-determination, it is nevertheless inadequate to promote the process of complete decolonization in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. After the introduction of the new constitutional arrangements, the key powers will continue to be concentrated in the hands of the Governor, and the administering Power, through the Governor, will retain full control in political, economic and other fields. These constitutional arrangements fall short of providing the transfer of power to the people of the Territory and their representatives in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

(2) The Special Committee regrets to note that the administering Power failed to consult the people of the Seychelles directly on the new constitutional arrangements.

(3) The Special Committee notes that in the year under review there has not been any favourable change in the situation in St. Helena.

(4) The Special Committee regrets to note that the administering Power continues to violate the territorial integrity of the Seychelles. A statement by the Minister of Defence of the United Kingdom, on 3 December 1969, indicates that the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory" remains available for the staging and construction of military facilities and operations by the United Kingdom and the United States Governments. This means that the administering Power has persistently refused to comply with the provisions of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969.

(5) The Special Committee notes that the economic situation in the two Territories remains unsatisfactory, in particular, there are problems of poverty and unemployment. However, it takes note of the conclusion of the economic aid mission of the administering Power that the Seychelles can in time become a

self-supporting country capable of providing a secure and satisfactory standard of living for all its people. It therefore expects the Territories not to continue to depend entirely on a few crops and external aid. It notes that the distribution of land is unfair and that the economy of the Territories is thereby affected. Since the Special Committee last examined the situation, the administering Power has not reported any progress in preventing the exploitation of the economy of the Territories by foreign interests, especially South African interests, in a way detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants.

(6) The Special Committee notes that the social situation in the Territories still leaves much to be desired. Further progress is required in the fields of public education, training of leaders and health.

(b) Recommendations

(1) The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples again calls upon the administering Power to take concrete measures to enable the people of the Seychelles and St. Helena to exercise their rights to self-determination in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples without further delay.

(2) It urges the administering Power to make the necessary arrangements in the Territories for the acceleration of the transfer of powers to representative organs elected on the basis of universal suffrage. In the case of the Seychelles, it considers that the forthcoming elections, to be held before the end of 1970, should be a first step towards this action.

(3) It reaffirms that any constitutional changes must be left to the people of the Territories, who alone have the right to decide the form of government they wish to adopt. It urges the administering Power not to impose a future status on these Territories that is not freely accepted by the population and to refrain from taking any measures incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

(4) It again confirms that the detachment of a number of islands from the Seychelles by the administering Power, and the setting up of the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory" with the purpose of establishing a military base in that Territory jointly with the United States of America, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It reiterates its decision that such actions are not in keeping with either the interests of the inhabitants or with those of the African continent or with international peace and security.

(5) It again calls upon the administering Power to respect the territorial integrity of the Seychelles and to return immediately to that Territory the islands detached from it in 1965.

(6) It calls upon the administering Power to safeguard the right of the peoples of the Territories to dispose of the natural resources of their countries and to take effective steps to prevent infiltration by foreign economic interests and the introduction of foreign settlers into the Territories, particularly those from South Africa.

(7) It reiterates its request that the administering Power should intensify its efforts to strengthen the economy of the Territories through the promotion of economic diversification and the introduction of land reforms, taking into account the urgent need to reduce the economic dependence of the Territories and to cope with the problems arising from the shortage of natural resources and skilled personnel.

(8) It calls upon the administering Power to promote social justice in the Seychelles and St. Helena and to accelerate progress in education and health.

(9) It again urges the administering Power to co-operate with the Special Committee in making arrangements for a visiting mission of the Committee to be sent to the Territories to obtain more detailed information in order to accelerate the process of self-determination.

(10) It requests the administering Power to submit timely, up-to-date information concerning the situation in the Territories.

ANNEX I*

I. WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.627.

A. ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6. The Special Committee noted with regret that the administering Power was continuing to violate the territorial integrity of the Seychelles. It reiterated its position that any plans by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America for the construction of military bases in the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory" would have the effect of heightening tension in Africa and Asia. It also reiterated its decision that any actions, whether on the part of the administering Power alone or in conjunction with another Power, to construct military bases in the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory" were incompatible with the Charter and would lead to increased tension in Africa and Asia. It again urged the administering Power to respect the territorial integrity of the Seychelles by returning the islands detached from it in 1965.

B. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORIES^{b/}

12. Information on the Territories is contained in the previous reports of the Special Committee. c/ Supplementary information on recent developments is set out below.

1. SEYCHELLES

b/ The information presented in this section is derived from published sources and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom under Article 73 e of the Charter for the year ending 31 December 1968.

c/ For the most recent information, see the Special Committee's reports to the General Assembly at its twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions (A/7200/Add.5, chapter XII and A/7623/Add.4 and Corr.1 and 2, chapter IX).

"British Indian Ocean Territory"

33. Information concerning the "British Indian Ocean Territory" prior to March 1969 is contained in document A/7623/Add.4 and Corr.1 and 2, chapter IX, annex I, paragraphs 37-40.

34. Briefly it will be recalled that under a United Kingdom Order in Council dated 8 November 1965, three of the ninety-two islands and atolls comprising the Seychelles (namely, Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches) were administratively detached from the Territory and, together with the Chagos Archipelago, formerly part of Mauritius, were set up as a separate administrative unit entitled the "British Indian Ocean Territory". According to the administering Power, this arrangement was made with the consent of the Governments of Mauritius and Seychelles, which were to be compensated for the loss of the islands and atolls. In the case of the Seychelles, it was agreed in 1965 that the United Kingdom would compensate the Seychelles Government by paying the cost of constructing an international airport on Mahé, which was begun late in 1968. The purpose of the above-mentioned arrangement was to make the islands available for the construction of military staging facilities by the United Kingdom and the United States Governments. However, although these two Governments entered into an agreement in 1966 for the joint use of any military facilities which might be constructed in the "British Indian Ocean Territory", the United Kingdom Government subsequently announced that it had decided not to utilize the "Territory" as a staging area and had no plans to establish any military installations there.

35. In February 1969, Mr. Mancham, leader of the SDP, expressed disagreement with the position taken by the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States at the United Nations in regard to the "British Indian Ocean Territory". He explained that his disagreement was not related to the proposed joint military use of Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches by the United Kingdom and the United States, but to their detachment from the Seychelles. He stated that when the former Legislative Council had been asked to consent to their inclusion in the "British Indian Ocean

Territory", his party had given its approval on the understanding that it would involve only a change of administrative arrangements and would not affect the status of the islands, which his party regarded as an integral part of the Seychelles. He further stated that his party had stood for integration with the United Kingdom and had not objected to the use of these islands for military purposes, provided that the United Kingdom maintained its responsibility for the whole Territory of the Seychelles. Later, The People, a news organ of the SPUP, stated editorially that while opposing the integration of the Seychelles into the United Kingdom, it nevertheless agreed that the three islands of the Territory included in the "British Indian Ocean Territory" belonged to the Seychellois.

36. On 3 December 1969, Mr. Roy Hattersley, Minister of Defence, stated in reply to questions in the United Kingdom House of Commons that the "British Indian Ocean Territory" remained available for the construction of defence facilities by the United Kingdom and the United States Governments under an agreement reached in 1966. Whether or how the "Territory" would be used was a matter being kept under review by the two Governments. Mr. Hattersley stressed the importance of having this group of islands at the disposal of the United Kingdom should they be needed for the purpose originally envisaged.

**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**

VOLUME III

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No.23 (A/8423/Rev.1)



UNITED NATIONS

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OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
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UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1975

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Special Committee is divided into four volumes. The present volume contains chapters IX to XXI;* volume I contains chapters I to V; volume II, chapters VI to VIII; and volume IV, chapters XXII to XXVII; each volume contains a full table of contents.

For documents A/7623 and addenda and A/8023 and addenda mentioned in the present report, see: *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/7623/Rev.1)*, and *ibid.*, *Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/8023/Rev.1)*.

* The present version of chapters IX to XXI is a consolidation of the following documents as they appeared in provisional form: A/8423/Add.5 (Part I) of 12 October 1971; A/8423/Add.5 (Part II) and Corr.1 of 8 November and 2 December 1971; A/8423/Add.5 (Part III) of 1 October 1971; A/8423/Add.6 (Part I) of 27 October 1971; A/8423/Add.6 (Part II) of 26 November 1971; and A/8423/Add.6 (Part III) of 17 November 1971.

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CHAPTER IX

SEYCHELLES AND ST. HELENA

A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 784th meeting, on 25 March 1971, the Special Committee, by approving the fifty-eighth report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.687), decided, inter alia, to refer the Seychelles and St. Helena to Sub-Committee I for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 796th, 814th and 815th meetings, on 5 May and 11 and 13 August 1971.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, containing the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and resolution 2708 (XXV) of 14 December 1970 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. By paragraph 14 of resolution 2708 (XXV), the General Assembly requested the Special Committee "to continue to pay particular attention to the small Territories, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most appropriate methods and also the steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise fully and without delay their right to self-determination and independence". The Special Committee also took into account other resolutions of the General Assembly, particularly resolution 2709 (XXV) of 14 December 1970 concerning twenty-five Territories, including the Seychelles and St. Helena, by paragraph 8 of which the General Assembly requested the Special Committee "to continue to pay special attention to these Territories and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution".
4. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex I to the present chapter) containing information on action previously taken by the Special Committee and the General Assembly, as well as the latest developments concerning the Territories.
5. In addition, the Special Committee had before it the following written petitions concerning the Seychelles:
 - (a) Letter dated 10 March 1971 from Messrs. J. Tregarthen, President; M.A. Servina, Secretary; J.A. Michel, Treasurer; R. Carrere and G. Faure, Committee members, Cable and Wireless Staff Union (A/AC.109/PET.1165);
 - (b) Letters dated 20 March, 5, 19 and 25 April and 5, 18 and 19 May 1971, and a cable dated 29 May 1971 from Mr. M.A. Servina, Secretary, Cable and Wireless Staff Union (A/AC.109/PET.1165/Add.1 to 3);
 - (c) Cable dated 6 May 1971 from Mr. G.F. Drummond, Manager, Cable and Wireless Ltd. (A/AC.109/PET.1184).

6. With respect to the petition dated 5 April 1971, referred to in paragraph 5 (b) above, the Special Committee, by adopting the 157th report of the Sub-Committee on Petitions at its 796th meeting, on 5 May, authorized its Chairman to transmit the text of the communication to the administering Power concerned for the latter's comments or observations. Accordingly, the Chairman transmitted the text of the communication to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations for the attention of his Government. The text of the comments subsequently received from the Government of the United Kingdom is contained in a note by the Chairman (see annex II to the present chapter).

7. The Special Committee considered the report of Sub-Committee I on the item (see annex II to the present chapter) at its 814th and 815th meetings, on 11 and 13 August, respectively. Statements in this connexion were made by the representative of Madagascar (A/AC.109/PV.814) and by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Syrian Arab Republic (A/AC.109/PV.815).

8. At its 815th meeting, the Special Committee adopted the report of Sub-Committee I concerning the Seychelles and St. Helena and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, it being understood that the reservations expressed by certain members would be reflected in the records of the relevant meetings. These conclusions and recommendations are set out in paragraph 10 below.

9. On 16 August 1971, the text of the conclusions and recommendations was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations for the attention of his Government.

B. DECISION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

10. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 815th meeting, on 13 August 1971, to which reference is made in paragraph 8 above, is reproduced below.

(a) Conclusions

(1) The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, deploring the refusal of the administering Power to participate in its discussions or to provide any additional information on the situation in the Seychelles and St. Helena, expresses its regret at the failure of the administering Power to co-operate with the Special Committee in its efforts to carry out the tasks assigned to the latter by the General Assembly.

(2) The Special Committee notes with deep regret that the administering Power has failed to implement the previous recommendations of the Special Committee in respect of the Seychelles and St. Helena, in disregard of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2708 (XXV) of 14 December 1970.

(3) The Special Committee notes that, in the year under review, a new Constitution agreed upon at the Constitutional Conference in March 1970, was introduced in the Seychelles. Under the new constitutional arrangements, the first election for fifteen elected seats in the Legislative Assembly took place in November 1970. Following the elections, an Executive was established consisting of the Governor and the Council of Ministers, which is made up of the Chief Minister, three ex officio members, and four other ministers appointed from among the elected members of the Legislative Assembly. The Special Committee reiterates its previous conclusion that, although this step represents some progress in the process of self-determination, it is nevertheless inadequate to promote the process of complete decolonization in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as the key powers continue to be concentrated in the hands of the Governor, and the administering Power, through the Governor, retains full control in political, economic and other fields. The Special Committee notes in particular that the introduction of the new Constitution, which took place without any prior direct consultation with the people of the Territory, has not resulted in the transfer of powers to the people of the Seychelles and thus has not changed the political status of the Territory.

(4) The Special Committee notes that the policy pursued by the administering Power threatens to cause dissension and conflict among the inhabitants of the Territory on the question of its future, and that there is an urgent need to create conditions under which the people of the Seychelles can exercise their right to self-determination. In this connexion, it should be noted that the Seychelles People's United Party (SPUP) which had previously favoured a form of association with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, announced in December 1970 that it favoured independence from "the colonial Power which rules it and openly takes the side of the ruling class of oppressors". The Special Committee notes with regret that the administering Power has not submitted any information on its plans for the future political progress of the Seychelles and St. Helena.

(5) The Special Committee notes with regret that the administering Power refuses to restore the territorial integrity of the Seychelles by returning to it the islands detached from the Territory in 1965. It notes with serious concern that the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America announced on 15 December 1970 their intention to begin in March 1971 construction of military facilities in the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory". The construction of such military facilities constitutes a violation of the provisions of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular paragraph 9 of resolution 2708 (XXV) and paragraph 5 of resolution 2709 (XXV) of 14 December 1970, and constitutes a threat to international peace and security, particularly in the neighbouring region.

(6) The Special Committee notes that there have been no constitutional developments in the Territory of St. Helena since the last general elections in 1968 and that the political situation remains unfavourable for the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

(7) The Special Committee notes that the economic situation in the two Territories continues to be deplorable. The livestock industry in the Seychelles remains for the most part underdeveloped. The Territory continues to be dependent on imports of certain foodstuffs and other goods. Two-thirds of the commercial agricultural land is still held by fifty-six proprietors. The further sale of land to foreign firms clearly proves that the administering Power is not concerned with the national interests of the inhabitants. The Special Committee notes the requests made in the Territory to encourage the development of its agriculture and fisheries and to protect local agriculture through the introduction of controls over imported foodstuffs.

(8) The Special Committee notes with concern that the direct intervention of South Africa in the economy of the Seychelles and St. Helena is continuing. It considers that the administering Power's favourable and protectionist attitude in helping South Africa to strengthen its presence and influence in the Territories is creating a real threat that South African settlers will introduce their system of racial discrimination and apartheid to the Territories.

(9) The Special Committee notes that during the year under review, the social conditions in the Seychelles and St. Helena remained unsatisfactory. Several disturbances and labour disputes took place in the Seychelles. A number of petitions received by the Special Committee 1/ concerning the long-lasting strike of members of the Cable and Wireless Staff Union indicate that the labour conditions prevailing in the Territory are far from being satisfactory. The Special Committee notes the failure of the administering Power to assist effectively in the settlement of the dispute between the Union and the Seychelles branch of Cable and Wireless, Ltd. (United Kingdom). This failure is further evidence of the total disregard by the administering Power of its obligation to protect the interests and meet the needs of the local population.

(b) Recommendations

(1) The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

1/ A/AC.109/PET.1165 and Add.1-3 and PET.1184.

reaffirms its previous recommendations and calls on the administering Power to take all effective measures to enable the people of the Seychelles and St. Helena to attain their freedom and independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In particular, it calls upon the administering Power to take, without further delay, concrete steps to effect immediately the transfer of powers to representative organs of the peoples of the Territories.

(2) The Special Committee condemns the construction of the joint United Kingdom - United States military bases in the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory" in violation of resolution 2708 (XXV), whereby the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the colonial Powers to withdraw immediately and unconditionally their military bases and installations from colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones, and of resolution 2709 (XXV) in which the General Assembly reiterated its declaration that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of colonial Territories and the establishment of military bases and installations in those Territories was incompatible with the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with resolution 1514 (XV). The Special Committee reiterates its conviction that such actions are not in keeping with the interests of the inhabitants or of the Territory, nor with those of the African continent, nor with the maintenance of international peace and security, and it calls on the administering Power to stop the construction of military bases and to return the detached islands to the Seychelles.

(3) The Special Committee condemns the direct intervention of South Africa with the connivance of the administering Power in the economy of the Seychelles and St. Helena and calls upon the administering Power to take immediate and effective measures to stop the sale of land to foreign firms and to prevent the economic intervention of South Africa in the Territories with a view to safeguarding the interests of their local populations.

(4) It reiterates its request that the administering Power should accelerate economic development in order to reduce the economic dependence of the Territories and to improve the living conditions of their inhabitants.

(5) It again requests the administering Power to permit the access of, and make the necessary arrangements for, a United Nations visiting mission to the Territories for the purpose, among other things, of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the indigenous population concerning the future status of their Territories.

(6) The Special Committee expresses its concern about the unsatisfactory social conditions of the population of the Territories and urges the administering Power to take further measures towards the immediate solution of the most pressing problems in the fields of welfare and education.

(7) It once again requests the administering Power to provide up-to-date information concerning the situation in the Territories and, in particular, to provide information on action taken by it to promote the progress of decolonization.

WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.695.

A. ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

"(4) The Special Committee regrets to note that the administering Power continues to violate the territorial integrity of the Seychelles. A statement by the Minister of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 3 December 1969, indicates that the so-called 'British Indian Ocean Territory' remains available for the staging and construction of military facilities and operations by the United Kingdom and the United States Governments. This means that the administering Power has persistently refused to comply with the provisions of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969.

B. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORIES

4. Basic information on the Territories is contained in the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session. c/ Supplementary information on recent developments is set out below.

1. SEYCHELLES^{d/}

c/ Ibid., annex I.

d/ The information presented in this section is derived from published sources and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom under Article 73 e of the Charter on 30 July 1970 for the year ending 31 December 1969.

"British Indian Ocean Territory"

19. Information concerning the "British Indian Ocean Territory" prior to December 1970 is contained in last year's report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly. f/

20. Briefly it will be recalled that under a United Kingdom Order in Council dated 8 November 1965, three of the ninety-two islands and atolls comprising the Seychelles (namely, Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches) were administratively detached from the Territory and, together with the Chagos Archipelago, formerly part of Mauritius, were set up as a separate administrative unit entitled the "British Indian Ocean Territory". According to the administering Power, this arrangement was made with the consent of the Governments of Mauritius and Seychelles, which were to be compensated for the loss of the islands and atolls. In the case of the Seychelles, it was agreed in 1965 that the United Kingdom would compensate the Seychelles Government by paying the cost of constructing an international airport on Mahé, which was begun late in 1968. The purpose of the above-mentioned arrangement was to make the islands available for the construction of military staging facilities by the United Kingdom and the United States Governments. The United Kingdom Government subsequently stated, however, that it had decided not to utilize the "Territory" as a staging area and that it had no plans to establish any military installations there for this purpose.

21. Meanwhile, as part of the original plan for a staging area, the two Governments had in 1966 entered into an agreement for the joint use of any military facilities which might be constructed in the "British Indian Ocean Territory". Under the terms of this agreement, they announced, on 15 December 1970, their intention to begin construction in March 1971 of a naval communications facility on Diego Garcia in the Chagos Archipelago. The facility would consist of communications, and minimum necessary support activities, including an air strip. The facility would be built by units of the United States naval construction force. Both the British and United States flags would fly over the facility, however, and the United Kingdom would help to man the facility. The announcement added that the facility would close a gap in the United States naval communications system and would provide communications support to ships and aircraft of the United States and United Kingdom in the Indian Ocean. It was expected that the communications facility would be completed in less than three years.

22. In January 1971, Mr. René, leader of the SPUP, sent a cable to the Secretary of the Commonwealth Conference being held in Singapore, asking the Conference to condemn attempts by the Governments of the United Kingdom and the

f/ Ibid., paras. 33-36.

United States "to turn the Indian Ocean into an area of big power conflict". Subsequently, the Chief Minister, Mr. Mancham, cabled the secretary, requesting him to ignore Mr. René's cable because he and the SPUP had no mandate to speak on behalf of the people of the Seychelles. The Chief Minister also cabled the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. Heath, supporting the Anglo-American decision to build air and radio communications facilities on Diego Garcia which, he said, was in the interest of political stability in the Indian Ocean area.



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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

VOLUME II

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No.23 (A/8723/Rev.1)

UNITED NATIONS

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SUPPLEMENT No. 23 (A/8723/Rev.1)



UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1975

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Special Committee is divided into five volumes. The present volume contains chapters V to VII;* volume I, chapters I to IV; volume III, chapters VIII to X; volume IV, chapters XI to XXI; and volume V, chapters XXII to XXVII; each volume contains a full table of contents.

* The present version of chapters V to VII is a consolidation of the following documents as they appeared in provisional form: A/8723 (Parts III and IV) of 11 September 1972 and A/8723 (Part V) of 30 September 1972.

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CHAPTER VI

(A/8723 (Part IV))

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES
UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION WHICH MIGHT BE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION
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A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 841st meeting, on 16 March 1972, the Special Committee, by adopting the sixty-fifth report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.763), decided to take up separately the item entitled "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". By the same decision, the Special Committee referred the item to Sub-Committee I for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 891st and 892nd meetings, on 30 and 31 August 1972.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular paragraph 5 of resolution 2869 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, by which the General Assembly "deprecates any attempt aimed at ... the establishment of military bases and installations in those Territories, as being incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)", and paragraph 9 of resolution 2878 (XXVI) of 20 December 1972, by which the General Assembly requested the colonial Powers to "withdraw immediately and unconditionally their military bases and installations from colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones". The Special Committee was also guided by the relevant findings of the Special Mission 1/ which had visited Guinea (Bissau) in April 1972. Further, the Committee paid due regard to the relevant information furnished to it by the representatives of the national liberation movements of the colonial Territories in Africa who appeared before the Committee during its meetings away from Headquarters in April 1972.
4. At the 891st meeting, on 30 August, the Rapporteur of Sub-Committee I, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.891), introduced the report of that Committee on the item (see annex to the present chapter). The Sub-Committee's report included six working papers prepared by the Secretariat at the request of that Sub-Committee, which contained information on military activities and arrangements in a number of Territories.
5. At the 892nd meeting, on 31 August, following statements by the representatives of the Ivory Coast and Sweden (A/AC.109/PV.892), the Special Committee adopted the report without objection and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained

1/ A/8723/Add.3, annex I.

therein (see paragraph 6 below), it being understood that the reservations expressed by the above-mentioned delegates would be reflected in the record of the meeting.

B. DECISION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

6. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 892nd meeting, on 31 August, to which reference is made in paragraph 5 above, is reproduced below:

(a) Conclusions

(1) Having studied the military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration during the year under review, the Special Committee notes once again with grave concern that there has been no compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular paragraph 9 of resolution 2878 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, by which the Assembly requested the colonial Powers to "withdraw immediately and unconditionally their military bases and installations from colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones", and with paragraph 5 of the Programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, embodied in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, which provides that "Member States shall carry out a sustained and vigorous campaign against all military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration, as such activities and arrangements constitute an obstacle to the full implementation of resolution 1514 (XV)" of 14 December 1960. Despite the resolutions of the General Assembly, the colonial Powers continue, particularly in the large colonial Territories, to engage in ever-increasing military activities aimed at subjugating the colonial peoples, providing protection for foreign monopolies and perpetuating the colonialist and racist régimes. In the smaller Territories, strategic requirements of the colonial Powers continue to play a major role in their military activities.

(2) The Special Committee draws particular attention to the situation prevailing in southern Africa where the colonial and racist régimes, acting in concert, continue to strengthen their military hold over Namibia, the Territories under Portuguese domination and Southern Rhodesia, by intensifying their military activities against the liberation movements and thereby denying by force to the peoples of these Territories their inalienable right to freedom and independence. The armed forces of the illegal régime of Southern Rhodesia, for example, have been reinforced by a detachment of the South African police numbering about 3,000, to assist the security forces of the illegal régime in their fight against African freedom-fighters. The South African police have participated in the repression of Africans in Angola and, during the period under review, a unit of Portuguese troops was sent to Namibia to assist the South African authorities in suppressing the strikes by mine workers in Ovamboland. At the same time,

Portugal and South Africa jointly mobilized their troops along the Namibia-Angola frontier to suppress the strikers and their supporters in the northern region of Namibia.

(3) The Special Committee notes that the Government of Portugal utilizing the aid which it receives from certain States, mainly the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), has intensified its military activities despite United Nations appeals and decisions. In its effort to suppress the liberation struggle of the peoples of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea (Bissau), Portugal maintains a huge army and devotes almost half of its total budget to the conduct of this colonial war. The close co-operation between Portugal and some of its NATO allies continues to increase. It is known that Portugal is constantly attempting to extend NATO activities to the areas under its domination by offering to make available to NATO its naval and air bases in those areas. An example of this is the conclusion by the United States of America of an agreement with Portugal for the further use of bases on the Azores Islands, under the terms of which the United States will, over a period of two years, pay Portugal more than \$US 435 million. Portugal continues to commit serious crimes in the colonial wars it is waging against the African peoples, using napalm and chemical substances such as defoliants and herbicides which are being delivered to it in increasing quantities, mainly by the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(4) The Special Committee notes in particular, that the Government of Portugal, in an attempt to retain its colonialist domination over those areas of Guinea (Bissau) which are still occupied by it and, more recently, in order to disrupt the visit of the Special Mission established by the Special Committee to liberated areas of Guinea (Bissau) and to prevent it from carrying out its task has resorted increasingly to the indiscriminate use of military force and has continued other acts of harassment and aggression not only against the people of the Territory but also against the neighbouring independent African States of Guinea and Senegal. For this purpose Portugal has readied its colonial troops, numbering 45,000 for action. The Committee views with serious concern the resultant critical and explosive situation which seriously disturbs peace and security in that region of Africa.

(5) The colonial and racist régime of South Africa, likewise, has continued to increase its military potential and its armed forces for the purpose of strengthening its colonial rule over Namibia and repressing African freedom-fighters. Its budget for 1972/73 provides for an expenditure for military purposes of R335,336,000, which is R25,956,000 more than expenditure for such purposes in the previous year. The use of missiles is increasing. For example, in the northern sector, Eastern Transvaal, the construction of an underground control centre for radar networks and "Cactus" missiles has been completed. It is reported that R6.5 million will be spent on the modernization of this sector. The Special Committee notes with concern that certain western Powers are continuing to make deliveries of arms and military equipment to South Africa including submarines, helicopters, guided missiles, weapons systems and electronic equipment.

(6) The illegal régime of Southern Rhodesia has also increased its military budget and its security forces considerably since 1971. In the period from 1964 to 1972, its total expenditure on defence and police forces has increased by more than 60 per cent. The highest increases have been in expenditure on the army and the police, by 100 and 69 per cent respectively. As of 1 January 1971 all males of non-African origin between the ages of 18 and 30, irrespective of nationality, are liable for military service.

(7) The Special Committee notes that the representatives of national liberation movements who spoke at the meetings of the Special Committee's sessions in Africa stated that the general political attitude of some of the Western Powers to the countries of southern Africa has in no way altered. The alliance between Portugal, South Africa and Southern Rhodesia affords the best guarantee to NATO and some of its member States that their imperialist interests will be protected; the power of the white minority continues to be for them the only political solution to the problem. Therefore Portugal enjoys both the military and the financial, economic and political support of some of these Powers.

(8) In the case of smaller Territories such as Guam, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Bermuda and the Bahamas among others, the colonial Powers and their allies have continued to use military bases and other installations contrary to the interests of the peoples of these Territories. The Special Committee notes that in the United States Virgin Islands and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands the practice of drafting the inhabitants of the Territories into the armed forces of the United States continues, in spite of the protests of the population. It has been reported that more than 60 men from Guam have been killed in Viet-Nam and in South-East Asia. The Special Committee further draws attention to the construction of military bases in the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory". According to reports, the United States Congress has in its budget for the financial year 1971 allocated \$US 5.4 million to the implementation of the Diego Garcia military project. The United States assesses total expenditure on the construction of this whole complex at a level of about \$US 19 million. Many small colonial Territories are being used by the administering Powers for military and strategic purposes. The administering Powers concerned have stationed troops, established air and naval bases, and constructed missile-testing sites and other military installations in those Territories.

(9) The Special Committee reiterates its earlier conclusion that military activity of this type, which is determined by the military and strategic interests of the colonial Powers, inevitably delays the process of decolonization of Territories, and leads to interference with the development of their economies, both by the wide-scale diversion of land to use for military purposes and by diverting their populations from productive activity, particularly when the population is drafted for service in the armed forces of the ruling Power. The Committee therefore concludes that the military and strategic requirements of the administering Powers concerned and those of their allies are prevailing over the interests of the peoples of these Territories.

(10) In view of the General Assembly's recognition of the legitimacy of the struggle of the colonial peoples to exercise their right to self-determination and independence by all necessary means at their disposal, the Special Committee is of the opinion that the military activities of colonial Powers, as well as the continued construction and use by them of military installations in colonial

Territories for military operations, which are aimed at suppressing liberation movements, constitute acts, contrary to the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations and an abuse by those administering Powers of their responsibility towards the peoples under their administration.

(11) The Special Committee reaffirms once again its conclusion that the military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the Territories under their administration and the existence of foreign military bases in those Territories constitute one of the most serious impediments to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and pose a grave threat to international peace and security.

(b) Recommendations

On the basis of the above conclusions, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it:

(1) Reaffirm the recommendations contained in its previous reports and emphasize once again that military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the Territories under their administration constitute a serious obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(2) Strongly condemn once again the activities of the military and political alliance of South Africa, Portugal and the illegal régime of Southern Rhodesia, which is seeking by armed force to prevent the oppressed peoples of that area from exercising their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence;

(3) Demand the cessation of wars to suppress national liberation movements, the withdrawal of all foreign troops from colonial Territories and the dismantling of military bases there;

(4) Condemn Portugal for the use of chemical weapons in its colonial war against the freedom-fighters;

(5) Demand that colonial Powers stop using the indigenous inhabitants of dependent Territories as mercenaries in the fight against national independence movements;

(6) Strongly condemn the military entente between the Governments of South Africa and Portugal and the illegal racist minority régime of Southern Rhodesia aimed at suppressing by armed force the inalienable right of the oppressed peoples of the colonial Territories of southern Africa to self-determination and independence; Call once more upon all States, in particular those which continue to maintain close relations with the above-mentioned countries, and also Portugal's partners in NATO to withhold all support and assistance to them, including the supply of arms and military equipment as well as assistance in the production of arms and ammunition;

(7) Deplore once more the alienation of land for military installations and the utilization of local economic and manpower resources to service such bases,

which hinders the economic development of the Territories; Request once again the colonial Powers to cease forthwith from alienating land and to return land already alienated to its rightful owners, and to desist from utilizing the economic and manpower resources of the Territories for military installations;

(8) Request once more all States having responsibility for the administration of colonial and Trust Territories to comply unconditionally with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions, in particular with paragraph 9 of resolution 2878 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, and paragraph 5 of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970; and request those States to discontinue all military activities which impede the implementation of the Declaration and to withdraw all foreign armed forces from the above-mentioned Territories;

(9) Request the Secretary-General to give publicity to the information on military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration and to the resolutions of the General Assembly adopted in connexion with these activities.

ANNEX*

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE I

Rapporteur: Mrs. F. J. JOKA-BANGURA (Sierra Leone)

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.835.

A. Consideration by the Sub-Committee

1. The Sub-Committee considered the item entitled "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" at its 111th and 115th meetings held between 15 and 29 August 1972 (see A/AC.109/SC.2/SR.111-115).
2. The Sub-Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat containing information on military activities and arrangements in the following Territories: Territories under Portuguese administration; Southern Rhodesia; Namibia; Seychelles; Bahamas, Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands; Papua New Guinea, Guam and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; (see appendix I - VI below.) It also had before it the relevant information contained in the general working papers prepared by the Secretariat on various Territories, as well as a petition submitted by the Steering Committee of the Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA) concerning Angola (A/AC.100/PET.1205).
3. In formulating its conclusions and recommendations on the question under consideration, the Sub-Committee was particularly guided by the relevant information provided by the representatives of national liberation movements of colonial Territories in Africa who appeared before the Special Committee during its meeting away from Headquarters, as well as the information contained in the report of the Special Mission established by the Special Committee at its 840th meeting on 14 March 1972 (A/8723/Add.3, annex I).

B. Adoption of the report

4. Having considered the question concerning military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers under their administration and having studied all the information available to it, the Sub-Committee adopted the following conclusions and recommendations a/ on the item at its 115th meeting on 29 August 1972. The Sub-Committee adopted the present report at the same meeting.

a/ The conclusions and recommendations submitted by Sub-Committee I for consideration by the Special Committee were adopted by the latter body without modification. They are reproduced in paragraph 6 of the present chapter.

APPENDIX IV

SEYCHELLES^{a/}

"British Indian Ocean Territory"

1. Under a United Kingdom Order in Council of 8 November 1965, three of the 92 islands and atolls comprising the Seychelles, namely the groups of Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches, were administratively detached from the Territory and, together with the Chagos Archipelago (including Diego Garcia, the largest and most southerly island of the group, with a land area of about 17 square miles), formerly part of Mauritius, were set up as a separate administrative unit entitled the "British Indian Ocean Territory". The islands are widely scattered, the Chagos group lying about 1,100 miles to the east of Mahé, main island of the Seychelles, and the other three groups (Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches) between 100 and 600 miles to the south-west of Mahé. The "Territory" is administered by a Commissioner, who is also Governor of the Seychelles.
2. At the time of the inauguration of the "Territory", the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland announced that the islands would be available for the construction of defence facilities by the United Kingdom and United States Governments. On 25 April 1967, the United Kingdom Government published a command paper b/ containing an agreement between the British and United States Governments for their joint use of the "Territory" for defence purposes. The agreement took the form of notes exchanged between the Foreign Secretary and the United States Ambassador in London, dated 30 December 1966, when the agreement entered into force.
3. The agreement provided an administrative framework under which the Governments could consult together and apportion costs of the facilities. Each Government would have the use of any facility built by the other, and each would pay for its own site preparation. There was provision for shared financing of any jointly constructed facility. The two Governments contemplated, inter alia, that the islands constituting the "Territory" would remain available to meet their defence needs for an indefinitely long period. Accordingly, after an initial period of 50 years, the agreement would continue in force for a further period of 20 years unless, not more than two years before the end of the initial period, either

a/ The information presented in this section is derived from published sources.

b/ Treaty Series No. 15 (1967): Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America concerning the Availability for Defence Purposes of the British Indian Ocean Territory, London, 30 December 1966, Cmd. 3231, HMSO, London, 1967.

Government would have given notice of termination to the other, in which case the agreement would terminate two years from the date of such notice.

Diego Garcia facility

4. Under the terms of this agreement, on 15 December 1970, the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States announced that construction would begin in March 1971 of a naval communications facility on Diego Garcia in the Chagos Archipelago. The facility would consist of communications and minimum necessary support activities, including an airstrip. The facility would be built by units of the United States naval construction force. Both the British and United States flags would fly over the facility, however, and the United Kingdom would help to man the facility. The announcement added that the facility would close a gap in the United States naval communications system and would provide communications support to ships and aircraft of the United States and the United Kingdom in the Indian Ocean. It was expected that the communications facility would be completed in less than three years.

5. It was reported in November 1971 that, in connexion with the construction of the facility, the local authorities had started, in September, the process of resettlement of the inhabitants of Chagos to Mahé in the Seychelles group. c/

6. The United States Congress appropriated \$US 5.4 million in the 1971 financial year for the Diego Garcia project. According to reports, the United States Navy estimates total construction costs at approximately \$US 19 million.

c/ For details, see A/AC.109/PET.1199/Add.1.



**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**

VOLUME IV

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No.23 (A/8723/Rev.1)

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Special Committee is divided into five volumes. The present volume contains chapters XI to XXI*; volume I, chapters I to IV; volume II, chapters V to VII; volume III, chapters VIII to X; and volume V, chapters XXII to XXVII; each volume contains a full table of contents.

* The present version of chapters XI to XXI is a consolidation of the following documents as they appeared in provisional form: A/8723/Add.4 (Part I) of 21 September 1972, A/8723 (Part II) of 30 September 1972 and A/8723/Add.5 of 15 September 1972.

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A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 841st meeting, on 16 March 1972, the Special Committee, by approving the sixty-fifth report of its Working Group (A/AC.109/L.763), decided, inter alia, to refer the Seychelles and St. Helena to Sub-Committee I for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 845th, 875th, 876th, 878th, 879th, 885th and 886th meetings, between 28 March and 23 August.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution 2878 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 on the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, by paragraph 10 of which, the Special Committee was requested "to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2621 (XXV) in all Territories which have not yet attained independence and, in particular, to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session". The Special Committee also took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2866 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 concerning the question of the Seychelles, by paragraph 3 of which the General Assembly requested the Special Committee, in consultation with the administering Power and with the assistance of the Secretary-General, to "appoint immediately a special mission to visit the Seychelles for the purpose of recommending practical steps to be taken for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly - in particular for the purpose of determining the extent of United Nations participation in the preparation and supervision of the referendum on the future status of the Territory - and to submit a report thereon to the Special Committee". By paragraph 4 of the same resolution, the General Assembly also requested the Special Committee "to continue its examination of the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session". Further, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolution 2869 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, concerning 17 Territories, including the Seychelles and St. Helena, by paragraph 8 of which the General Assembly requested the Special Committee "to continue to give full consideration to this question, including in particular the dispatch of visiting missions to those Territories...".
4. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex I to the present chapter) containing information on action previously taken by the Special Committee and the General Assembly, and on the latest developments concerning the Territories.

5. In addition, the Special Committee had before it the following written petitions concerning the Seychelles:

(a) Letter dated 29 September 1971 from Mr. Guy Sinon, Secretary-General, Seychelles People's United Party (SPUP) (A/AC.109/PET.1199);

(b) Letter dated 11 November 1971 from Mr. M. A. Servina, Publicity Secretary, SPUP (A/AC.109/PET.1199/Add.1);

(c) Cable dated 27 January 1972 from Mr. F. A. René, President, SPUP (A/AC.109/PET.1199/Add.2);

(d) Letter dated 20 April 1972 from Mr. F. A. René, President, SPUP (A/AC.109/PET.1199/Add.3);

(e) Cable dated 2 August 1972 from Mr. Guy Sinon, Secretary-General, SPUP (A/AC.109/PET.1199/Add.4);

(f) Cable dated 18 April and letter dated 26 April 1972 from Mr. M. A. Servina, General Secretary, Government Workers' Union (A/AC.109/PET.1224 and Add.1).

6. The Special Committee also had before it a letter dated 22 March 1972 from Mr. Abdul S. Minty, Honorary Secretary, Anti-Apartheid Movement in the United Kingdom (A/AC.109/PET.1213), relating, inter alia, to the Seychelles.

7. At its 844th meeting, on 24 March, the Special Committee, by adopting the 166th report of the Sub-Committee on Petitions (A/AC.109/L.771), decided to grant the request for hearing contained in the petition referred to in paragraph 6 above. At the 845th meeting, on 28 March, Mr. Abdul S. Minty made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.845). Statements in that connexion were made by the representatives of Yugoslavia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.845).

8. The administering Power did not participate in the work of the Special Committee during its consideration of the item.

9. At the 875th meeting, on 31 July, the Rapporteur of Sub-Committee I, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.875), introduced the report of that Sub-Committee (A/AC.109/L.805) containing an account of its consideration of the Seychelles and St. Helena (A/AC.109/SC.2/SR.104-107). The representative of Sweden made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.875).

10. At the 876th meeting, on 1 August, following a statement by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.876), the Special Committee adopted the report without objection and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein (see paragraph 19 below), it being understood that the reservation expressed by the representative of Sweden would be reflected in the record of the relevant meeting.

11. On 2 August, the text of the conclusions and recommendations was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations for the attention of his Government.

12. With regard to the dispatch of a special mission to the Seychelles, (see paragraph 3 above), the Chairman of the Special Committee, during consultations which he held on 4 April with the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations within the context of the mandate entrusted to him by the Special Committee in its resolution on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories, 1/ drew the particular attention of the Permanent Representative to the relevant provisions of resolution 2866 (XXVI) with a view to the dispatch at an early date of the special mission envisaged therein. The position of the Government of the United Kingdom in that regard is outlined in the relevant report of the Chairman submitted to the Committee on 16 June, 2/ as follows:

"... as regards the Seychelles, the representative of the United Kingdom pointed out that his delegation had not been consulted by the sponsors of the draft resolution under reference prior to its adoption by the Fourth Committee and that his delegation had not supported the proposal. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the representative of the United Kingdom assured the Chairman that representations made by the Chairman on behalf of the Special Committee on the question would be communicated to his Government for its attention."

An account of the consideration by the Special Committee of the question of sending visiting missions to Territories is set out in chapter IV of the present report. 3/

13. At the 878th meeting, on 4 August, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.878) with regard to the petition referred to in paragraph 5 (e) above.

14. At its 879th meeting, on 8 August, the Special Committee, following statements by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Petitions and by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, China, Ecuador and the Ivory Coast (A/AC.109/PV.879), decided, on the recommendation of the Sub-Committee on Petitions (A/AC.109/L.816), that the Chairman of the Special Committee should convey to the administering Power the Committee's serious concern at the report made in the above-mentioned petition, urge the immediate cessation of any activities which are in violation of the fundamental rights of the peoples of the Territory, and inform the Committee of the results of his approach to the administering Power.

15. On 10 August, a note by the acting Chairman (see annex II to the present chapter) was circulated in which was contained an account of his contact with the administering Power, together with the observations of the Government of the United Kingdom on the matter (A/AC.109/411).

16. At the 885th meeting, on 21 August, further statements on the petition under reference were made by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania and by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.885).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/8423/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 20.

2/ A/8723 (Part II), chap. IV, annex.

3/ Ibid, para. 6.

17. At its 886th meeting, on 23 August, the Special Committee adopted without objection, the text of a draft consensus relating to matters raised in the above-mentioned petition, submitted for its consideration by the Chairman (see paragraph 20 below).

18. On 23 August, the text of the consensus was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom for the attention of his Government. In a letter of the same date, the Chairman, in informing Mr. Guy Sinon, Secretary-General, Seychelles People's United Party (SPUP) of the above of the Special Committee, invited him to furnish the Committee with any further information on the matter. In a letter dated 30 August 1972, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom stated that he would inform the Chairman in due course of the reaction of the United Kingdom Government with respect to the request contained in the consensus.

B. DECISIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

19. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 876th meeting, on 1 August, to which reference is made in paragraph 10 above, is reproduced below:

(a) Conclusions

(1) The Special Committee deplures once again the continued refusal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to participate in its consideration of the Seychelles and St. Helena as well as its failure to co-operate with the Special Committee in the examination of other Territories under United Kingdom administration as an evasion by the administering Power of its obligations. In particular, the Committee notes with deep regret that the failure of the administering Power to provide the Committee with sufficient information on the Territories of the Seychelles and St. Helena for the year under review has impeded a full assessment of the actual situation prevailing in the Territories at present.

(2) The Special Committee deplures the fact that the administering Power continues to disregard the recommendations of the Special Committee in respect of the Seychelles and St. Helena, in particular, those approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session in 1971.

(3) The Special Committee notes with serious concern that in the year under review the basic political structure of the Seychelles remained unchanged, with full control of political, economic and other fields retained by the administering Power. No legislative or other measures have been taken to promote the process of decolonization and to transfer powers to the people of the Seychelles.

(4) The Special Committee expresses its concern over the fact that the administering Power continues to pursue a policy resulting in dissension and conflict among the inhabitants of the Territory on the question of its future political status. During the year under review, the political situation in the Territory seriously deteriorated. Expressions of political opposition to the local authorities became more frequent and led to violence. In 1972, a series of incidents were reported to have occurred in the Territory involving bomb explosions and street fights between rival supporters of the local authorities and of the opposition. These incidents were followed by demonstrations against the policy of the local authorities. The Committee reiterates its deep regret over the failure of the administering Power to take immediate steps to promote political stability in the Territory.

(5) The Special Committee, recalling General Assembly resolution 2866 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 which, inter alia, requests the administering Power to receive a special mission of the United Nations and "to make the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the special mission, for the holding of a referendum on the future status of the Territory", expresses its profound regret that these requests, based on the intention of the Chief Minister of the Seychelles, as declared by him to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, to hold a referendum under the auspices of the United Nations, have been totally disregarded. The Government of the United Kingdom in the statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the effect that the United Kingdom Government had no evidence that a clear majority of the people of the Seychelles were in favour of constitutional changes, has encouraged the Chief Minister to reverse his position and the Legislative Assembly of the Territory to reject the immediate holding of a referendum as well as the visit of the special mission to the Territory.

(6) The Special Committee reiterates its concern over the continued refusal of the administering Power to restore the territorial integrity of the Seychelles which was violated by the detachment, in 1965, of three islands from the Seychelles to form, together with islands detached from Mauritius, the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory", without prior consultation with the people of the Territory. During the year under review, the United Kingdom and the United States of America have proceeded with the construction of military facilities in the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory" in disregard of the Declaration and other relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolutions 2708 (XXV) of 14 December 1970 and 2878 (XXVI) of 20 December 1972. The Special Committee notes with grave concern that the administering Power has resorted to the evacuation of persons of Seychellois origin from one of the islands of the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory" to make space for British and United States military personnel. This action is further evidence of the total disregard by the administering Power of its obligation to protect and respect the interests and the rights of the indigenous people.

(7) The Special Committee notes that in the last year there has been no political progress in St. Helena. As before, no steps have been taken to transfer powers to the people of the Territory to open the way toward speedy implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to the Territory.

(8) The Special Committee notes that the economic situation in the two Territories remains unsatisfactory. The Territories continued to be heavily dependent on imports for most of their requirements. This has resulted in a chronic adverse balance of trade, the deficit normally being offset by aid from the administering Power. In the Seychelles, the livestock industry remains rudimentary although existing conditions are favourable. In spite of the fact that two-thirds of the commercial agricultural land in the Territory is held by a small group of proprietors, the sale of land by the authorities to foreigners is still going on to offset the adverse balance of trade.

(9) The Special Committee once again expresses its serious concern over the direct intervention by South Africa in the economy of the Seychelles and St. Helena and reiterates its previous conclusion that the administering Power's favourable and protectionist attitude in helping South Africa to strengthen its presence and influence in the Territories is creating a threat that South African settlers may introduce a system of racial discrimination and apartheid in the Territories.

(10) The Special Committee once again notes with concern that social conditions in the Seychelles and St. Helena during the year under review were far from satisfactory. Increasing difficulties in the economy of the Territories are reflected in a poor standard of living, low wages and high prices of consumer products. In the Seychelles, the cost of living has risen by 25 per cent above the level of 1970. In April 1972, the Government Unestablished Workers Union, comprising 1,800 workers, went on strike following failure, after one year, to reach an agreement with the Government concerning a wage increase. Prevailing unsatisfactory labour conditions have created disturbances and tension in the Territory.

(b) Recommendations

(1) The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples reaffirms its previous recommendations, in particular those adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session, and calls upon the administering Power, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2869 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, to take all necessary steps, without further delay to ensure the full and speedy attainment of the goals set forth in the Declaration with respect to the Seychelles and St. Helena.

(2) The Special Committee strongly deplores the failure of the administering Power to implement resolution 2866 (XXVI) which requests the administering Power to receive the special mission of the United Nations and to make the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the mission, for holding a referendum on the future status of the Seychelles. The Special Committee urges the administering Power to take immediately concrete measures for organizing the referendum on the future status of the Seychelles under the auspices of the United Nations and for receiving the United Nations special mission to supervise this referendum.

(3) The Special Committee once again condemns the construction of the joint United Kingdom-United States military bases in the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory" in violation of resolution 2878 (XXVI), whereby the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the colonial Powers to withdraw immediately and unconditionally their military bases and installations from colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones, and of resolution 2869 (XXVI) in which the General Assembly deprecated any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of colonial Territories and the establishment of military bases and installations in those Territories as being incompatible with the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. The Special Committee further reiterates its conviction that such actions are not in keeping with the interests of the inhabitants or of the Territory, nor with those of the African continent, nor with the maintenance of the peace and security of neighbouring countries. It calls upon the administering Power to stop the construction of military bases and to return the detached islands to the Seychelles.

(4) The Special Committee strongly condemns the eviction of the Seychellois from the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory" as a violation by the administering Power of its obligations to safeguard the rights of the people of the Territory and their well-being, and urgently calls on the administering Power to cease immediately this action.

(5) The Special Committee strongly condemns the continued direct intervention of South Africa, with the connivance of the administering Power, in the economy of the Seychelles and St. Helena, and urges the administering Power to take immediate and effective measures to stop the sale of land to foreign firms, to remove existing South African interests from the Territories and to prevent new economic intervention by South Africa in the Territories with a view to safeguarding the national interests of their peoples.

(6) The Special Committee once again expresses its concern about the unsatisfactory social conditions of the population of the Territories and urges the administering Power to take further measures towards the immediate solution of the most pressing problems in the fields of welfare and education

(7) It once again requests the administering Power to provide up-to-date information concerning the situation in the Territories and, in particular, to provide information on action taken by it to promote the progress of decolonization.

(8) The Special Committee noting that the information at its disposal on the Territories of the Seychelles and St. Helena has not enabled it to ascertain fully the actual situation in the Territories, considers that it would be useful to invite representatives of political parties or organizations from the Seychelles, should they be prepared to do so, to participate in its meetings in order to provide the Special Committee and its sub-committees with detailed first-hand information on current developments in the Territories.

20. The text of the consensus adopted by the Special Committee at its 886th meeting, on 23 August, to which reference is made in paragraph 17 above, is reproduced below:

The Special Committee, having regard to the decision taken at its 879th meeting on 8 August 1972 concerning a communication dated 2 August 1972 from Mr. Guy Simon, Secretary-General of the Seychelles People's United Party (SPUP) (A/AC.109/PET.1199/Add.4), and taking into account the note by the Acting Chairman relating thereto (see annex II to the present chapter), decides to request its Chairman: (a) within the context of the mandate entrusted to him in its resolution of 14 August 1972 concerning the question of sending visiting missions to Territories, and in view of the serious nature of the report made in the communication under reference, to urge the administering Power to permit the access by a visiting mission of the Special Committee to the Seychelles; (b) to contact Mr. Guy Simon with a view to his furnishing the Committee with any further information relevant to this matter; and (c) to report thereon to the Committee as appropriate.

ANNEX I*

WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.790.

B. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORIES

3. Basic information on the Territories is contained in the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions. b/ Supplementary information is set out below.

1. SEYCHELLES c/

c/ The information presented in this section is derived from published sources and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter on 24 June and 14 July 1971 for the year ending 31 December 1970.

"British Indian Ocean Territory"

21. Information concerning the "British Indian Ocean Territory" prior to 1971 is contained in the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session. e/

22. Briefly, it will be recalled that under a United Kingdom Order in Council dated 8 November 1965, three of the 92 islands and atolls comprising the Seychelles (Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches) were administratively detached from the Territory and, together with the Chagos Archipelago, formerly part of Mauritius, were set up as a separate administrative unit entitled the "British Indian Ocean Territory". According to the administering Power, this arrangement was made with the consent of the Governments of Mauritius and the Seychelles, which were to be compensated for the loss of the islands and atolls. In the case of the Seychelles, it was agreed in 1965 that the United Kingdom would compensate the Seychelles Government by paying the cost of constructing the international airport on Mahé (see para. 9 above). The purpose of the above-mentioned arrangement

e/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/8023/Rev.1), chap. VIII, annex I, paras. 33-36.

was to make the islands available for the construction of military staging facilities by the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, which in 1966 had entered into an agreement for the joint use of any military facilities which might be constructed in the "British Indian Ocean Territory".

23. Under the terms of this agreement, they announced, on 15 December 1970, their intention to begin construction in March 1971 of a naval communications facility on Diego Garcia in the Chagos Archipelago. The facility would consist of communications and minimum-necessary support activities, including an airstrip. The facility would be built by units of the United States naval construction force. Both the British and United States flags would fly over the facility, however, and the United Kingdom would help to man the facility. The announcement added that the facility would close a gap in the United States naval communications system and would provide communications support to ships and aircraft of the United States and the United Kingdom in the Indian Ocean. It was expected that the communications facility would be completed in less than three years.

REPORT
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TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VOLUME II

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 23 (A/9023/Rev.1)



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UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1975

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Special Committee is divided into five volumes. The present volume contains chapters IV to VI;* volume I, chapters I to III; volume III, chapters VII to IX; volume IV, chapters X to XXI; and volume V, chapters XXII to XXIX; each volume contains a full table of contents.

* The present version of chapters IV to VI is a consolidation of the following documents as they appeared in provisional form: A/9023 (Part III) of 11 October 1973, A/9023 (Part IV) of 8 October 1973 and A/9023 (Part V) of 25 October 1973.

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IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION WHICH MIGHT
BE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON
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A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 902nd meeting, on 23 February 1973, the Special Committee, by adopting the sixty-eighth report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.841), decided to refer the item entitled "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" to Sub-Committee I for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 939th and 940th meetings, on 17 and 20 August 1973.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular paragraph 3 (5) of resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, which provides that "Member States shall carry out a sustained and vigorous campaign against all military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration, as such activities and arrangements constitute an obstacle to the full implementation of resolution 1514 (XV)", and paragraph 10 of resolution 2906 (XXVII) of 2 November 1972, by which the General Assembly called upon the colonial Powers to "withdraw immediately and unconditionally their military bases and installations from colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones". In formulating its conclusions and recommendations, the Special Committee was particularly guided by the related information provided by the representatives of national liberation movements of colonial Territories in Africa who had appeared before the Special Committee.
4. At the 939th meeting, on 17 August, the Chairman of Sub-Committee I, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.939), introduced the report of that Sub-Committee on the item (see annex to the present chapter). The Sub-Committee's report included six working papers prepared by the Secretariat at the request of that Sub-Committee, which contained information on military activities and arrangements in a number of Territories.
5. At the 940th meeting, on 20 August, following a statement by the representative of Sweden (A/AC.109/PV.940), the Special Committee adopted the report without objection and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein (see paras. 6 and 7 below), it being understood that the reservations expressed by members would be reflected in the record of the meeting. Statements were made by the representatives of Venezuela and Australia.

B. DECISION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

6. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special

Committee at its 940th meeting, on 20 August, to which reference is made in paragraph 5 above, is reproduced below:

Conclusions

(1) Having studied the military activities and arrangements by the colonial Powers in Territories under their administration during the year under review, the Special Committee finds that the main characteristics, objectives and purposes of those activities, as described in its previous reports, remain unchanged. The colonial Powers and minority racist régimes have continued to defy the resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970 and 2908 (XXVII) of 2 November 1972, which call for the cessation of all military activities and arrangements in colonial Territories and for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all military bases and installations from such Territories.

(2) The Special Committee concludes that the military activities of the colonial Powers, particularly in the larger Territories, are aimed at subjugating the colonial peoples and also at repressing their liberation movements which are fighting for their legitimate right to freedom and independence. Strategic military considerations are an important factor in prolonging colonial rule in many parts of the world, particularly in the smaller Territories. Far from dismantling their military bases in those Territories, the colonial Powers and their allies are increasing their military activities and arrangements, as well as expanding existing bases and building new ones. Not only is this an impediment to the process of decolonization, but it inevitably leads to interference with the economic development of the Territories concerned, both through the extensive alienation of land for military purposes and by drawing the population away from productive activities, as in the case of the Seychelles.

(3) The Special Committee strongly deplores the situation prevailing in the colonial Territories in southern Africa as a result of the intensification by the colonial and racist régimes of their military activities and arrangements in those Territories, aimed at stifling the true aspirations of the peoples of the Territories to achieve their freedom and independence, as also at ensuring the protection of foreign economic interests operating in the Territories. In particular, the régime in Lisbon is waging a barbaric and inhuman colonial war against the peoples of Angola, Guinea (Bissau) and Cape Verde and Mozambique: Portugal's military expenditure during the year under review increased to 40 per cent of all public expenditure; appropriations for military expenditure in Mozambique are also nearly double those of the previous year.

(4) The Special Committee strongly condemns the continued massacres of villagers, as well as the wholesale destruction of their property by Portuguese military forces in Mozambique and elsewhere, as indicated in the report made to

the Committee by the Reverend Adrian Hastings on 20 July 1973. 1/ According to information furnished to the Special Committee by the representatives of the national liberation movements, the Portuguese military authorities have further intensified their genocidal wars by resorting to massive and indiscriminate bombing of villagers. The testimony given by the representatives of the peoples of Angola, Guinea (Bissau) and Cape Verde and Mozambique has disclosed the all-out war effort of Portugal in those Territories. Other reports indicate that further acts of atrocity are being committed by Portugal against the people of Guinea (Bissau) and Cape Verde, particularly in the liberated sector of Tombali, where napalm and other incendiary bombs have caused the death of men, women and children. In its efforts to suppress the national liberation movements in the Territories under its domination, Portugal also continues its systematic use of chemical substances, including herbicides and defoliants, against the peoples of the Territories. The use of such substances in the liberated areas of Angola has resulted in the complete destruction of almost two thirds of the crops produced in those areas. The use of chemical substances has also been reported in Guinea (Bissau) and Cape Verde and in Mozambique.

(5) The illegal minority régime of Southern Rhodesia likewise is increasing its military and police forces for the purpose of repressing African freedom-fighters; its present establishment is reported to comprise a regular army of 3,500 men; an air force of 1,200 men; a territorial force of 10,000 men; and a paramilitary body responsible for internal security comprising 8,000 active members and 35,000 reservists. In January 1973, the illegal régime extended the period of initial service training from nine months to one year and the period of mandatory service in the territorial reserve from four to six years. The 1972/73 military budget of the illegal régime provides for an expenditure of \$R 43.1 million 2/ compared with \$R 22.2 million in the 1964/65 period.

(6) The racist régime of South Africa also increased its military budget considerably during the year under review. Its budget for 1972/73 provided for a total military expenditure of R 361 million, 3/ an increase of R 45 million over 1971/72. The growing military strength of South Africa was clearly indicated when, in 1972, the South African Minister of Defence stated that his Government was selling arms to other countries. It is also reported that, since 1971, South Africa has been in a position to make its own nuclear weapons.

(7) The Special Committee condemns in the strongest possible terms the increased collaboration between the Governments of Portugal and South Africa and the illegal régime of Southern Rhodesia in order to perpetuate their colonial and racist domination of the Territories concerned; the military authorities of these régimes continue to hold regular meetings to collaborate with one another. Another example of the collaboration was the arrival in Southern Rhodesia, at the

1/ A/AC.109/PV.929. See also A/9023/Add.3, para. 28.

2/ One Southern Rhodesian dollar (\$R 1.00) equals \$US 1.67 or £0.65.

3/ One rand (R) equals approximately \$US 1.50.

beginning of 1973, of an additional 4,000 south African troops which were deployed along the Zambian border to fortify the military forces of the illegal régime. The Special Committee condemns this military involvement by the Government of South Africa which aims at extending that Government's presence and influence in other parts of southern Africa. The Committee considers that such collaboration between the colonial and racist régimes, together with the continuing escalation of their armed repression against the national liberation movements of the colonial Territories in the area, poses a grave and ever-increasing threat to the security of independent African States as well as to international peace and security.

(8) The Special Committee is convinced that it is primarily owing to the vigorous political, military and economic support which, despite United Nations appeals and decisions, they continue to receive from certain States, mainly within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), that the régimes of Portugal and South Africa and the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia have been able to step up their colonialist policies of repression in the Territories under their domination. The Committee notes that the States involved do not restrict their collaboration to indirect support of the repressive régimes in southern Africa. It is known, for example, that certain allies of Portugal, e.g., the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Federal Republic of Germany and Spain are in varying degrees providing the Government of Portugal with military equipment and war material, such as weapons, helicopters, vehicles, aircraft and warships which Portugal uses in the prosecution of its colonial wars. South Africa has also agreed to produce military aircraft under a French licence. The Special Committee notes that such support helps the colonial and racist régimes to increase considerably the size of their military forces and to equip themselves with modern weapons, thereby enabling them to pursue their policies of armed repression and oppression of colonial peoples.

(9) In the smaller Territories, such as Guam, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and Bermuda, among others, the colonial Powers and their allies have continued to maintain military bases and other installations, contrary to the interests of the peoples of those Territories. The Special Committee notes, for example, that the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States have reached an agreement providing for the joint use of any military facilities eventually to be constructed in the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory". According to reports, a subsequent agreement provides that the United States Government would be entitled to construct, maintain and operate a naval communications facility on Diego Garcia, the largest island in the Chagos group, for the purpose of providing a link in its defence communications and also to furnish improved communications support in the Indian Ocean for ships and aircraft owned or operated by, or on behalf of, either Government. The facility is the first foreign military installation to be established in the Indian Ocean to be entirely financed by the United States at an estimated cost of \$US 19 million. The Committee also notes that the largest military installations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean region are situated in Bermuda, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, and are operated by the authorities of the United Kingdom and the United States. In other smaller

Territories, the colonial Powers concerned have stationed troops, established air and naval bases and constructed test sites and other military installations.

(10) The Special Committee reaffirms its conclusions of the previous year in regard to military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers and foreign military bases in the Territories under their administration. It confirms once again that such activities, besides creating a threat to international peace and security, are also a serious impediment to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, are thus contrary to the aims and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and are an abuse by the administering Powers of their responsibilities towards the peoples under their administration.

Recommendations

7. On the basis of the foregoing, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it:

(1) Reaffirm the recommendations contained in its previous report and emphasize once again that the military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the Territories under their administration constitute a serious obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

(2) Demand the immediate cessation of wars of oppression against the peoples of the colonial Territories in Africa and their national liberation movements, as well as the urgent withdrawal of all foreign forces from colonial Territories and the dismantling of military bases there.

(3) Strongly condemn once again the military and political collaboration between the Governments of South Africa and Portugal and the illegal régime of Southern Rhodesia, which, by the use of force, seek to prevent the indigenous peoples from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

(4) Urge all Governments to take concerted action with a view to putting an immediate end to the criminal acts of repression by Portugal against the indigenous peoples of Angola, Guinea (Bissau) and Cape Verde and Mozambique.

(5) Strongly condemns the genocidal wars perpetrated by the Government of Portugal and its use of chemical weapons, including napalm and defoliants, against the peoples of Angola, Guinea (Bissau) and Cape Verde and Mozambique.

(6) Condemn the policy of those States which extend their military assistance to the colonial Powers and the repressive racist régimes in southern Africa, thus aiding and abetting the policies of colonialist domination in the area and threatening the peace and security of the region.

(7) Demand the immediate cessation of all wars against colonial peoples.

(8) Call upon all States, particularly the members of NATO which continue to maintain relations with the Governments of South Africa and Portugal and the illegal régime of Southern Rhodesia, to withhold from those régimes all support and assistance, including in particular the supply of arms and military equipment, and assistance in the production of arms and ammunition and in the training of military personnel, as well as economic and other assistance.

(9) Requests all States having responsibility for the administration of colonial and Trust Territories to comply unconditionally with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions, in particular paragraph 3 (5) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV), and paragraph 10 of resolution 2908 (XXVII); and request those States to discontinue all military activities which impede the implementation of the Declaration and to withdraw all armed forces from the above-mentioned Territories.

(10) Deplore once again the alienation of land in Non-Self-Governing Territories for military installations and the utilization of local economic and manpower resources to service such installations, which hinder the economic development of the Territories and are contrary to the interests of the indigenous population; and call upon the colonial Powers to cease forthwith from alienating land and to return land already alienated to its rightful owners.

(11) Request the Office of Public Information to undertake an intensified campaign of publicity with a view to informing world public opinion of the facts concerning military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the Territories under their administration which are impeding the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV).

ANNEX *

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE I

Chairman: Mrs. F. J. JOKA-BANGURA (Sierra Leone)

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.903.

A. Consideration by the Sub-Committee

1. The Sub-Committee considered the item entitled "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" at its 124th, 125th and 127th meetings, held between 13 July and 15 August 1973 (see A/AC.109/SC.2/SR.124, 125 and 127).
2. The Sub-Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat containing information on military activities and arrangements in the following Territories: Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands; Namibia; Papua New Guinea, Guam and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; Seychelles; Southern Rhodesia and Territories under Portuguese administration (see appendices I-VI below). It also had before it the relevant information contained in the general working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the various Territories (A/9023/Add.1-6).
3. In formulating its conclusions and recommendations on the item under consideration, the Sub-Committee was particularly guided by the related information provided by the representatives of national liberation movements of colonial Territories in Africa who appeared before the Special Committee.

B. Adoption of the report

4. Having considered the question concerning military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers under their administration and having studied all the information available to it, the Sub-Committee adopted the conclusions and recommendations on the item at its 127th meeting on 15 August 1973. a/
5. The Sub-Committee adopted the present report at the same meeting.

a/ The conclusions and recommendations submitted by Sub-Committee I for consideration by the Special Committee were adopted by the latter body without modification. They are reproduced in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the present chapter.

APPENDIX IV

SEYCHELLES

1. Basic information concerning military activities and arrangements in the Seychelles is contained in the previous report of the Special Committee. a/ Supplementary information is set out below.

"British Indian Ocean Territory"

2. It will be recalled that, under a United Kingdom Order in Council of 8 November 1965, three of the 92 islands and atolls comprising the Seychelles, namely the groups of Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches, were administratively detached from the Territory and, together with the Chagos Archipelago, formerly part of Mauritius, were set up as the "British Indian Ocean Territory", administered by a Commissioner who is also Governor of the Seychelles. The islands are widely scattered, the Chagos group lying about 1,100 miles to the east of Mahé, the main island of the Seychelles, and Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches between 100 and 600 miles to the south-west of Mahé.

Construction of a naval communications facility on Diego García

3. In December 1966, the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America reached an agreement providing for the joint use of any military facilities eventually to be constructed in the "British Indian Ocean Territory". b/

4. A subsequent agreement, dated 24 October 1972, c/ provided that the Government of the United States would be entitled to construct, maintain and operate a limited naval communications facility on Diego García, the largest island in the Chagos group, for the purpose of providing a link in its defence communications and also

a/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/8723/Rev.1), chap. VI, annex, appendix IV.

b/ Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America concerning the Availability for Defence Purposes of the British Indian Ocean Territory, London, 30 December 1966, Treaty Series No. 15 (1967) Cmnd.3231 (London, HM Stationery Office, 1967).

c/ Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America concerning a Limited United States Naval Communications Facility on Diego García, British Indian Ocean Territory, Treaty Series No. 126 (1972), Cmnd.5160 (London, HM Stationery Office, 1972).

to furnish improved communications support in the Indian Ocean for ships and aircraft owned or operated by, or on behalf of, either Government. The facility, to be entirely financed by the United States at an estimated cost of \$US 19 million, would consist of transmitting and receiving services, an anchorage, airfield, associated logistic support and supply and personnel accommodation. The arrangement would remain in force for as long as the 1966 agreement continued in force (50 years, renewable for a further 20 years), or until such time as no part of Diego García was required for the purposes of the naval communications facility.

5. The agreement also stipulated: (a) that access to Diego García, which has been occupied by copra plantations, would be restricted to authorized personnel; (b) as far as possible, there would be no interference with the flora and fauna of the island; and (c) commercial fishing or oil or mineral exploitation would be prohibited for the duration of the agreement, unless such activities were agreed not to be inimical to the defensive use of the island. It was reported in November 1972 that the copra plantations on Diego García, as well as those on Solomon and Peros Banos (also in the Chagos group) had been shut down and the 128 inhabitants evacuated to Mauritius for resettlement.

6. The naval communications facility, the first foreign military installation to be established in the Indian Ocean, came into operation on 23 March 1973. According to a press report in The New York Times of 18 June 1973, officials of the United States Department of Defense said that no public announcement was made at the time in keeping with a "low-key" guideline aimed at preventing concern among nations bordering on the Indian Ocean that the area might become a region of strategic competition among the major Powers.

7. At its twenty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, solemnly declared that the Indian Ocean, within limits to be determined, together with the air space above and the ocean floor subjacent thereto, was designated for all time as a zone of peace. It also called upon the great Powers to enter into immediate consultation with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to halting further escalations and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean and eliminating from the Indian Ocean all bases, military installations and logistical supply facilities and any manifestation of great Power military presence conceived in the context of great Powers rivalry. In resolution 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the General Assembly established an ad hoc committee to study the practical measures that may be taken towards the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

REPORT
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TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VOLUME IV

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

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UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1975

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Special Committee is divided into five volumes. The present volume contains chapters X to XXI;* volume I, chapters I to III; volume II, chapters IV to VI; volume III, chapters VII to IX; and volume V, chapters XXII to XXIX; each volume contains a full table of contents.

* The present version of chapters X to XXI is a consolidation of the following documents as they appeared in provisional form: A/9023/Add.4 of 23 October 1973 and A/9023/Add.5 of 30 October 1973.

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(A/9023/Add.4)

SEYCHELLES AND ST. HELENA, COMORO ARCHIPELAGO, SPANISH
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CHAPTER X

SEYCHELLES AND ST. HELENA

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1. At its 902nd meeting, on 23 February 1973, the Special Committee, by approving the sixty-eighth report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.841), decided, inter alia, to refer the Seychelles and St. Helena to Sub-Committee I for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the Territories at its 908th, 923rd and 925th meetings, between 24 April and 28 June.
3. In its consideration of the Territories, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution 2908 (XXVII) of 2 November 1972 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, by paragraph 11 of which the General Assembly requested the Special Committee "to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2621 (XXV) in all Territories which have not yet attained independence and, in particular, to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session". Further, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolution 2984 (XXVII) of 14 December 1972, concerning 17 Territories, including the Seychelles and St. Helena. The Committee also took into account the provisions of resolution 2985 (XXVII) of 14 December 1972 concerning the Seychelles by which the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue its examination of the question, including in particular the dispatch of a special mission to the territory.
4. During its consideration of the Territories, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex I to the present chapter) containing information on action previously taken by the Committee as well as by the General Assembly and on the latest developments concerning the Territories. The Committee also took into account the resolution concerning the Seychelles adopted by the Tenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in May 1973.
5. The Special Committee also had before it the text of a telegram dated 19 March 1973 concerning the Seychelles, received from Mr. Guy Simon, Secretary-General of the Seychelles People's United Party (SPUP) (A/AC.109/PET.1245). At its 908th meeting, on 24 April, following statements by the representative of Australia and by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.908), the Committee decided to request its Chairman to bring this communication to the attention of the administering Power for its comments or observations. Consequently, during its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a note by its

Acting Chairman on the action taken by the Chairman in this respect (see annex II to the present chapter) and the observations of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, on the said communication (A/AC.109/423).

6. The administering Power did not participate in the work of the Special Committee during its consideration of the item.

7. At the 923rd meeting, on 27 June, the Rapporteur of Sub-Committee I, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.923 and Corr.1 and Corr.2), introduced the report of the Sub-Committee (A/AC.109/L.873) containing an account of its consideration of the Seychelles and St. Helena (A/AC.109/SC.2/SR.117-121).

8. At the 925th meeting, on 28 June, following a statement by the representative of Sweden (A/AC.109/PV.925), the Special Committee adopted the report without objection and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein (see paragraph 10 below), it being understood that the reservation expressed by the representative of Sweden would be reflected in the record of the meeting. The representative of Australia also made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.925).

9. On 29 June, the text of the conclusions and recommendations was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom for the attention of his Government.

B. DECISION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

10. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 925th meeting, on 28 June, to which reference is made in paragraph 8 above, is reproduced below:

(a) Conclusions

(1) The Special Committee deeply deplores the continued failure of the administering Power to comply with the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution 2985 (XXVII) of 14 December 1972 as well as the specific recommendations of the Special Committee relating to the Seychelles and St. Helena. Indeed, during the period under review, the administering Power did not take any measures designed to transfer all powers to the people of the Territories, but, on the contrary, continued to encourage policies of dissension and conflict among the inhabitants in order to perpetuate its colonial domination in the Territories.

(2) The Special Committee deplores in particular the fact that, owing to the negative attitude of the administering Power, it has not been possible to dispatch a special mission to the Seychelles, as envisaged under the terms of General Assembly resolution 2866 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971.

(3) The Special Committee expresses its serious concern over the persistent refusal of the administering Power to restore the territorial integrity of the Seychelles by returning to it the islands detached from the Territory in 1965. The Committee considers that the division of the Territory, the construction of military bases thereon and the arbitrary and forceful transfer of the population therefrom constitute a gross violation of the basic rights of the people and, in particular, an infringement on their social and economic rights.

(4) The Special Committee accordingly condemns the continued construction of military facilities and installations on the islands by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. In the process, the local inhabitants have been forced to evacuate the area and are even prohibited from off-shore fishing in the territorial waters of those islands. These acts not only violate the fundamental rights of the people but also constitute an encroachment on their territory and sovereignty. In the view of the Committee, the military presence of these Powers poses a direct threat to the peace and security of the area and to the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, and contravenes the aims and purposes of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly concerning the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

(5) The Special Committee deprecates the arguments advanced by the representative of the colonial authorities concerning the "isolation of the Territories, their lack of economic development and the people's opposition to independence" 1/ as being a pretext for preventing the peoples of the islands from achieving the goals set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

(6) The Special Committee notes with serious concern that the economic and social situation continues to remain unsatisfactory. The only sectors where development has taken place are those areas designed to benefit foreign economic and financial interests. Moreover, production in several sectors of the economy has stagnated and, in some cases, has even declined.

(7) The Special Committee condemns the intensified intervention of the racist régime of South Africa in the economy of the Territory in collaboration with, and with the encouragement of, the administering Power. Within the policy of economic collaboration, the administering Power has granted landing rights to South African Airways at Mahé airport in the Seychelles.

(8) The Special Committee notes that the United Kingdom Government has failed to respond to appeals by the opposition party in the Seychelles to arrange a conference between the leaders of the two parties, with a view to preparing the way for national unity. Taking into account the existing

1/ A/C.4/SR.2005.

inequity in the representation of the two parties in the Legislative Assembly, the Committee considers it imperative that measures be taken without delay towards the achievement of national unity, including the holding of such a conference. In this connexion, the Committee views with serious concern the reported intention of the Chief Minister to take steps to stifle all opposition and to assume control of the forces of law and order, the broadcasting facilities and the civil service. The Committee is particularly disturbed about the negative attitude of the administering Power in respect to the representations made by its Chairman in this regard.

(b) Recommendations

(1) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of the Seychelles and St. Helena to self-determination and independence in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and the legitimacy of their struggle to achieve that right.

(2) The Special Committee reaffirms its previous recommendations, in particular those contained in resolution 2985 (XXVII), and calls upon the administering Power to implement them fully and without delay.

(3) The Special Committee condemns the refusal of the administering Power to allow a special United Nations mission to visit the Seychelles, and calls upon the administering Power to receive such a mission as envisaged in resolution 2866 (XXVI).

(4) The Special Committee calls for the annulment of the military agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States, which is contrary to the interests of the people of the Seychelles and which poses a direct threat to the peace and security of the area and to neighbouring States.

(5) The Special Committee calls upon the administering Power to cease forthwith the eviction of the residents of the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory" and the construction of military bases and to return to the Seychelles the islands detached therefrom.

(6) The Special Committee calls upon the administering Power to take urgently all effective steps to put an end to any form of collaboration with South African economic activities and other interests in the Territories.

(7) The Special Committee urges the administering Power to take all necessary measures with a view to achieving national unity and political stability in the Seychelles, including in particular the holding of a conference of political parties and organizations as suggested by the leader of the Seychelles People's United Party (SPUP), the national liberation movement recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU). In this connexion, the Special Committee will welcome receiving from the political parties and organizations concerned further information on political and other developments in the Territories.

(8) The Special Committee urges the administering Power to participate in the relevant proceedings of the Committee, as well as to provide it with adequate and up-to-date information concerning the social, economic and political situation in the Territories.

(9) The Special Committee recommends that representatives of political parties and organizations from the Territories be given an opportunity to express their views, should they be prepared to do so, before the Committee and/or the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, in order to assist in their consideration of these Territories.

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.852.

B. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORIES

1. SEYCHELLES^{b/}

^{b/} The information presented in this section is derived from published sources and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations on 10 July 1972 for the year ending 31 December 1971.

"British Indian Ocean Territory"

29. Under a United Kingdom Order-in-Council dated 8 November 1965, three of the islands of the Seychelles were administratively detached from the Territory of Seychelles and, together with the Chagos Archipelago, formerly part of Mauritius, were set up as a separate administrative unit entitled the "British Indian Ocean Territory". d/ According to the administering Power, this arrangement was made with the consent of the Governments of Mauritius and the Seychelles, which were to be compensated for the loss of the islands and atolls. In the case of the Seychelles, it was agreed that the compensation would take the form of an airport on Mahé, to be constructed and financed by the United Kingdom at an estimated cost of £4.5 million. (The airport, which was completed in May 1971, is the basis for the development of tourist industry in the Territory, see paragraph 50 et seq. below.)

30. The purpose of the above-mentioned agreement was to make the islands available for the construction of military staging facilities by the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, which in 1966 entered into an agreement for the joint use of any military facilities eventually to be constructed in the "British Indian Ocean Territory".

31. On 24 October 1972, the United Kingdom Government published an agreement between the British and the United States Governments concerning the construction of a limited United States naval communications facility on Diego Garcia, in the "British Indian Ocean Territory". e/

d/ Ibid., Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/8723/Rev.1), chap. XI, annex I, paras. 22-23.

e/ Treaty Series No. 126 (1972); Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America concerning a limited United States Naval Communications Facility on Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory, London, 24 October 1972, Cmnd. 5160, London, HMSO, 1972.

32. The agreement provided that the Government of the United States would be entitled to construct, maintain and operate a limited naval communications facility for the purpose of providing a link in its defence communications and also to furnish improved communications support in the Indian Ocean for ships and state aircraft owned or operated by, or on behalf of, either Government. The facility, to be entirely financed by the United States, would consist of transmitting and receiving services, an anchorage, airfield, associated logistic support and supply and personnel accommodation.

33. The agreement further provided that: (a) access to Diego Garcia would in general be restricted to members of the forces of the United Kingdom and the United States, "British Indian Ocean Territory" administrators, and representatives of both Governments; (b) as far as possible, the flora and fauna of the islands would not be interfered with; and (c) the United Kingdom Government would prohibit commercial fishing or oil or mineral exploitation on Diego Garcia or in the surrounding waters for the duration of the agreement, unless it was agreed that such activities would not be inimical to the defensive use of the island.

34. The two Governments further agreed that the above arrangements would continue in force for as long as the 1966 agreement continued in force (50 years, renewable for a further 20 years) or until such time as no part of Diego Garcia was required for the purposes of the naval communications facility.

35. In November, the evacuation of 128 residents from the islands of Diego Garcia, Salomon and Peros Banos, following the shut-down of the copra plantations there, and their removal to Mauritius, was reported in the Seychelles press. The report stated that the 200 islanders remaining on Peros Banos were to be removed shortly and that Salomon was completely deserted.

36. The question of the creation of the "British Indian Ocean Territory" is another major point of difference between SDP and SPUP. Whereas SDP supports the construction of a naval communications facility on Diego Garcia as being in the interests of political stability in the Indian Ocean area, SPUP opposes what it considers to be attempts by the United Kingdom and the United States "to turn the Indian Ocean into an area of big power conflict".

37. On 18 February 1973, following publication of the new agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States, Mr. Simon stated at a press conference in Mogadiscio, that if the United Kingdom were allowed to have a military base in the Indian Ocean, the East African countries of Kenya, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania would be endangered.

**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**

VOLUME II

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

✓ SUPPLEMENT No. 23 (A/9623/Rev.1)



UNITED NATIONS

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UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1976

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Special Committee is divided into six volumes. The present volume contains chapters IV to VI;* volume I, chapters I to III; volume III, chapters VII to XIV; volume IV, chapters XV to XX; and volume V, chapters XXI and XXII; and volume VI, chapters XXIII to XXIX; each volume contains a full table of contents.

* The present version of chapters IV to VI is a consolidation of the following documents as they appeared in provisional form: A/9623 (Part V) of 8 October 1974, A/9623 (Part VI) of 4 November 1974 and A/9623 (Part VII) of 15 November 1974.

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* Note by the Rapporteur: See chap. I, para. 9, foot-note 9, for the new designation of the Territory.

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(A/9623 (Part VI))

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

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CHAPTER V

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

A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 952nd meeting, on 26 February 1974, the Special Committee, by adopting the seventy-first report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.920 and Corr.1), decided, inter alia, to refer the item entitled "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" to Sub-Committee I for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 978th and 979th meetings, on 28 and 29 August.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including in particular resolution 3163 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, by paragraph 9 of which the Assembly called upon the colonial Powers to "withdraw immediately and unconditionally their military bases and installations from colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones". The Special Committee also paid due regard to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, containing the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration, which provides that "Member States shall carry out a sustained and vigorous campaign against all military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration, as such activities and arrangements constitute an obstacle to the full implementation of resolution 1514 (XV)". Further, in formulating its conclusions and recommendations, the Special Committee was particularly guided by the related information provided by the representatives of national liberation movements of colonial Territories in Africa who had appeared before the Committee.
4. On 27 August, the report of Sub-Committee I on the item was circulated (see the annex to the present chapter). The Sub-Committee's report included eight working papers (appendices I-VIII) prepared by the Secretariat at the request of that Sub-Committee, containing information on military activities and arrangements in a number of Territories.
5. At the 979th meeting, on 29 August, following a statement by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.979) and at the request of the delegation of Denmark, a vote was taken on the report of the Sub-Committee. The report was adopted by a vote of 14 to none, with 1 abstention (see paras. 6 and 7 below). 1/ Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Denmark, Australia and the Ivory Coast (A/AC.109/PV.979).

1/ Five members of the Special Committee were away from Headquarters in connexion with the work of the visiting missions dispatched by the Committee during the period August/September.

B. DECISION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

6. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 979th meeting, on 29 August, to which reference is made in paragraph 5 above, is reproduced below:

Conclusions

(1) Having studied the 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 during the year under review, the Special Committee notes once again with grave concern that there has been no compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular the following: paragraph 9 of resolution 3163 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, by which the Assembly requested the colonial Powers to "withdraw immediately and unconditionally their military bases and installations from colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones"; and paragraph 3 (5) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970.

(2) The Special Committee finds that the purposes and objectives of the military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the Territories under their domination remain substantially as described in its previous reports. Generally, such activities and arrangements have one or other of the following objectives: (a) to subjugate the colonial peoples concerned and to repress their national liberation movements struggling for freedom and independence; or (b) to serve the strategic military interests of the colonial Powers and their allies. In both cases such military activities and arrangements constitute a most serious impediment to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. Indeed, the difference is mainly one of degree, for strategic military bases, such as exist in many smaller Territories in various parts of the world, are an important factor in prolonging colonial rule and, moreover, lead inevitably to interference with the economic development of the Territories concerned, both through the extensive alienation of land for military purposes and by drawing the population away from productive activities.

(3) The Special Committee notes with regret that, far from terminating such activities and dismantling their military bases in colonial Territories in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, the colonial Powers and their allies have increased these activities and are expanding existing bases and building new ones. For all these reasons, the Special Committee must conclude, once again, that the military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the dependent Territories constitute one of the main obstacles to decolonization.

(4) The Special Committee especially deplores the grave situation prevailing in the southern part of Africa where the colonialist and racist régimes, acting in concert, have for years been waging large-scale and ruthless warfare against the

colonial peoples and their national liberation movements in an attempt to deny them by force their inalienable right to freedom and independence. The information before the Committee reveals that, in their desperate efforts to stem the tide of liberation, the colonialist and racist régimes, during recent years, have substantially increased their military expenditures and have expanded their armed forces, equipping them with weapons largely obtained from Western countries. For example, the military budgets of the Portuguese-dominated Territories of Angola and Mozambique were increased by over 80 per cent and almost 43 per cent respectively between 1973 and 1974, and in Cape Verde, Portugal's military appropriation more than doubled. This growth in expenditure was accompanied in 1973 by a massive increase in the scale and intensity of the military operations by Portuguese armed forces against the national liberation forces of those Territories, the ruthlessness of which was revealed by the disclosure of the barbaric and inhuman massacres of villagers perpetrated by Portuguese armed forces in the Tete district of Mozambique and elsewhere, and by the extensive use of chemical substances, including herbicides and defoliants, against the peoples of the Territories.

(5) The Special Committee notes that, following the ouster of the former régime on 25 April 1974, Portugal affirmed its obligation under Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations and, in conformity with resolution 1514 (XV), has pledged to the United Nations its full co-operation in the implementation of the provisions of Chapter XI as well as the relevant United Nations resolutions in respect of the Territories under its administration. ^{2/} The Special Committee hopes that the Government of Portugal will put an immediate end to the brutal and inhuman colonial wars against the peoples of the African Territories concerned, withdraw all its military and paramilitary forces from them and enable the peoples of the Territories to exercise fully and freely their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

(6) A significant development during the period under review was the increasing military co-operation between the colonialist and racist régimes in southern Africa. From Mozambique there were numerous reports of intervention, particularly in Tete District, by the forces of the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia. Also, in 1973, the number of South African paramilitary police in Southern Rhodesia was increased to about 6,000. In March 1974, when at least four South African policemen were killed in Southern Rhodesia by Zimbabwe guerrillas, South Africa is said to have flown more police into Southern Rhodesia. It has also been reported that South Africa is secretly supplying considerable financial aid to the illegal régime to help it in its efforts to suppress the national liberation movements.

(7) The illegal minority régime of Southern Rhodesia likewise increased its military and police forces for the purpose of repressing the African freedom fighters during the period under review. At the end of 1973, the illegal régime announced a 100 per cent increase in the number of persons conscripted into the army. The illegal régime has also decided to create a second battalion of the

^{2/} S/PV.1791 and A/AC.109/456.

Rhodesian African Rifles to augment the regular army. In February 1974, senior police officers and district commissioners were given additional powers to force African residents in areas suspected of harbouring African freedom fighters to build and maintain roads, fences, bridges and dams. They were also empowered to control food supplies so that food would not fall into the hands of the members of the national liberation movements. The purpose of these powers is to intimidate the African population and thereby prevent it from giving aid to the liberation movements' efforts. These powers were implemented in February 1974 when the security forces destroyed the village of Musiwa near Bindura, including the crops, and sold the village cattle. The villagers had been suspected of feeding and sheltering some African freedom fighters.

(8) The racist régime of South Africa is also continuing to strengthen its military capability. For the financial year 1973/74, the South African military budget was 10 times larger than in 1960, the year of the Sharpeville massacre, when South Africa began an accelerated build-up of its military force. Starting in January 1974, a new system of training white reservists was introduced in both South Africa and Namibia. This action followed other related measures, such as the introduction of compulsory military training for school boys, the imposition of heavier penalties for whites who fail to report for military service and the strengthening of the Citizen Force by an increasing use of conscription. Furthermore, the South African nuclear programme has led to concern in East Africa that South Africa might already be manufacturing atomic bombs. The South African Government has recently begun recruiting "Coloured", Indian and African "volunteers" into the army to fight the freedom fighters. Police forces are also operating in the Territory. In order to encourage the so-called tribal policemen, salaries have been raised to surpass those of African mine workers by as much as three times.

(9) The Special Committee condemns in the strongest possible terms the military and naval co-operation which has reportedly been established or is being established by the NATO /North Atlantic Treaty Organization/ Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic (SACLANT) with the colonial and racist régimes in southern Africa. According to the statement made by a representative of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) before the Special Committee at its 968th meeting, on 2 April 3/ this is being done under the guise of planning by SACLANT, which is a subsidiary organ of NATO; on the grounds that it is necessary to protect the Cape route. The SWAPO representative considered that this was a subterfuge to give military and naval support to South Africa and to provide assistance to Portugal in its wars against the peoples of Angola and Mozambique.

(10) In the smaller Territories, such as Guam, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Bermuda and others, the colonial Powers and their allies have continued to maintain and establish military bases and other installations, contrary to the interests of the peoples of these Territories. The Special Committee notes, for example, that under the terms of agreements reached in 1966 and 1972 with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government of the United States of America maintains a naval communication facility on Diego García to provide a link between its defence communication centres in Australia and Ethiopia. The construction of the United States facility led to the closing of the copra plantations on Diego García and the islands of Salomon and Peros Banos and the evacuation of the 128 inhabitants to Mauritius for resettlement.

(11) The Special Committee expresses its deep concern at the proposed expansion of the military facilities on Diego García and the other islands, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973 relating to the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. The Special Committee supports the claims of the Government of Mauritius that the United Kingdom Government, by granting permission to the United States to expand its facilities on Diego García, has violated the original agreement under which it withdrew the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritian administration. It will be recalled that in 1967 the United Kingdom Government had given Mauritius a solemn assurance that Diego García would be used only as a communications centre. The Mauritian Government has stated that unless this promise is adhered to, it will take the issue to the International Court of Justice.

(12) In the Caribbean and Western Atlantic regions, the largest military installations located in dependent Territories are situated in Bermuda, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, and are operated by the authorities of the United Kingdom and the United States. Statistics released by the United States Government indicate a large growth in military expenditures on Guam. In other smaller colonial Territories, the colonial Powers concerned have stationed troops, established air and naval bases and constructed missile-testing sites and other military installations.

(13) The Special Committee reiterates its earlier conclusion that military activities of this type, which are determined by the military and strategic interests of the colonial Powers, inevitably delay the process of decolonization of Territories and lead to interference with the development of their economies, both by the wide-scale diversion of land for military purposes and by diverting their populations from productive activity, particularly when the population is drafted for service in the armed forces of the ruling Power. The Committee therefore concludes that the military and strategic requirements of the administering Powers concerned and those of their allies are prevailing over the interests of the peoples of these Territories.

(14) The Special Committee reaffirms its conclusion of the previous year in regard to military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers and foreign military bases in the Territories under their administration. It confirms once again that such activities, besides creating a threat to international peace and security in certain areas, are also a serious impediment to the implementation of the Declaration, are contrary to the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and are an abuse by the administering Powers of their responsibilities towards the peoples under their administration.

Recommendations

7. On the basis of the above conclusions, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it:

(1) Reaffirm the recommendations contained in its previous reports and

emphasize once again that the military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the Territories under their administration constitute a serious obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(2) Demand the immediate cessation of wars to suppress the national liberation movements, the withdrawal of all foreign troops from colonial Territories and the dismantling of military bases in those Territories;

(3) Condemn once again the military and political collaboration by the colonialist and racist régimes in southern Africa which, by the use of force, continue to prevent the indigenous peoples from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination and independence;

(4) Express its support for the national liberation movements of Angola, Mozambique and Cape Verde and for their determination to continue to struggle until their peoples attain freedom and independence;

(5) Demand that the colonial Powers stop using the indigenous inhabitants of dependent Territories as mercenaries in the struggle against the national liberation movements;

(6) Strongly condemn the military co-operation which has been established between NATO and the colonialist and racist régimes in southern Africa;

(7) Deplore once again the alienation of land for military installations and the utilization of local economic and manpower resources to service such bases, which hinder the economic development of the Territories and are contrary to the interests of the indigenous population; and call upon the colonial Powers to cease forthwith from alienating land and to return land already alienated to its rightful owners;

(8) Call upon all States, particularly those members of NATO which continue to maintain relations with the colonialist and racist régimes in southern Africa, to withhold from those régimes all support and assistance, especially the supply of arms and military equipment and assistance in the production of arms and ammunition and in the training of military personnel, as well as economic and other assistance;

(9) Call upon the Government of the United Kingdom to withdraw from the agreement with the United States on the establishment of military installations in the Indian Ocean;

(10) Request all States having responsibility for the administration of colonial and Trust Territories to comply unconditionally with the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular paragraph 3 (5) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 2621 (XXV), and paragraph 9 of resolution 3163 (XXVIII), and request those States to discontinue all military activities which impede the implementation of the

Declaration and to withdraw all foreign armed forces from the above-mentioned Territories;

(11) Request the Office of Public Information to undertake an intensified campaign of publicity with a view to informing world public opinion of the facts concerning military activities and arrangements impeding the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV);

(12) Recommend to the General Assembly that its Fourth Committee should hold a separate debate on this item at its twenty-ninth session and that, in this regard, the Secretariat should be requested to extend such assistance as may be necessary.

/...

Annex*

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE I

Chairman: Mrs. F. J. JOKA-BANGURA (Sierra Leone)

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.974.

A. Consideration by the Sub-Committee

1. The Sub-Committee considered the item entitled "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" at its 138th and 139th meetings, on 27 June and 3 July 1974 (see A/AC.109/SC.2/SR.138 and 139).

2. The Sub-Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat containing information on military activities and arrangements in the following Territories: Territories under Portuguese domination, Southern Rhodesia, Namibia, Seychelles, Guam, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Papua New Guinea and Territories in the Caribbean area, with particular reference to Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands (see appendices I-VIII below). It also had before it the relevant information contained in the general working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the various Territories. a/

3. In formulating its conclusions and recommendations on the item under consideration, the Sub-Committee was particularly guided by the related information provided by the representatives of national liberation movements of colonial Territories in Africa who appeared before the Special Committee.

B. Adoption of the report

4. Having considered the item concerning military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration and having studied all the information available to it, the Sub-Committee, at its 139th meeting on 3 July 1974, requested its Chairman to hold consultations with its members with a view to the preparation of its report and to submit it directly to the Special Committee. b/

a/ A/9623/Add.1 (part I), Add.2, Add.3, Add.4 (part I), Add.5 (part I) and Add.6 (part I).

b/ The conclusions and recommendations submitted by Sub-Committee I for consideration by the Special Committee were adopted by the latter body without modification. They are reproduced in sect. B (paras. 6 and 7) of the present chapter.

.....

Appendix IV

SEYCHELLES

INTRODUCTION

1. Basic information concerning military activities and arrangements in the Seychelles is contained in the previous report of the Special Committee. a/ Supplementary information is set out below.

1. "BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY"

2. "The British Indian Ocean Territory", comprising three islands (Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches) detached from the Seychelles, together with the Chagos Archipelago, formerly part of Mauritius, was established as a separate administrative unit in 1965 to provide a location for military staging facilities which might be constructed by the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or the United States of America. The islands are widely scattered, Diego García, the largest island in the Chagos group, lying at about the middle of the Indian Ocean some 1,200 miles south-west of Sri Lanka and the tip of India. The unit is administered by a Commissioner who is also Governor of the Seychelles.

2. UNITED STATES NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ON DIEGO GARCÍA

3. Under the terms of agreements reached in 1966 and 1972 with the Government of the United Kingdom, b/ the United States Government maintains a naval communications facility on Diego García to provide a link between its defence communication centres in Australia and Ethiopia. The facility, comprising transmitting and receiving services, an anchorage and an airfield with an 8,000 foot runway, associated logistic support and supply and personnel accommodations, was constructed at an estimated cost of \$US 19 million, and is manned by some 375 naval personnel. The United States is responsible for the maintenance of the installation, which may be jointly used by the United Kingdom, as long as the 1966 agreement continues in force (50 years, renewable for another 20 years), or until such time as no part of Diego García is required for the purposes of a naval communications facility.

4. As previously reported, the construction of the United States facility led

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/9023/Rev.1), chap. V, annex, appendix IV.

b/ For details see *ibid.*, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/8723/Rev.1), chap. VI, annex, appendix IV; and *ibid.*, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23, (A/9023/Rev.1), chap. V, annex, appendix IV.

to the closing of the copra plantations on Diego García and the islands of Salomon and Peros Banos (also in the Chagos group) and the evacuation of the 128 inhabitants to Mauritius for resettlement.

3. PROPOSED EXPANSION OF UNITED STATES PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

5. In February 1974, it was reported that the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States had agreed in principle to expand the United States facility on Diego García to make it a limited support base for the supply and refuelling of warships, including aircraft carriers, and to provide a base for aerial reconnaissance over the western stretches of the Indian Ocean. If enlarged according to plan, the base would be the first permanent foreign military installation in the Indian Ocean.

6. In a statement in the House of Commons on 5 February 1974, Mr. Julian Amery, Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said that the Government of the United Kingdom (then under Mr. Edward Heath) welcomed the expansion of the United States facilities on Diego García, which would also be available for British use, as it had long felt it was desirable in the general western interest to balance other activities in the Indian Ocean area (see also para. 14 below). He added that the two Governments would consult periodically on joint objectives, policies and activities in the area.

7. In March 1974, speaking before the Subcommittee on the Near East and South Asia of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Director of the Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs of the United States Department of State said that current United States naval deployments into the Indian Ocean were consistent with the Government's policy of augmenting from time to time the minimal permanent presence it already had there and that United States military presence in the area should contribute to the maintenance of peace by providing a deterrent to the use of force by other Powers. He added that the United States was also concerned with its considerable economic interests in the area, particularly oil, in which investments amounted to some \$US 3,500 million. He said, however, that without underestimating the expanded facilities, these did not represent a major new base of unlimited capacity.

8. Expansion of the facilities, which is expected to take two years and ultimately cost \$US 75 million, involves the lengthening of the airport runway to 12,000 feet, to enable it to service almost any type of aircraft, fully loaded, including tanker planes used to refuel B-52 bombers and cargo aircraft; deepening of the harbour to accommodate large ships, including aircraft carriers; installation of additional fuel storage tanks; provision of maintenance facilities for ships and aircraft; and an increase in military personnel to about 500 to 600 men.

9. In a statement before the United States Senate Armed Services Committee, Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reportedly indicated that consideration had also been given to expanding the facilities so that they could accommodate B-52 Strato-Fortress bombers and that the main runway on the

island had been lengthened to enable such aircraft to land. In response to questions, he said, however, that according to actual plans, the runway would not be suitable for "continuous operations" of B-52 aircraft and that there was no intention "to operate or station" such aircraft in the limited support facility. A "clarifying statement" issued by the Department of Defense on 12 March, reportedly at the urging of the Department of State, also emphasized that the Diego García installation would be "for a support facility and not a B-52 bomber base".

10. Following these denials, the Air Force Director of Planning reportedly told the Senate Armed Services Committee on 1 April that the Air Force was also considering placing F-111 bombers at the installation. These bombers, described as the most up-to-date tactical bombers used by the Air Force, have a range of 5,000-6,000 miles and can carry nuclear weapons.

4. REACTIONS TO THE PROPOSED EXPANSION

11. Following announcement of the plans described above, strong opposition to the proposed expansion was voiced by many countries bordering the Indian Ocean, including Australia, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mauritius, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand. On 6 February, Mr. Swaran Singh, Foreign Minister of India, expressed his Government's "total opposition" to such an expansion and said that his Government had voiced its "deep concern" to the Governments of both the United Kingdom and the United States. He added that "such a show of force" would never be "relished" by any country in the region. Subsequently, on 25 March, the Government of Australia sent messages to the Governments of the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, appealing to them to "exercise mutual restraint" in the Indian Ocean, the littoral States of which had a long-term objective of making it a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality.

12. In addition, the Government of Mauritius claims that the United Kingdom Government, by granting permission to the United States to expand its facilities on Diego García, is violating the original agreement under which it withdrew the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritian administration. In a statement in April, Mr. Rabindra Murburrun, Mauritian High Commissioner to India, said that the United Kingdom Government had given Mauritius a solemn assurance in 1967 that Diego García would only be used as a communications centre and that, unless this promise was adhered to, his Government would take the issue to the International Court of Justice.

13. Criticism of the plan has also been expressed within the United States. On 28 February, Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island introduced a bill in the United States Senate to forbid the Department of Defense from expanding its facilities on Diego García on the grounds that extending United States influence in the area would "prove costly, unwise and contrary to our long-range national interests". Subsequently, the Senate Armed Services Committee, many of whose members had expressed the fear that extension of the United States military presence in the Indian Ocean would lead to an increase of naval forces and tension

in the area, voted unanimously to defer the decision of whether to grant preliminary appropriations of \$US 29 million for the installation until the entire United States defence budget was considered later in 1974. Press reports suggested that even if the appropriation had passed the Committee, the plan would have been blocked by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the grounds that the agreement should be negotiated as a treaty and submitted to Congress for ratification.

14. As a result of international pressure and dissension among the members of the Labour Party in the United Kingdom, it was reported late in March that the new Labour Government might seek to withdraw from the agreement, which had been entered into by its predecessor. Separate reviews of the agreement and its international implications were ordered by both Mr. Roy Mason, the Minister for Defence, and Mr. James Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary.

15. Early in May, talks were started between the representatives of the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States on the question of the expansion of the facilities on Diego García.

5. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

16. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, solemnly declared that the Indian Ocean, within limits to be determined, together with the air space above and the ocean floor subjacent thereto, was designated for all time as a zone of peace. It also called upon the great Powers to enter into immediate consultation with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to halting further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean and eliminating all bases, military installations and logistical supply facilities, as well as any manifestation of great Power military presence conceived in the context of great Power rivalry.

17. In its resolution 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, the General Assembly, inter alia, urged all States to accept the principles and objectives contained in resolution 2832 (XXVI) as a constructive contribution to the strengthening of regional and international security. It also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a factual statement on the military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean in all its aspects, with special reference to their naval deployments as conceived in the context of great Power rivalry, and to submit that statement to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean c/ at an early date.

c/ The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean was established by General Assembly resolution 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, inter alia, to study practical measures that may be taken in furtherance of Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI).

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

VOLUME III

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

✓ SUPPLEMENT No. 23 (A/9623/Rev.1)



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UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1976

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Special Committee is divided into six volumes. The present volume contains chapters VII to XIV;* volume I, chapters I to III; volume II, chapters IV to VI, volume IV, chapters XV to XX; volume V, chapters XXI and XXII; and volume VI, chapters XXIII to XXIX; each volume contains a full table of contents.

* The present version of chapters VII to XIV is a consolidation of the following documents as they appeared in provisional form: A/9623/Add.1 (Parts I and II) of 3 and 14 September 1974; A/9623/Add.2 of 5 September 1974; A/9623/Add.3 of 21 September 1974; and A/9623/Add.4 (Parts I and II) of 10 October and 13 November 1974.

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CHAPTER X

(A/9623/Add.4 (Part I))

SEYCHELLES AND ST. HELENA

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CHAPTER X

SEYCHELLES AND ST. HELENA

A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 952nd meeting, on 26 February 1974, the Special Committee, by approving the seventy-first report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.920 and Corr.1), decided, inter alia, to refer the question of the Seychelles and St. Helena to Sub-Committee I for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the Territories at its 974th to 976th and 978th meetings, between 17 May and 28 August.
3. In its consideration of the Territories, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution 3163 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973 on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, by paragraph 11 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee "to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2621 (XXV) in all Territories which have not yet attained independence and, in particular, to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session". The Committee also took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3158 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973 concerning the Seychelles, by which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue its examination of the question, including in particular the dispatch of a special mission to the Territory. Further, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolution 3156 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973 concerning eight Territories, including the Seychelles and St. Helena.
4. During its consideration of the Territories, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex I to the present chapter) containing information on the latest developments concerning the Territories.
5. In connexion with the general elections held on 25 April in the Seychelles, the Chairman issued a statement on 22 April, expressing the hope that the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, would extend its full co-operation to the Special Committee in the discharge of its tasks relating to the Territory, particularly as regards sending a visiting group to the Seychelles for the purpose of securing adequate and first-hand information on conditions prevailing in the Territory (see annex II to the present chapter). In a letter dated 10 May 1974, in response to representations made by the Chairman, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations submitted to the Special Committee information on the results of the elections held, on developments concerning the future status of the Territory and on the position of his Government related thereto (see annex III to the present chapter).

6. At the 974th meeting, on 17 May, following a statement by the Chairman and at the invitation of the Special Committee, Mr. James R. Mancham, the Chief Minister of the Seychelles, made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.974). The Chief Minister was accompanied by Mr. David Joubert, Minister for Social Services, Mr. Chamery Chetty, Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Marketing and Messrs. Uzice and d'Ossay, members of the Legislative Assembly of the Government of the Seychelles. The Special Committee noted in that connexion information contained in a telegram, dated 14 May 1974, addressed to the Chairman by the Secretary-General of the Seychelles People's United Party (SPUP) (see annex IV to the present chapter).

7. At the same meeting, at the invitation of the Special Committee, Mr. Radha Krishna Ramphul, the Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.974). The Executive Secretary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) also made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.974). Mr. Mancham replied to questions put to him by the representatives of Ethiopia and Sierra Leone, as well as by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.974). Statements were also made by the representatives of the Ivory Coast and India (A/AC.109/PV.974). Further statements were made by Mr. Mancham and by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.974).

8. At the 975th meeting, on 1 July, the Chairman of Sub-Committee I, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.975 and Corr.1), introduced the report of the Sub-Committee, containing an account of its consideration of the Seychelles and St. Helena and the text of a draft resolution on the Seychelles (see annex V to the present chapter).

9. At the same meeting, following a statement by the Chairman, the representative of the United Kingdom informed the Special Committee that, having regard to the express readiness of his Government to co-operate in the related work of the Committee, as reflected in a letter dated 13 July 1974 addressed to the Chairman by the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom and to the United Nations (A/AC.109/450), his delegation welcomed the opportunity to study the report and comment thereon in due course, where necessary (A/AC.109/PV.975 and Corr.1).

10. At the 976th meeting, on 20 August, the representative of the United Kingdom made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.976). The Special Committee subsequently took note of a telegram, dated 5 September 1974, received from the Chief Minister of the Seychelles in that regard (A/AC.109/462).

11. At the 978th meeting, on 28 August, following a statement by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.978), the Special Committee approved without objection the report of Sub-Committee I, as revised on the basis of consultations among the members of the Committee (see annex V to the present chapter), adopted the draft resolution on the Seychelles and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations on St. Helena contained in the report (see paras. 13 and 14 below).

12. On 30 August, the text of the foregoing decisions was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom for the attention of his Government.

B. DECISIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

13. The text of the resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 978th meeting, on 28 August, referred to in paragraph 11 above, is reproduced below:

1. Question of the Seychelles

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of the Seychelles,

Having heard the statement of the Chief Minister of the Government of the Seychelles, 1/

Recalling the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, as well as all other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to the Territory,

Taking note of the expressed willingness of the administering Power to grant independence to the people of the Seychelles in accordance with their wishes,

Noting that a constitutional conference, with the full participation of both political parties in the Territory, is to be held in London in 1974 in order to determine the modalities whereby the Seychelles is to proceed to independence,

Noting further the expressed desire of the Government of the Seychelles that the Territory should attain independence during 1975,

Bearing in mind the statement of the Chief Minister to the effect that every effort will be made to work as closely as possible with the opposition towards the task of national unification,

Mindful also of the stated position of the Government of the Seychelles with regard to the restoration of its territorial integrity,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the united wish of the people of the Seychelles to achieve independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

2. Requests the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take all the necessary steps to facilitate the Territory's accession to independence without delay, in accordance with the express wish of the people of the Territory;

1/ A/AC.109/PV.974.

3. Urges the Government of the United Kingdom, in the fulfilment of its obligations as the administering Power, to keep the United Nations fully apprised of developments relating to the Seychelles and invites the Chairman 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, under the mandate entrusted to him by the Committee in that regard, to continue consultations with the administering Power with a view to making the necessary arrangements, as appropriate, for the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory in connexion with the processes leading to the Territory's accession to independence;

4. Stresses the responsibility of the United Nations to render all possible assistance to the people of the Seychelles in their efforts to achieve independence and, to that end, invites the specialized agencies and the institutions associated with the United Nations to work out concrete programmes of assistance to the Seychelles;

5. Decides to keep the question of the Seychelles under continuous review.

14. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 978th meeting, on 28 August, referred to in paragraph 11 above, is reproduced below:

Annex I*

WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.925 and Add.1.

1. SEYCHELLES a/

a/ The information presented in this section is derived from published sources and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations on 9 August 1973, for the year ending 31 December 1972.

"British Indian Ocean Territory"

21. Information concerning the "British Indian Ocean Territory" prior to December 1972 is contained in last year's report of the Special Committee. e/ Briefly, it will be recalled that the "British Indian Ocean Territory", comprising three islands detached from the Seychelles (Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches), together with the Chagos Archipelago, formerly part of Mauritius, was established as a separate administrative unit under a United Kingdom Order-in-Council of 8 November 1965. According to the administering Power, the arrangement was made with the consent of the Governments of the Seychelles and Mauritius, which were compensated for the loss of the islands and atolls. (In the case of the Seychelles, the compensation took the form of the construction of the international airport on Mahé which is the basis for the development of the tourist industry in the Territory.)

22. The islands were detached from the Seychelles to make them available for the construction of military staging facilities by the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, which in 1966 entered into an agreement for the joint use of any facilities that might be constructed. Under the terms of a second agreement, reached in 1972, the United States installed a limited naval communications facility on Diego García, an inhabited island in the Chagos Archipelago. The purpose of the facility was to provide a link in United States defence communications, and to furnish improved communications support for, and facilitate the supply and refueling of, ships and aircraft in the Indian Ocean owned or operated by, or on behalf of, either Government.

23. In February 1974, it was reported that the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom had agreed in principle to expand the facilities on Diego García. In a statement in the House of Commons on 5 February 1974, Mr. Julian Amery, Minister of State in the Foreign Office, said that the United Kingdom Government welcomed the expansion of the United States facilities, which would also be available for use by the United Kingdom, as it had long felt that it was desirable in the general western interest to balance other activities in the Indian Ocean area. He added that the two Governments would consult periodically on joint objectives, policies and activities in the area.

24. According to press reports, expansion of the United States facilities is ultimately expected to cost \$US 15 million and to include: lengthening of the airport runway from 8,000 to 12,000 feet, so that it can be used by almost any type

e/ Ibid., paras. 29-37.

of aircraft, fully loaded; deepening of the harbour; installation of additional fuel storage tanks; and provision of maintenance facilities for air strips and aircraft. It is anticipated that the present contingent of 375 military personnel will be expanded to a staff numbering from 500 to 600 within the next two years. According to press reports, the facilities will constitute the first permanent United States base in the Indian Ocean.

25. These plans are opposed by a number of countries in the Indian Ocean area. On 6 February 1974, Swaran Singh, Foreign Minister of India, called the expansion a "matter of great concern" to his country and expressed his Government's "total opposition" to it. Mr. Singh said that his Government had expressed its "deep concern" to the Governments of both the United Kingdom and the United States regarding the bringing of naval units, including aircraft carriers, into the region, and added that such a "show of force" would never be "relished" by any country in the region.

26. It will be recalled that, at its twenty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, solemnly declared that the Indian Ocean, within limits to be determined, together with the air space above and the ocean floor subjacent thereto, was designated for all time as a zone of peace. It also called upon the great Powers to enter into immediate consultation with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to halting further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean and eliminating all bases, military installations and logistical supply facilities, as well as any manifestation of great Power military presence conceived in the context of great Power rivalry.



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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

VOLUME I

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTIETH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 23 (A/10023/Rev.1)

UNITED NATIONS



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

VOLUME I

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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SUPPLEMENT No. 23 (A/10023/Rev.1)

UNITED NATIONS
New York, 1977

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Special Committee is divided into four volumes. The present volume contains chapters I to VII;* volume II, chapters VIII-XII; volume III, chapters XIII-XXIV; and volume IV, chapters XXV-XXXII.

* The present version of chapters I to VII is a consolidation of the following documents as they appeared in provisional form: A/10023 (Part I) of 7 November 1975, A/10023 (Part II) of 12 November 1975, A/10023 (Part III) of 24 October 1975, A/10023 (Part IV) of 21 November 1975 and A/10023 (Part V) of 31 October 1975.

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* Note by the Rapporteur: See chap. I, para. 8, foot-note 11, for the new designation of the Territory.

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A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 993rd meeting, on 18 February 1975, the Special Committee, by adopting the seventy-fourth report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.993), decided, inter alia, to refer the item entitled "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" to Sub-Committee I for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 1010th and 1011th meetings, on 5 and 7 August.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular paragraph 9 of resolution 3328 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, which "calls upon the colonial Powers to withdraw immediately and unconditionally their military bases and installations from colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones".
4. At its 1010th meeting, on 5 August, the Special Committee took up the report of Sub-Committee I on the item, containing a series of draft conclusions and recommendations for consideration and approval by the Special Committee (see annex to the present chapter). The Sub-Committee's report also included six working papers prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Sub-Committee, containing information on military activities and arrangements in a number of Territories.
5. At its 1011th meeting, on 7 August, the Special Committee voted on the report of the Sub-Committee, at the request of the delegation of Denmark. The Special Committee adopted the draft conclusions and recommendations by a vote of 16 to none, with 3 abstentions (see para. 6 below). Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Australia, Chile and Denmark (A/AC.109/FV.1011).

B. DECISION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

6. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 1011th meeting, on 7 August, to which reference is made in paragraph 5 above, is reproduced below:

1. Conclusions

- (1) Having studied the military activities and arrangements by the colonial Powers under their administration during the year under review, the

Special Committee finds that the main characteristics, objectives and purposes of these activities, as described in its previous reports, remain unchanged. The colonial Powers and minority racist régimes have continued to defy the resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970 and 3328 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974 which call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all military bases and installations from such Territories. In some Territories in various parts of the world, the military activities of the colonial Powers are directed towards securing the global political objectives of the imperialist Powers and threatening the security of neighbouring independent States in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

(2) The Special Committee concludes that the military activities of the colonial Powers, particularly in the larger Territories, are aimed at subjugating the colonial peoples and also at repressing their liberation movements which are fighting for their legitimate right to freedom and independence. Strategic military considerations are an important factor in prolonging colonial rule in many parts of the world, particularly in the smaller Territories. Far from dismantling their military bases in those Territories, the colonial Powers and their allies are increasing their military activities and arrangements, as well as expanding existing bases and building new ones. Not only is this an impediment to the process of decolonization, but it inevitably leads to interference with the economic development of the Territories concerned, both through the extensive alienation of land for military purposes and by drawing the population away from productive activities.

(3) The Special Committee strongly deplores the situation prevailing in the colonial Territories in southern Africa as a result of the intensification by the colonial and racist régimes of their military activities and arrangements in those Territories, which are aimed at stifling the true aspirations of the peoples of the Territories to achieve their freedom and independence, and which also ensures the protection of foreign economic interests operating in those Territories. The information before the Committee reveals that the racist régime of South Africa is continuing to strengthen its military capability. In an attempt to acquire modern military equipment, the South African Government announced in March 1975 that its military appropriation would be increased by a further 36 per cent to 948 million rand. ^{1/} This represents 20 per cent of the revenue budget. The plans for a radical restructuring and expansion of the armed forces include the purchase of more submarines, jet interceptor aircraft, missiles and anti-aircraft guns. It has been through the co-operation of certain Western countries that the South African régime has succeeded in acquiring ultra-modern weapons for its army, air force and navy. There is a plan to expand the naval installation at Simonstown to allow it to accommodate submarines and aircraft carriers, which would consolidate South Africa's co-operation with its Western allies. South Africa is supported by the member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and in 1974 joint exercises by naval vessels of the United Kingdom and South Africa were held near Simonstown. According to the press, those exercises were linked to the implementation of a recent secret NATO agreement concerning the South African racists and the use of the Simonstown base as a support facility.

^{1/} One rand (R1.00) equals approximately \$US 1.49. ~

(4) The colonial and racist régime of South Africa has likewise continued to increase its military potential and its armed forces for the purpose of strengthening its colonial rule over Namibia and repressing African freedom fighters. According to the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), there has been a systematic build-up of South African military forces and emplacements since the change of Government of Portugal in April 1974. New bases have been established at Onuno, Ondangwa and Ruacana Falls, all in Ovamboland, as well as at Grootfontein and Eenhana. In February 1975, SWAPO reported that South Africa was also creating a free-fire zone five miles wide, running the length of the Ovamboland-Angola border from Ruacana Falls to Kavangoland, and that African residents of the area were being arbitrarily evacuated from the region. The nuclear potential of the South African racists is cause for concern, particularly as South Africa has not signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons which entered into force in 1970.

(5) The Special Committee condemns in the strongest possible terms the fact that military co-operation between South Africa and the illegal Salisbury régime is continuing and at least 6,000 South African police are currently stationed in Southern Rhodesia. The army of the illegal régime of Southern Rhodesia is supported by South Africa, which provides it with matériel and personnel to eliminate all forces that oppose its minority policy. Despite South Africa's assurance that its paramilitary forces operating in Southern Rhodesia would be withdrawn, investigation has revealed that they continue to operate there. Because of the collapse of Portuguese colonialism and the independence of Mozambique and the imminent independence of Angola, South Africa and Southern Rhodesia have drawn up plans for action in case of unforeseen developments in those two countries. The activities of the military and political alliance of South Africa and the illegal racist minority régime of Southern Rhodesia are directed towards suppressing by force of arms the inalienable right of the oppressed peoples of the same area to self-determination and independence.

(6) The Special Committee notes that the military budget of Southern Rhodesia was considerably increased following the intensification of the armed struggle against the illegal régime. The estimated allocations for all security forces for 1974/75 have been increased by almost \$R 25 million ^{2/} over the allocations of 1973/74, by far the largest increase for a single year since 1964. The illegal régime also aims to increase the total manpower of its armed forces. Among the measures being taken are a policy of recruiting for the armed forces persons who had previously only been eligible for non-combatant positions and of encouraging young men to stay in the armed forces for at least one extra year beyond their regular one-year military service. The military budget of the illegal régime has also been increased to provide for the purchase of new aircraft and arms and ammunition of various types.

(7) The Special Committee finds that the operations conducted by the Southern Rhodesian military forces are reported to be based on the assumption that guerrilla units are most effective if they have the opportunity of establishing contact with the rural population. Therefore, the military

^{2/} In 1974, the exchange rate of the Southern Rhodesian dollar fluctuated between \$US 1.20 and \$US 1.65.

forces aim first at winning "the hearts and minds" of the rural people and of setting them against the guerrillas. If attempts at inducement fail, the military forces then resort to terrorist activities and coercion to obtain co-operation from the rural inhabitants. In an attempt to win over the rural people, the illegal régime has introduced a system of rewards. Any civilian who provides the security forces with information leading to the guerrillas or their capture would receive rewards as high as \$R 5,000. The policy of inducement appears to have failed and reports indicate that increasing coercion is being applied to the rural population. Africans have also been forcibly evacuated from their homes for resettlement in "protected areas" because of their refusal to support the army.

(8) The largest military installations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean and Western Atlantic regions are situated in Bermuda, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, and are operated by the authorities of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. It will be recalled that the United Kingdom maintained two helicopter-carrying frigates, each with a detachment of Royal Marines, in the Caribbean area during 1973. These ships were occasionally augmented by other units for exercises and trials. Additionally, the United Kingdom stationed a garrison in Belize, consisting of a battalion headquarters, two infantry companies and supporting arms. Furthermore, United Kingdom army, marine and air force units completed a joint service exercise in the British Virgin Islands from 28 October to 9 November 1974. The areas used for field training were the inhabited portions of Jost Van Dyke and Anegada, as well as four other islands. Beef Island served as the base of operations. The military installations in the Caribbean Territories were part of the machinery for enforcing the policies of the United States and the United Kingdom throughout the entire Latin American region. Such bases are a threat to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States in the region.

(9) The Special Committee's study proves that the United States maintains two military bases in Bermuda which occupy about one tenth of that Territory. The United States is expanding its military activities in the Territory, because of Bermuda's strategic importance. The United States Navy has recently installed an expensive computer system for a new Tactical Support Center for anti-submarine aircraft which will require the services of about five times the number of men who operated the old centre. When some members of the Legislative Council of Bermuda pointed out that the regulation was economically disadvantageous to Bermudans, the Minister of Organization remarked that although that might be so, the Naval Air Station was of tremendous economic value to Bermuda. Even if the Minister's statement is correct, it does not mean that Bermudans should disregard ways of acquiring more revenue and allow themselves to be further exploited by the United States. The United States is installing complicated electronic equipment in Bermuda to facilitate research, constructing housing units at the Naval Air Station and resurfacing the runway of the military airfield. It is evident, therefore, that the United States is using the Territory for its own ends.

(10) The Special Committee notes that the Territory of Guam has been used continuously over the years as an important naval and air force base by the United States. In 1974, Mr. James H. Webb, Jr., a military strategist

from the United States, was engaged by the Guam Environmental Protection Agency to undertake a study on military land use in the Territory. Appearing before the Guam Chamber of Commerce in June 1974, Mr. Webb said that the United States was gradually redeploying its military forces from positions in Asia to areas, including Guam, in which it had more political influence. He predicted that the United States military establishment would consolidate its Pacific forces on a Guam-Tinian (Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) axis during the coming 10 to 15 years. The Special Committee finds that, because of Guam's importance as a military and a naval base, the United States has ensured that every effort of the inhabitants of the Territory to attain independence is frustrated. The United States is aware that as soon as Guam achieves independence, the military and naval presence of the United States in this Territory will be questioned. The Special Committee concludes that the strengthening of United States military installations in Guam and other Pacific Territories is not only impeding the independence of those Territories, but is also threatening the sovereignty and territorial integrity of many independent States in the Pacific region and Asia.

(11) The Special Committee reiterates its previous conclusions concerning all other smaller Territories, including the United States Virgin Islands and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in which the colonial Powers and their allies have continued to use military bases and other installations contrary to the interests of the peoples of these Territories. The Special Committee further draws attention to the fact that in February 1974, the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States agreed in principle to expand the United States facility on Diego García, an island of the Seychelles, to make it a limited support base for the supply and refuelling of warships, including aircraft carriers, and to provide a base for aerial reconnaissance over the western stretches of the Indian Ocean. Expansion of the facility, at an estimated cost of \$US 75 million, is to involve the lengthening of the airport runway to enable it to accommodate almost any type of aircraft, including B-52 Strato-Fortress bombers, deepening of the harbour to accommodate large ships, including aircraft carriers, and an increase in military personnel up to 600 men. The planned expansion aroused strong opposition against military facilities in the majority of States bordering the Indian Ocean.

(12) In view of the General Assembly's recognition of the legitimacy of the struggle of the colonial peoples to exercise their right to self-determination and independence by all the necessary means at their disposal, the Special Committee concludes that the military activities by colonial Powers and the use of military installations in colonial Territories for military operations aimed at suppressing liberation movements, constitute criminal acts, contrary to the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, and are an abuse by the administering Powers of their responsibility towards the peoples under their administration.

(13) The Special Committee reaffirms its conclusions of the previous year in regard to military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers and foreign military bases in the Territories under their administration. 3/

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/9623/Rev.1), chap. V, para. 6.

It confirms once again that such activities, besides creating a threat to international peace and security, are also a serious impediment to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. Their activities are thus contrary to the aims and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and are an abuse by the administering Powers of their responsibilities towards the peoples under their administration.

2. Recommendations

7. On the basis of the above conclusions, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it:

(1) Reaffirm the recommendations contained in its previous reports and emphasize once again that military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the Territories under their administration constitute a serious impediment to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960;

(2) Strongly condemn once again the military and political alliance of South Africa and the illegal régime of Southern Rhodesia in trying to suppress by force of arms the inalienable right of the oppressed peoples of the area to self-determination and independence;

(3) Demand the immediate cessation of wars of oppression against the peoples of the colonial Territories in Africa and their national liberation movements, as well as the urgent withdrawal of all foreign forces from colonial Territories and the dismantling of military bases there;

(4) Demand that the colonial Powers stop using the indigenous inhabitants of dependent Territories as mercenaries in the struggle against the national liberation movements;

(5) Express its support for the legitimate liberation of the colonial peoples against the colonial Powers;

(6) Recognize the right of colonial peoples to regain by all means, including the use of force, their independence and sovereignty;

(7) Appeal to all States to increase effective moral and material assistance to the peoples under colonial domination;

(8) Deplore once again the alienation of land for military installations and the utilization of local economic and manpower resources to service such bases, which hinder the economic development of the Territories and are contrary to the interests of the indigenous population;

(9) Strongly condemn the imperialist countries, principally those of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), for their continued military collaboration and alliance with the colonialist and racist régimes

in southern Africa, aimed at increasing their aggressive potential against the liberation movements and independent States of Africa;

(10) Call upon the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to withdraw from the agreement with the United States of America on the establishment of military installation in the Indian Ocean;

(11) Strongly condemn the military and naval activities of the United States on Guam as they are detrimental to the inherent rights of the peoples of this Territory to self-determination and independence;

(12) Request all States having responsibility for the administration of colonial and Trust Territories to comply unconditionally with the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions in particular paragraph 3 (5) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970 and paragraph 9 of resolution 3328 (XXIX) of 13 December 1974 and request those States to withdraw their military bases and installations immediately and unconditionally from the above-mentioned Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones;

(13) Request the Office of Public Information of the Secretariat to undertake an intensified campaign of publicity with a view to informing world public opinion of the facts concerning military activities and arrangements impeding the implementation of the Declaration contained in resolution 1514 (XV);

(14) Recommend that its Fourth Committee hold a separate debate on this item at its thirtieth session and that, in this regard, the Secretariat be requested to extend such assistance as may be necessary.

ANNEX*

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE I

Chairman: Mr. A. F. AL-MASRI (Syrian Arab Republic)

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.1042.

A. Consideration by the Sub-Committee

1. The Sub-Committee considered the item entitled "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" at its 145th, 146th and 148th meetings, held between 22 April and 25 June 1975 (see A/AC.109/SC.2/SR.145, 146 and 148 and corrigendum).

2. The Sub-Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat containing information on military activities and arrangements in the following Territories: Southern Rhodesia, Namibia, the Seychelles, Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and Guam (see appendices I-VI below). It also had before it the relevant information contained in the general working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the various Territories. a/

3. ...

B. Adoption of the report

4. Having considered the item concerning military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration and having studied all the information available to it, the Sub-Committee adopted conclusions and recommendations on the item at its 148th meeting, on 25 June 1975. b/

5. The Sub-Committee adopted the present report at the same meeting.

a/ See chaps. IX, X, XIV and XXIII-XXVII of the present report (A/10023/Rev.1, vols. II-IV).

b/ The conclusions and recommendations submitted by Sub-Committee I for consideration by the Special Committee were adopted by the latter body without modification and are reproduced in para. 6 of the present chapter.

APPENDIX III

SEYCHELLES

INTRODUCTION

1. Basic information concerning military activities and arrangements in the Seychelles up to 1973 is contained in previous reports of the Special Committee. a/ Supplementary information is set out below (see also chap. XIV of the present report (A/10023/Rev.1, vol. III)).

1. "BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY"

2. The "British Indian Ocean Territory", comprising three islands (Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches), detached from the Seychelles together with the Chagos Archipelago, formerly part of Mauritius, was established as a separate administrative unit in 1965 for the purpose of providing a location for military staging facilities which might be constructed by the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or the United States of America. The islands are widely scattered; Diego García, the largest island in the Chagos group, is situated in the Indian Ocean some 1,200 miles south-west of Sri Lanka and the tip of India. The unit is administered by a Commissioner who is also Governor of the Seychelles.

2. UNITED STATES FACILITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

3. Under the terms of agreements reached in 1966 and 1972 with the Government of the United Kingdom, b/ the United States Government maintains a naval communications facility on Diego García manned by some 375 naval personnel. The facility comprises transmitting and receiving services, an anchorage, an airfield with an 8,000-foot runway and associated logistic support and supply and personnel accommodations. It may be maintained as long as the 1966 agreement continues in force (50 years, renewable for a further 20 years), or until such time as no part of Diego García is required for the purposes of a naval communications facility.

4. Under an agreement concluded with the Government of the United Kingdom on 30 December 1966, the United States maintains a tracking and telemetry station on the island of Mahé in the Seychelles.

a/ For the most recent, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/9623/Rev.1), chap. V, annex, appendix IV.

b/ For details see Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/8723/Rev.1), chap. VI, annex, appendix IV, and ibid., Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/9023/Rev.1), chap. V, annex, appendix IV.

3. PROPOSED EXPANSION OF UNITED STATES PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

5. In February 1974, the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States agreed in principle to expand the United States facility on Diego García to make it a limited support base for the supply and refuelling of warships, including aircraft carriers, and to provide a base for aerial reconnaissance over the western stretches of the Indian Ocean. Expansion of the facility, at an estimated cost of \$US 75 million, was to involve the lengthening of the airport runway to enable it to accommodate almost any type of aircraft, including B-52 Strato-Fortress bombers, deepening of the harbour to accommodate large ships, including aircraft carriers, and an increase in military personnel up to 600 men. c/ Officials of both Governments said that the expansion would serve to balance other activities in the Indian Ocean area and provide a deterrent to the use of force by other Powers.

6. Announcement of the tentative agreement aroused strong opposition to the expansion in the majority of States bordering the Indian Ocean, which had been designated as a zone of peace by the General Assembly in 1971 (resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971). The planned expansion also drew criticism from a number of United States congressmen who expressed the opinion that an extended United States military presence in the Indian Ocean would attract additional naval forces and would lead to a rise in tension in the area.

7. On 3 December 1974, Mr. Roy Mason, the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Defence, presenting the results of the United Kingdom defence review begun in March 1974 to the House of Commons, said that the Government had decided to agree to the "relatively modest expansion" of the facilities on Diego García proposed by the United States. He added that the use of the facilities for other than routine purposes, however, would be a matter for joint decision of the two Governments. Mr. Mason said that the United Kingdom and United States Governments had also agreed to pursue consultations aimed at achieving realistic progress towards arms limitations in the Indian Ocean.

8. As reported in the Congressional Record, in December 1974, the United States Congress decided to delete all funds specifically earmarked for the construction of facilities on Diego García under the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1975, "with the clear understanding" that if neither branch of the Congress adopted a resolution of disapproval, any construction funds available to the Navy and Air Force in the appropriation bill might none the less be utilized to carry out that construction project. The Act provides that before any construction is undertaken the President of the United States must advise Congress in writing "that all military and foreign policy implications regarding the need for United States facilities at Diego García have been evaluated by him and certified to the Congress in writing that the construction of any such project is essential to the national interest of the United States".

9. No further information is available regarding the status of the proposed construction.

c/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/9623/Rev.1), chap. V, annex, appendix IV.

4. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION ON THE INDIAN OCEAN
AS A ZONE OF PEACE

10. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) called upon the great Powers to enter into immediate consultation with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to halting further escalation and expansion of their military presence in the Indian Ocean and eliminating all bases, military installations and logistical supply facilities, as well as any manifestation of great Power military presence conceived in the context of great Power rivalry.

11. In its resolution 3080 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare and transmit to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean d/ a factual statement on all aspects of the military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean, with special reference to their naval deployments, conceived in the context of great Power rivalry. The statement was included in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. e/

12. In its resolution 3259 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, the General Assembly urged the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, the permanent members of the Security Council and other major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to give tangible support to the establishment and preservation of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. It also called upon the great Powers to refrain from increasing and strengthening their military presence in the region of the Indian Ocean as a first step towards the relaxation of tension and the promotion of peace and security in the area. The General Assembly further requested the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to enter, as soon as possible, into consultations with a view to convening a conference on the Indian Ocean.

5. UNITED KINGDOM PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

13. As reported in the press, the United Kingdom white paper presented to the House of Commons on 19 March 1975 by the Secretary of State for Defence indicates that government plans to reduce defence expenditures include the withdrawal of the small number of United Kingdom forces in the Indian Ocean area. The white paper states that any facilities still needed for staging aircraft in the Indian Ocean should be met by the "modest expansion" of United States facilities at Diego García.

d/ The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean was established by General Assembly resolution 2992 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, inter alia, to study practical measures that may be taken in furtherance of General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI).

e/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/9629), annex.



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VOLUME III

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTIETH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 23 (A/10023/Rev.1)

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The report of the Special Committee is divided into four volumes. The present volume contains chapters XIII-XXIV;* volume I, chapters I-VII; volume II, chapters VIII-XII; and volume IV, chapters XXV-XXXII.

* The present version of chapters XIII and XXIV is a consolidation of the following documents as they appeared in provisional form: A/10023/Add.5 of 7 November 1975; A/10023/Add.6 (Parts I and II) of 30 October and 13 November 1975; and A/10023/Add.7 of 29 October 1975.

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* Note by the Rapporteur: see chap. I, para. 8, foot-note 11, for the new designation of the Territory.

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CHAPTER XIV

SEYCHELLES

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee considered the question of the Seychelles at its 1019th and 1020th meetings, on 20 and 21 August 1975.
2. In its consideration of this item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution 3328 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. By paragraph 11 of this resolution, the Assembly requested the Special Committee "to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2621 (XXV) in all Territories which have not yet attained independence and, in particular, to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session". The Special Committee also took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3287 (XXIX) of 13 December 1974 concerning the Seychelles, by paragraph 6 of which the Assembly requested the Committee "to continue its examination of the question, including the dispatch, as appropriate and in consultation with the administering Power, of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory in connexion with the processes leading to the Territory's accession to independence ...".
3. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex I to the present chapter) containing information on developments concerning the Territory. The Special Committee also had before it two letters addressed to the Chairman and the Acting Chairman dated 29 January and 4 April 1975, respectively, from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations, containing information on the Seychelles Constitutional Conference held in London in March 1975 (see annexes II and III to the present chapter).
4. The representative of the United Kingdom, as the administering Power concerned, participated in the work of the Special Committee during its consideration of the item.
5. At the 1019th meeting, on 20 August, the Chairman welcomes Mr. Chamery Chetty, Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Mr. Guy Sinon, Minister of Education and Social Development, of the Seychelles, who were also representing the Seychelles Democratic Party (SDP) and the Seychelles People's United Party (SPUP), respectively, the national liberation movements of the Territory invited by the Special Committee to participate in its consideration of the item. Statements were made by the representative of the United Kingdom, as well as by Mr. Chetty and Mr. Sinon (A/AC.109/PV.1019).

6. At the same meeting, the representatives of India and the Ivory Coast introduced a draft resolution (A/AC.109/L.1061) which was sponsored by Afghanistan, Australia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, the Ivory Coast, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

7. At the 1020th meeting, on 21 August, the sponsors of the draft resolution submitted a revised draft resolution (A/AC.109/L.1061/Rev.1), by which the phrase "and bearing in mind in particular the statements made by the representatives of the Government of the Seychelles in that regard" was added at the end of the last preambular paragraph.

8. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the revised draft resolution (A/AC.109/L.1061/Rev.1) (see para.10 below). Statements were made by the Chairman, by Mr. Sinon and Mr. Chetty and by the representative of the United Kingdom (A/AC.109/PV.1020 and Corr.1).

9. On 26 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/504) was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations for the attention of his Government.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

10. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/504) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1020th meeting, on 21 August, to which reference is made in paragraph 8 above, is reproduced below:

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of the Seychelles,

Having heard the statements of the representatives of the Government of the Seychelles, 1/

Having heard the statement of the administering Power, 2/

Recalling the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Noting with satisfaction that, as a result of the constitutional conference held at London in March 1975 in which both political parties fully participated, a coalition Government was established in the Territory,

1/ A/AC.109/PV.1019.

2/ Ibid.

Noting the expressed desire of the Government of the Seychelles that the Territory should attain independence not later than June 1976 and the continued readiness of the administering Power to grant independence to the people of the Seychelles in accordance with their wishes,

Further noting that an electoral review commission is being established with a view to agreeing on the system of elections and the size and composition of the legislature and that a renewed conference is envisaged in early 1976 to work out the provisions of an independence constitution,

Mindful of the stated position of the Government of the Seychelles with regard to the territorial integrity of the Seychelles and bearing in mind in particular the statements made by the representatives of the Government of the Seychelles in that regard, 3/

1. Takes note once again of the united wish of the people of the Seychelles to achieve independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);
2. Requests the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, to continue to take all the necessary steps to assist the people of the Seychelles in their efforts to achieve self-determination and independence not later than June 1976;
3. Stresses the responsibility of the United Nations to render all possible assistance to the people of the Seychelles in their efforts to consolidate their national independence and, to that end, invites the specialized agencies and the institutions associated with the United Nations to work out concrete programmes of assistance to the Seychelles;
4. Decides to keep the question of the Seychelles under review.

3/ Ibid.

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Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.1010.

SEYCHELLES a/

b/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session,
Supplement No. 23 (A/9023/Rev.1), chap. X, annex I.

E. "British Indian Ocean Territory"

18. As previously reported, d/ under a United Kingdom Order-in-Council dated 8 November 1965, three of the islands of the Seychelles (Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches) were administratively detached from the Territory. The three islands, together with the Chagos Archipelago, which is about 1,900 kilometres north-east of Mauritius, form a separate administrative unit entitled the "British Indian Ocean Territory". According to the administering Power, this arrangement was made with the consent of the Governments of Mauritius and the Seychelles. Diego García, the major island in the Chagos Archipelago, is equidistant from the east coast of Africa, the north shore of the Indian Ocean and the west coast of Australia.

d/ Ibid., para. 21.

19. It will be recalled that on 24 October 1972, the United Kingdom Government published an agreement between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America concerning the construction of a limited United States naval communications facility on Diego García (see also A/10023 (vol. I), chap. VI, annex, appendix III).

20. According to press reports, there has been a step-by-step expansion at Diego García of the United States "military defence complex", including the setting up of a telecommunications and tracking station, with a complement of 275 men; the launching of a satellite into stationary orbit directly over Diego García; and the construction of a 2,500-metre landing strip. In February 1974, the United States and United Kingdom Governments agreed, in principle, to the expansion of the facilities, including the construction of a permanent base for 600 men; a 4,000-metre runway long enough to accommodate B-52s; silos for nuclear warheads; and facilities in the lagoon to accommodate a squadron of 12 warships, including nuclear-propelled submarines armed with long-range, nuclear ballistic missiles.

21. The question of the "British Indian Ocean Territory" is a point of difference between SDP and SPUP. Whereas SDP supports the construction of a naval communication facility on Diego García as being in the interests of political stability in the Indian Ocean area, SPUP opposes what it considers to be attempts by the United Kingdom and the United States "to turn the Indian Ocean into an area of big power conflict".



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CHAPTER X

SEYCHELLES

A. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. The Special Committee considered the question of the Seychelles at its 1028th meeting, on 23 February 1976.
2. In its consideration of this item, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including in particular resolution 3481 (XXX) of 11 December 1975 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. By paragraph 11 of this resolution, the Assembly requested the Special Committee "to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories which have not yet attained independence and, in particular, ... to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session". The Special Committee also took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3430 (XXX) of 8 December 1975 concerning the Seychelles, by paragraph 5 of which the Assembly requested the Committee "to keep the situation in the Territory under review".
3. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex I to the present chapter) containing information on developments concerning the Territory. The Special Committee also had before it a letter dated 10 February 1976 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman, forwarding to the Committee a copy of the final communiqué of the Seychelles Constitutional Conference held at London in January 1976 (see annex II to the present chapter).
4. The representative of the United Kingdom, as the administering Power, participated in the work of the Special Committee during its consideration of the item.
5. At the 1028th meeting, on 23 February, the Chairman made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1028 and corrigendum). The representative of the United Kingdom made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1028 and corrigendum). Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, Indonesia, Iran, India, Australia, Norway, Trinidad and Tobago and China, as well as by the Assistant Executive Secretary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the United Nations (A/AC.109/PV.1028 and corrigendum).
6. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted without objection the text of a statement concerning the accession of the Seychelles to independence (A/AC.109/515) prepared by the Chairman on the basis of consultations (see para. 10 below). Following this decision, the representative of the United Kingdom made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1028 and corrigendum).

7. The Special Committee subsequently took note of a telegram dated 25 February 1976 addressed to the Chairman by the Prime Minister of the Seychelles (A/AC.109/516), in which, inter alia, he expressed the thanks of the Government and people of the Seychelles "for the interest taken by the Committee over the years" with regard to his country's "march towards nationhood".

8. On 24 February, the text of the statement adopted by the Committee (A/AC.109/515) was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations for the attention of his Government.

9. The Special Committee was represented at the ceremonies marking the accession to independence of the Seychelles on 29 June by its Chairman, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations.

B. DECISION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

10. The text of the statement (A/AC.109/515) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1028th meeting, on 23 February, to which reference is made in paragraph 6 above, is reproduced below:

(1) The Special Committee wishes to record its satisfaction at the conclusion of the agreement between the Governments of the Seychelles and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the resumed Seychelles Constitutional Conference, held in January 1976, envisaging the entry into force of an independence constitution for the Seychelles, at midnight on 28 June 1976.

(2) The Special Committee wishes to pay a particular tribute to the Government and the people of the Seychelles on their achievements and to extend to them its warm congratulations and best wishes for peace, happiness and prosperity on the attainment of their independence. The Special Committee also wishes to pay tribute to the Government of the United Kingdom for the discharge of its obligations as the administering Power in relation to the Seychelles.

(3) The Special Committee expresses its confidence that the international community will render all possible assistance to the Government and the people of the Seychelles for the consolidation of their independence.

ANNEX I*

WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.1067 and Corr.1.

SEYCHELLES a/

a/ The information presented in this section is derived from published sources and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations on 6 August 1975 for the year ending 31 December 1974.

E. "British Indian Ocean Territory"

22. As previously reported, under a United Kingdom Order-in-Council dated 8 November 1965, Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches were administratively detached from the Territory. c/ The three islands, together with the Chagos Archipelago, which is about 1,900 kilometres north-east of Mauritius, form a separate administrative unit entitled the "British Indian Ocean Territory". According to the administering Power, this arrangement was made with the consent of the Governments of Mauritius and the Seychelles. Diego García, the major island in the Chagos Archipelago, is equidistant from the east coast of Africa, the north shore of the Indian Ocean and the west coast of Australia.

23. It will be recalled that on 24 October 1972, the United Kingdom Government published an agreement between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America concerning the construction of a limited United States naval communications facility on Diego García.

c/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/10023/Rev.1), vol. III, chap. XIV, annex I, para. 18.

**General Assembly**

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NATIONAL REPORT SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 15(a)
OF THE ANNEX TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 5/1*

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

UK NATIONAL REPORT

A: Methodology and Consultation process

1. The United Kingdom's national report for this review has been prepared in line with the guidance provided in the *Elements for a Roadmap* based on resolution 5/1 made on 18 June 2007 by the Human Rights Council, and on the *General Guidelines for the Preparation of information under the Universal Periodic Review* contained in Document A/HRC/6/L.24. The national report covers the metropolitan area of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (including the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), the United Kingdom's Crown Dependencies, and the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories.
2. All the major Departments of State in the United Kingdom, and the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the UK Crown Dependencies and the UK Overseas Territories have been involved in the drafting of the report.
3. In the process of producing the report, the United Kingdom Government has formally consulted the two established national human rights institutions, a range of non-governmental organisations active in the promotion of human rights, and members of civil society expert in human rights. Consultation took place at an early stage of drafting, and again before the report was finalised.

B: Country Background

Government

4. The United Kingdom is a unitary State comprising England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories are not part of the UK, but the UK is responsible for their external affairs (see paragraphs 6 to 9 below). England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have separate legal systems. However some Acts of Parliament (including the Human Rights Act 1998) apply throughout the United Kingdom.
5. Since May 1997, the Government has introduced substantial devolution of powers to Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland as part of its wider programme of constitutional reform. The people of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland now have separate democratically-elected legislatures of their own - the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh and Northern Ireland Assemblies - giving them a greater say in the management of their day-to-day affairs, though they maintain the close links that have existed for centuries within the United Kingdom. The Westminster Parliament continues to legislate on certain matters that affect the whole of the United Kingdom - such as foreign affairs, defence and macro-economic policy - responsibility for which has not been transferred to the devolved administrations.

Crown Dependencies

6. The UK Crown Dependencies (CDs) are the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey and the Isle of Man. The CDs are not part of the United Kingdom (UK), but are self-governing dependencies of the Crown. They have their own directly elected

legislative assemblies, administrative, fiscal and legal systems and their own courts of law. The CDs are not represented in the UK parliament and UK legislation does not extend to them.

7. The UK Government is constitutionally responsible for the defence and international representation of the CDs, and for their good government. This means that in circumstances such as a grave breakdown or failure in the administration of justice or civil order, the residual prerogative power of the Crown could be used to intervene in the internal affairs of the CDs.

Overseas Territories

8. The British Overseas Territories (OTs) comprise Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, British Antarctic Territory, the British Indian Ocean Territory, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, the Pitcairn Islands, St Helena and its dependencies (Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha) and the Turks and Caicos Islands; the territories of the British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, which have no indigenous population; and the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia in Cyprus.
9. The OTs have their own constitutions and domestic laws. Depending on their stage of constitutional development, OTs have a substantial measure of responsibility for the conduct of their internal affairs. However, under most of the constitutions, Her Majesty's Government, via Governors, retains responsibility for the OTs' internal security, defence and external affairs. Responsibility for external affairs includes ensuring that the OTs fulfil their obligations under the international human rights instruments that have been extended to them, or any obligations that an OT has entered into itself.

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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Eighth session
Agenda item 6**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW****Letter dated 16 April 2008 from the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mauritius addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council**

The Republic of Mauritius wishes to refer to the national report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland submitted for the purpose of the universal periodic review held on 10 April 2008, in particular to paragraph 8 of sub-section B, entitled “Country Background – Overseas Territories”, wherein the so-called “British Overseas Territories” are said to comprise, inter alia, the so-called “British Indian Ocean Territory”.

The Republic of Mauritius wishes to reiterate that the Chagos Archipelago, including the island of Diego Garcia, forms part of the Republic of Mauritius and was unlawfully excised from the territory of Mauritius by the United Kingdom, in total disregard of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965. The Republic of Mauritius does not recognize the so-called “British Indian Ocean Territory” or any “British Overseas Territory” insofar as these terms purport to describe or refer to the Chagos Archipelago, and continues to press in all relevant forums for the early and unconditional return of the Chagos Archipelago to the Republic of Mauritius.

The Republic of Mauritius would be grateful if its comments could be circulated as a document of the Council.

*(Signed)***S.B.C. Servansing**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Republic of Mauritius



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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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Agenda item 3

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 5 March 2008 from the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland wishes that the following comments be placed on record with regard to the intervention made by Mauritius at the High-level Segment of the seventh session of the Human Rights Council on the morning of Wednesday, 5 March 2008:

“The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory, which was ceded to Britain in 1814 and has been a British dependency ever since.

As we have reiterated on many occasions, we have undertaken to cede the Territory to Mauritius when it is no longer required for defence purposes.”

The United Kingdom would be grateful if its comments could be circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Nicholas **Thorne**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland

**General Assembly**

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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Eighth session
Agenda item 6

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review****United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ***

* Previously issued under the symbol A/HRC/WG.6/1/GBR/4; minor revisions have been added under the authority of the secretariat of the Human Rights Council, on the basis of editorial changes made by States through the ad referendum procedure. Annex is circulated as received.

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its first session from 7 to 18 April 2008. The review of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was held at the 7th meeting on 10 April 2008. The delegation of the United Kingdom was headed by H.E. Michael Wills, Minister of State for Justice. For the composition of the delegation, composed of 23 members, see appendix below. At its 11th meeting held on 14 April 2008, the Working Group adopted the present report on the United Kingdom.
2. On 28 February 2008, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the United Kingdom: Egypt, the Russian Federation and Bangladesh.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1, the following documents were issued for the review of the United Kingdom:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/1/GBR/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/1/GBR/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR, in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/1/GBR/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy and Sweden was transmitted to the United Kingdom through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the Universal Periodic Review.

I. SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE REVIEW PROCESS

A. Presentation by the State under review

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

47. The United Kingdom responded to questions on six themes. Firstly, it referred to a 2007 action plan on violence against women which brings together existing measures and plans to deliver key objectives on sexual violence, and to a further report that was presented this month, stating that it will continue to take this issue seriously. Second, regarding questions from Sweden and Algeria about counter-terrorism measures and proposals for pre-charge detention, the United Kingdom stressed that such measures are proportionate, with built-in parliamentary and judicial safeguards, and that a judge can authorize continued detention only if he/she is satisfied that it is necessary and the investigation is being carried out diligently and expeditiously. Third, regarding a question from the Republic of Korea on the issue of the British Indian Ocean Territory and the rights of the Ilois, as asked by the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom stated that it does not consider article 2(2) of ICCPR relevant to this territory or that a separate report is required. There is no permanent population and the Ilois had been granted right of abode in the United Kingdom. Fourth, with regard to questions about section 19(d) of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act, the United Kingdom considered that this enables immigration officers to subject certain nationals to extra scrutiny, rather than discrimination – these nationalities are the ones that present the greatest risk of a breach of immigration laws. The list of such nationalities is updated on a monthly basis and is approved by a Minister, and the United Kingdom does not discriminate on the basis of colour or race. Fifth, the United Kingdom noted, in response to Azerbaijan, that since in the United Kingdom system, international treaties are not incorporated immediately into domestic law, it will not ratify a treaty unless it is satisfied that domestic law enables it to comply with such treaty or until the necessary changes to domestic law have been approved through the parliamentary process. Sixth, with regard to New Zealand's question about the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the United Kingdom indicated that it was an important institutional innovation and would be a major contributor to several areas of human rights protection.

UNITED
NATIONS

A



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NATIONAL REPORT SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 15 (A)
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Mauritius

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

I. METHODOLOGY AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

1. The Mauritius national report for this review has been prepared in line with the guidance provided in the “Elements for a Roadmap” based on Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007 and on the “General Guidelines for the Preparation of Information under the Universal Periodic Review” contained in Human Rights Council decision 6/102. The national report covers the islands of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agalega, Tromelin, Cargados Carajos and the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, and every other island comprised in the State of Mauritius.

2. In the process of producing the report, Government has invited for consultation established national human rights institutions and a range of non-governmental organisations active in the promotion of human rights. The consultation meeting was chaired by the Attorney-General. Many of those institutions and organisations made verbal as well as written submissions which were taken into consideration in the finalisation of this report.

II. COUNTRY BACKGROUND AND HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

3. The Republic of Mauritius, found in the south-west of the Indian Ocean, consists of the islands of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agalega, Tromelin, Cargados Carajos and the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia. It has a population of about 1.2 million. Mauritius obtained its independence from Great Britain in 1968. Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain was the Head of State until 1992 when Mauritius became a Republic. There exists a parliamentary democracy led by the Prime Minister as the Head of Government. The Head of State is the President of the Republic who is elected by a majority of all members of the Assembly on a motion made by the Prime Minister.

4. The State of Mauritius holds free and fair national and local elections at regular intervals. The conduct of these elections is supervised by an independent Electoral Supervisory Commission. The National Assembly consists of 70 members of whom 62 are elected in accordance with the first-past-the-post system and the remaining eight are allocated seats from among the best losers at general elections on a communal and party basis. Government is in the process of consultation with the main political parties on the reform of the electoral system. In 2002, provision was made for a decentralized form of Government in the island of Rodrigues by setting up the Rodrigues Regional Assembly which is responsible for the formulation and implementation of policy for specified matters in relation to Rodrigues (such as agriculture, child development, employment, environment and tourism). Regional Assembly Laws may be adopted in relation to those areas of responsibility. Members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly are elected by citizens of Mauritius who are residents of Rodrigues.

5. The judicial system in Mauritius is largely inspired by British traditions which advocate the adversarial system of litigation. It consists of the Supreme Court, the Intermediate Court and the District Courts which all have jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters as well as the Industrial Court which hears industrial disputes. The Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction to hear and determine any civil or criminal proceedings.

6. The Supreme Court is the principal court of original criminal jurisdiction and holds sessions for the dispatch of criminal business. Those criminal trials before the Supreme Court are held before a Presiding Judge and a jury consisting of nine persons, and relate to very serious offences such as murder and manslaughter. Provision is also made for the prosecution of certain

offences, including offences under the Dangerous Drugs Act, before a Judge of the Supreme Court without a jury.

7. In addition, under section 82 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court has jurisdiction to supervise any civil or criminal proceedings before any subordinate court and make such orders as it considers necessary. The Supreme Court also has an appellate jurisdiction whereby it can review the decision of one of its own judges sitting at first instance or those of subordinate courts.

8. Final decisions of the Supreme Court are subject to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on matters of great general or public importance and in other circumstances laid down in the Constitution. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council sat for the first time in Mauritius in September this year, in line with ongoing reforms of the judicial system aiming at providing better access to justice to citizens of Mauritius.

9. The Mauritian Government believes that economic, social and cultural rights are as important as civil and political rights. The economy is based on export-oriented manufacturing (mainly textiles), sugar, tourism and services. According to the latest United Nations Human Development Report, Mauritius ranks among those countries with a high level of human development. Average rates of growth have averaged 5 per cent and per income capita now exceeds US\$6,000. Moreover the country has attained most of the targets related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

10. Based on the World Bank international poverty lines of \$1 and \$2 a day, absolute poverty remains negligible in the country. Using the \$1 parameter, the proportion of poor people stands at less than 1 per cent while with the \$2/day poverty line, it is estimated at less than 1.5 per cent. However, on the basis of a relative poverty line defined by half median monthly household income per adult equivalent, the proportion of poor people was estimated at 8.5 per cent in 2006/2007 compared to 7.8 per cent in 2001/02. The share of the poorest quintile in national consumption stood at 7.6 per cent in both 2001/2002 and 2006/2007.

11. Given this situation, eradicating absolute poverty has become a priority for the Government and presently, this is high on the Government agenda, as indicated in the recent Budget. A series of measures have been announced to tackle the issue. A special Committee for the Eradication of Absolute Poverty (EAP) has been set up, which comprises all stakeholders, namely the public sector, the private sector and non-governmental organisations to look into the specific needs of the poor, provide urgent assistance and lend support to the children and the unemployed in the pockets of poverty. A five track partnership is being established, bringing together the entire range of social partner, including the socio-cultural organisations, NGOs, the corporate sector, development partners and the various levels of Government. The overall objective is to eradicate all cases of absolute poverty in the country within a span of seven to ten years.

12. It is estimated that Mauritius has a workforce of about 500 000 people amongst whom around 70 000 are in public employment. The Pay Research Bureau determines the salaries and other conditions of employment for public sector employees. On the recommendation of the National Remuneration Board, Government establishes minimum wages which vary according to the sector of employment. Government also reviews minimum wages each year based, inter alia, on inflation. The actual income for most workers is higher than the recommended minimum wages, due to the present shortage of labour. The standard legal number of working hours is embodied in the concept of the 45-hour week and (in the sugar industry) the 40-hour week.

Factory inspectors of the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment ensure that employers comply with health and safety requirements set by Government. Sanctions of a penal nature are provided for by law in cases of non-compliance with the said requirements. Mauritius is committed to safeguarding workers' rights and has ratified the eight core ILO Conventions pertaining to fundamental principles and rights at work.

13. In the context of the policy of Government to maintain the welfare state, free health services are available to the population. Private clinics also exist to cater for the needs of those who choose to pay for their treatment. The child mortality rate was 0.4 in 2007 for a total population of 1 223 089. Education is free up to the tertiary level whilst primary and secondary education is compulsory by law for all children up to the age of 16, including children with disabilities. Government has come up with a Policy Paper to promote the concept of inclusive education by integrating, as far as possible, children with disabilities in mainstream schools.

14. Elderly persons aged 60 years and above, widows under 60 years, invalid persons aged between 15 and 59 and orphans up to the age of 15, or 20 if at school, are entitled to the payment of a basic (non-contributory) pension on a universal basis. Furthermore, needy and destitute families are given social aid, unemployed heads of households with insufficient resources are eligible for unemployment hardship relief and all students, elderly persons and disabled persons are entitled to unlimited free public transport. Income support for purchase of rice and flour is given to about 50,000 needy families. The Protection of Elderly Persons Act 2006 provides for the protection of the elderly against abuse; persons who willfully subject elderly persons to ill-treatment or willfully fail to provide elderly persons under their care with adequate food, medical attention, shelter and clothing are liable to be prosecuted. The Elderly Persons' Protection Unit organizes public awareness and sensitization campaigns on elderly persons' rights, receives complaints from elderly persons in need of protection and may apply to the Court for a protection order on their behalf.

15. Mauritius has developed a National Gender Policy Framework (2008) to provide broad guidelines for the implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies. The Gender Unit within the Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare monitors the implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies for the empowerment of women and promotion of gender equality and equity. It conducts outreach activities at grassroots level through 15 Women Centres, the National Women's Council, the National Women Entrepreneur Council, the National Women Development Centre and some 1200 Women's Associations with respect to capacity building, service delivery and sensitisation campaigns for the empowerment of women, as well as gender mainstreaming at policy, programming and output level with Ministries, Departments and other stakeholders in line with the National Gender Policy Framework and the recent reforms towards effective public financial management and performance management.

16. As from July 2008, the Gender Unit is offering technical assistance to all Ministries to help them design their own sectoral gender policy, so that programmes and performance indicators of sectoral Ministries are gender-responsive and adequately reflected in the budget. The Gender Unit is currently working with three pilot Ministries on designing their sectoral gender policy.

17. The Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare set up a Family Welfare and Protection Unit in July 2003, the main aims of which are to implement appropriate policies and strategies to promote family welfare and combat domestic violence. The Unit has a network of 6 Regional Offices known as Family Support Bureaux where the

following services are provided, free of charge, to families and children in distress: psychological and legal counselling; assistance to adult victims of domestic violence; assistance to children who are victims of abuse; and individual, couple and mass counseling on all family-related problems. Hotlines are also operational on a 24-hour basis to cater for family-related problems and officers intervene promptly to provide assistance to victims.

18. Conscious of the need to address the issue of domestic violence in a comprehensive manner, the Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare has adopted a broad framework to respond to domestic violence, focusing on prevention (campaigns, regular talks and activities are organized in different regions falling under the purview of the Family Support Bureaux to sensitise the public at large on issues pertaining to domestic violence), innovative projects (including Zero Tolerance Clubs, Anger Management Programmes and 'Men as Partners' Programmes), capacity building (through training of service-providers, including medical practitioners, magistrates and police officers, to improve responses to cases of domestic violence) and forging social coalitions between Ministries, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations (a Partnership against Family Violence Committee has been set up to provide a coordinated approach to combat domestic violence).

19. The Protection from Domestic Violence Act which was enacted in 1997 and amended in 2004 and 2007 affords protection to the spouse of, as well as other persons living under the same roof as, a violent person. The Act provides for the issue of protection orders, occupation orders and tenancy orders by a Magistrate and affords protection against physical, emotional, sexual violence and even threatened violence. A person who has wilfully failed to comply with an order made under the Act may, in appropriate cases, be ordered to attend counseling sessions.

20. There is no State religion and the Government does not interfere with or restrict worship by any religious denomination. Freedom of conscience and religion as propounded in the Constitution is of special importance in view of the social fabric of the Mauritian society which comprises of various races, cultures and religions. The Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of creed.

21. Freedom of the press is an essential component of the right to freedom of expression as enjoyed under section 12 of the Constitution. The local media enjoy a long tradition of freedom and pluralism. There are eight dailies (five in English and French and three in Chinese) and about 50 weeklies, fortnightlies and monthlies. The audiovisual landscape consists of the national radio and television broadcaster, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC), and three private radio stations. The MBC operates on a twenty-four hour basis on three analogue and 12 digital television channels and three FM and two AM radio channels, in a dozen languages. The Independent Broadcasting Authority regulates broadcasting in Mauritius, deals with the licensing of new radio and television channels and the devising of parameters and criteria for the authorisation of new channels, including guidelines for programmes, safeguards against indecency and sanctioning non-conformity with established standards.

22. Government intends to review the media landscape and to bring about reform in media law. In this context, Geoffrey Robertson, Q.C, a well-known authority on media law in Commonwealth States, was invited by Government in May 2008 to advise Government on the appropriate media framework for the benefit of both the public and Government. During his visit, he interacted with media organisations and other stakeholders. He is expected to submit his report in November 2008.

A. The Constitution

23. The Constitution of Mauritius, a written document bequeathed to Mauritius by an Order-in-Council of the British Government at the time of independence in 1968, is based on the Westminster model and rests on two fundamental tenets: the rule of law and the doctrine of the separation of powers. It is provided under section 1 of the Constitution that the Republic of Mauritius shall be a “sovereign democratic State”, this being clearly in consonance with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under Chapter II of the Constitution which is largely inspired from the European Convention on Human Rights. Those fundamental rights and freedoms include the right to life, the right to personal liberty, protection from slavery and forced labour, protection from inhuman treatment, protection from deprivation of property, protection of the law, freedom of conscience, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, freedom of movement and protection from discrimination.

24. The Constitution being the “supreme law of Mauritius”, it is the duty of the Courts not only to interpret but also to ensure compliance with its provisions. It is up to the Supreme Court to determine the validity of any statute which is alleged to be unconstitutional; any law which contravenes the Constitution is, to the extent of the inconsistency, void. The Constitution itself makes provision under section 17 for redress to be afforded by the Supreme Court to any individual whose rights under Chapter II have been, are being or are likely to be contravened.

25. The Constitution provides for the independence of the Judiciary not only vis-à-vis the Legislature and the Executive but also vis-à-vis other political or social forces, as illustrated by the entrenched provisions governing the appointment of Judges, their terms of office and security of tenure, the provisions governing their removal in case of misconduct and the oath which they are required to honour under Chapter VII of the Constitution.

B. Legislation

26. In recent years, a number of human rights-related enactments have been passed in Mauritius. The Truth and Justice Commission Act which was passed a few months ago provides for the setting up of the Truth and Justice Commission which shall conduct inquiries into slavery and indentured labour during the colonial period in Mauritius, determine appropriate measures to be extended to descendants of slaves and indentured labourers, enquire into complaints made by persons aggrieved by dispossession or prescription of any land in which they claim to have an interest and prepare a comprehensive report of its activities and findings based on factual and objective information and evidence. Once the Act is proclaimed, the Commission will be expected to complete its assignment and submit its report within a period of 24 months.

27. Measures are being taken to incorporate international norms into our domestic legislation. In particular, the definition of “torture” in the Convention against Torture was incorporated in section 78 of the Criminal Code in 2003 which provides for the offence of “Torture by public official.”

28. The HIV and AIDS Act which was passed in 2006 and proclaimed in 2007 provides for a rights-based approach to HIV and AIDS-related issues, and aims in particular at protecting persons living with HIV and AIDS from discrimination. One of the objects of the Act is to respond to the escalating HIV/AIDS epidemic being witnessed in Mauritius through enhanced HIV prevention programmes and scaled up national mechanisms for voluntary counselling and testing. Provision is made for the introduction of risk minimization interventions, namely the

Needle Exchange Programme. The Civil Status Act was amended in order to allow marriages between a Mauritian citizen and a non-citizen who is HIV positive or has AIDS.

29. In order to reform the industrial relations framework, promote effective tripartism and strengthen dialogue with social partners, a new Employment Relations Act was passed in August 2008. The Act focuses on, inter alia, the protection and enhancement of the democratic rights of workers and trade unions, the simplification of the procedures for registration and recognition of trade unions, the promotion of collective bargaining, the promotion of voluntary settlement and peaceful resolution of disputes, the strengthening of the disputes and conflict resolution procedures and institutions to ensure speedy and effective settlement, the right to strike as a last resort after conciliation and mediation have failed and the building of a productive employment relationship.

30. The Employment Rights Act, which was passed at the same time, aims at achieving the flexibility needed for creating demand for labour, together with security needed to protect the worker as he or she switches between jobs. The object of the Act is to revise and consolidate the law relating to employment, contracts of employment or service, the minimum age for employment, hours of work, payment of remuneration and other basic terms and conditions of employment with a view to ensuring appropriate protection of workers. Both the Employment Relations Bill and the Employment Rights Bill were widely discussed with national stakeholders and experts from the International Labour Organization before they were introduced in the National Assembly.

C. National jurisprudence

31. Our Constitution has conferred on the Judiciary the role of ensuring the proper functioning of a democratic society. The Judiciary under our Constitution operates within a system where the legislative and executive powers of the State are separate from those of the Judiciary. It is charged with the special duty of ensuring that legislative and executive powers are exercised in accordance with the Constitution and within the limits authorised by the Constitution. It is also charged with the duty to safeguard fundamental rights themselves which may be at risk in the exercise of legislative or executive powers.

32. Any person whose rights under Chapter II of the Constitution has been, is being or is likely to be contravened may apply to the Supreme Court for redress. Any law which is inconsistent with the Constitution shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be void. Acts of public bodies may also be challenged in Court by way of applications for Judicial Review on grounds of illegality, “Wednesbury” unreasonableness, abuse of power and procedural impropriety.

33. In recent years, the Supreme Court and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council have declared unconstitutional a section of the Constitution, as well as a section of the Dangerous Drugs Act, which provided for automatic denial of bail to an accused party who was arrested for a drug offence and had already been convicted of such an offence. Those provisions were held to contravene the principle of separation of powers implicit in section 1 of the Constitution. It was held that the granting of bail is essentially a judicial function.

34. The Supreme Court has also held last year that mandatory sentences were unconstitutional in that the indiscriminate imposition of a fixed term of penal servitude in all cases in which an accused party had been convicted of a particular offence contravened the

principle of proportionality, amounted to inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment and was incompatible with the concept of a fair hearing.

D. Human rights infrastructure

1. National Human Rights Commission

35. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was established under the Protection of Human Rights Act 1998 and is operational since April 2001. It was granted accreditation by the International Coordination Committee of National Human Rights Institutions in 2002 and is governed by the Principles Relating to the Status of National Institutions, Competence and Responsibilities (“Paris Principles”). The Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the International Coordination Committee of National Human Rights Institutions has recommended in April 2008 that the Commission be re-accredited Status A.

36. The NHRC mainly enquires into complaints from persons alleging violation of their rights under Chapter II of the Constitution by the acts of public bodies or public officers and complaints against acts of members of the police force. It can also enquire of its own motion into such acts. Its functions also include visiting police stations, prisons and other places of detention to study detainees’ living conditions.

37. Several recommendations were made by the NHRC in its annual report for the year 2007. These related mainly to economic, social and cultural rights, the police, prisons, sex discrimination and the administration of justice. Its recommendations, inter alia, are as follows:

- (a) a future new Constitution should provide explicitly for the protection and promotion of economic, social and cultural rights;
- (b) measures be taken to ensure the impartiality of disciplinary action against police officers;
- (c) police investigations should respect certain rules aimed at protecting the right to liberty and measures should be taken to prevent the recurrence of death in police custody;
- (d) measures should be taken to rationalize the system of inspection of prisons and the processing of complaints and remission should be reintroduced even for serious crimes and proper medical care should be afforded to prisoners who are genuinely ill;
- (e) consideration should be given to the setting up of an open prison for women;
- (f) sex offenders should be tried as soon as possible after the commission of the offence and where appropriate, should be given psychological treatment and released on parole with the necessary safeguards;
- (g) a simplified version of all laws, especially new laws, should be published in Creole.

38. The Sex Discrimination Division, which is part of the National Human Rights Commission, was set up under the Sex Discrimination Act 2002 and is empowered to receive and enquire into any written complaint relating to alleged infringements of the Act. The Sex Discrimination Act 2002 which came into operation on 8 March 2003 is designed “to provide for the elimination of all forms of gender discrimination and sexual harassment in certain areas of

public activity.” The Act prohibits discrimination in employment: no employer is allowed, in relation to recruitment, selection or employment, to discriminate on the grounds of sex, marital status, pregnancy or family responsibility. Discrimination in education, in accommodation, in the disposal of property, in companies and partnerships, in clubs is strictly prohibited under the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act.

2. Office of the Ombudsperson for Children

39. The office of the Ombudsperson for Children was established under the Ombudsperson for Children Act 2003. The objective of the office is to ensure that the rights, needs and interests of the children are given full consideration by public bodies, private authorities, individuals and associations for individuals, to promote the rights and best interests of children, to promote compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

40. The Ombudsperson for Children has the role of an advocate for children’s rights, advises the Minister and other public bodies and institutions on matters relating to promotion and protection of children’s rights and carries out such investigations as she may decide, on complaints relating to the rights of the child.

3. The Ombudsman

41. The office of the Ombudsman was created under section 96 of the Constitution in 1968 in order to address issues arising from alleged maladministration in the public sector and wrongs that may be found to have been committed. The Ombudsman does so through independent, objective and impartial investigations initiated upon receipt of written complaints or acting on his own initiative. He attempts to strike a fair balance between what the citizen expects from Government services (including local authorities) and the Government (or local authority) that provides these services.

42. The Ombudsman’s ultimate objective is to bring about a public service culture characterized by fairness, openness and accountability.

4. Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy

43. The Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy is an extra-judicial body set up under the Constitution, which advises the President of the Republic on the granting of pardons or respites, either indefinite or for a specified period, of the execution of any punishment imposed on that person, the substitution of a less severe form of punishment for any punishment imposed or the remission of the whole or part of any punishment imposed on that person for an offence or of any penalty or forfeiture otherwise due to the State on account of any offence.

5. Commissions set up under the Constitution

44. The Constitution provides for the establishment of a Public Service Commission which appoints persons to hold or act in any office in the public service, exercises disciplinary control over such persons and, where necessary, removes them from office. The Constitution equally provides for a Disciplined Forces Service Commission which has the power to appoint persons to hold or act in any office in the disciplined forces (including the police force) and to exercise disciplinary control over such persons as well as the power to remove such persons from office.

45. The Electoral Supervisory Commission has general responsibility for the registration of electors and supervises the conduct of elections. The Electoral Boundaries Commission set up

under section 38 of the Constitution is responsible for the review of the boundaries of the constituencies and is empowered to make recommendations for any alterations to be brought to the boundaries of the constituencies.

6. Data Protection Commissioner

46. The Data Protection Act 2004 provides for the setting up of a Data Protection Office to be headed by a Commissioner. The object of the Act is mainly to provide for the protection of the privacy rights of individuals in the light of developments in the techniques used to capture, transmit, and manipulate, record or store data relating to individuals.

7. Independent Commission against Corruption

47. The Prevention against Corruption Act 2002 establishes the Independent Commission against Corruption which has wide investigative powers with regard to alleged complaints of corruption and money-laundering. Its functions also include educating the public against corruption, advising and assisting public bodies on ways and means in which corruption may be eliminated and advising public bodies on the adoption of codes of conduct.

8. Law Reform Commission

48. The Law Reform Commission, which is a statutory body, is responsible for keeping under review in a systematic way the laws of Mauritius and making recommendations for their reform and development. Over the past year, the Commission has produced Discussion Papers and Reports on matters such as “The Criminal Justice System and the Constitutional Rights of Accused Parties” and “Access to Justice and Limitation of Actions against Public Officers and the State”, which are being considered by Government.

E. International obligations

49. Mauritius is party to the major United Nations instruments, amongst which are the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Government endeavours to honour its obligations under those instruments by, inter alia, ensuring that its laws and policies are compliant with those instruments and submitting periodic reports to the respective treaty bodies

50. Mauritius signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in September 2007 and is committed to upholding and applying its provisions. Government has come up with a Policy Paper and Plan of Action on Disability which contains a series of measures relating to health, education, training, employment, human rights, sports, leisure, transport, communication and accessibility. In this context, an Implementation and Monitoring Committee has been set up to work on the implementation of the recommendations of the Action Plan and early ratification of the Convention.

51. Mauritius is also a party to regional human rights instruments, such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights. Mauritius has signed the

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

52. Mauritius is a party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children and has acceded to the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

53. Mauritius has acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism in July 2003 and was among the first countries to start the review process which covers four substantive thematic areas, namely Democracy and Political Governance, Economic Governance and Management, Corporate Governance and Socio-Economic Development. The National Economic and Social Council, an independent body, has been designated as the national focal point to oversee the process in Mauritius. Mauritius is currently finalizing its self-assessment report and is expected to be peer reviewed in the course of 2009.

F. Protocols

54. Mauritius being a party to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, citizens of Mauritius may submit individual petitions to the Human Rights Committee.

55. Mauritius has also signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict on 11 November 2001. Following the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on Mauritius, the State has withdrawn its reservation to Article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

56. Cabinet approval has been obtained for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women which allows, inter alia, individual petitions to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

57. Mauritius which became a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 2005 was chosen, by a drawing of lots, as the first country to be reviewed under the Optional Protocol and had the privilege of receiving the visit of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture from 10 to 18 October 2007. During the course of their visit, the SPT visited the Police facilities, Police Detention Centres, prisons and other institutions such as the Rehabilitation Youth Centre at Beau Bassin and the Shelter for Children and Women in Need. A National Preventive Mechanism, as provided for under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, has been set up administratively pending amendments to be brought to existing legislation setting up the legal framework under which the National Preventive Mechanism is to operate. The Subcommittee submitted its report on its visit in Mauritius in July this year. A High-Level Committee is looking into the implementation of the findings, observations and recommendations in the report.

III. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND

A. Implementation of human rights obligations

58. International treaties ratified by Mauritius are not automatically incorporated directly into the laws of Mauritius. Where necessary, changes are made to the domestic legislation to enable Mauritius to comply with its treaty obligations. Mauritius is endeavouring to submit its periodic reports to the human rights treaty bodies in a timely manner in order to address the issue of overdue reports. Particular attention is paid to the recommendations of human rights treaty bodies which have examined the periodic reports submitted by Mauritius and follow-up action, as appropriate, is taken.

B. National Human Rights Legislation

59. Section 17 of the Constitution provides that a citizen, who alleges that any of his constitutional rights has been, is being or is likely to be contravened, may apply to the Supreme Court for redress. It is worth noting that Section 17 is entitled “Enforcement of Protective Provisions”. In December 2002, in the interlocutory judgment in the case of Bishop of Roman Catholic Diocese of Port Louis and Ors v. S. Tengur, the Supreme Court observed that: “A declaration of fundamental rights is meaningless unless there are effective judicial remedies for their enforcement. The right to move the Supreme Court for redress where a fundamental right has been infringed is itself a fundamental right...Section 17 is the soul and heart of the Constitution”

60. The Abolition of Death Penalty Act was passed in 1995. All death sentences imposed before that Act was passed were commuted to sentences of penal servitude for life.

61. In June 1998, Mauritius signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and subsequently ratified same on 5 March 2002. Drafting work pertaining to the implementation of the provisions of the Rome Statute has been undertaken by the Attorney-General’s Office with the assistance of the Office of the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross for Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean. The International Criminal Court Bill will be introduced in Parliament shortly.

62. The Child Protection Act was enacted in 1994 to ensure protection of children from all forms of abuse. The word “harm” includes physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or moral injury, neglect, and ill-treatment, impairment of health or development. The Act provides for the issue of an emergency protection order by the Magistrate where it is reasonably believed that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

63. Corporal punishment is prohibited in schools by virtue of regulation 13 (4) of the Education Regulations, section 13 (1) of the Child Protection Act and section 230 of the Criminal Code. Circulars are sent to schools by the Ministry of Education at the beginning of every term reminding them of those regulations and teachers are required to acknowledge having taken cognizance of same. Programmes on the Convention on the Rights of the Child are carried out in schools by the Ministry of Women’s Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare. However, some cases of physical molestation including sexual abuse are reported every year to the Ministry and, in most cases, they are referred to the police and disciplinary action is taken against the culprit. The Office of the Ombudsperson for Children also monitors any allegation of child ill-treatment.

64. The Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Act 1996 aims at preventing discrimination against disabled persons resulting from or arising out of their disability. The object of the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board set up under the Act is to prevent discrimination against disabled persons and to encourage the establishment of appropriate vocational centres and other institutions for the training of disabled persons. It is an offence for employers to discriminate against disabled persons in relation to advertisement and recruitment for employment. Other laws catering for the needs of persons with disabilities include the Building Act (accessibility to public buildings), the Road Traffic Act (special parking slots and free provision of parking coupons for disabled persons) and the Sports Act (sports activities for disabled persons). Steps have been taken to make voting procedures disabled-friendly.

65. The Mental Health Care Act, which was passed in 1998, provides for patients with mental disorders to be admitted to mental health care centres on a voluntary basis without a Magistrate's order. Any patient who is ordered to be admitted to a mental health care centre (against his will) has the right to appeal to a Mental Health Commission. Patients suffering from mental disorders and their next of kin are informed of their rights and freedoms (as prescribed in a Schedule to the Act) in a language which they understand.

66. The Imprisonment for Civil Debt (Abolition) Act, which was passed following comments made by the Human Rights Committee in 2005, provides that debtors may only be imprisoned for a civil debt where fraud or a criminal offence is committed. A person can no longer be imprisoned merely on account of a civil debt.

67. The Transfer of Prisoners Act which was passed in 2001 allows for the transfer of prisoners to and from Mauritius to serve the remainder of their sentences. The designated countries to which the Act applies include countries which are parties to the Strasbourg Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons and the Scheme for the Transfer of Convicted Offenders within the Commonwealth. Bilateral agreements on the transfer of prisoners have also been entered into with the Republic of Guinea (June 2003), the United Republic of Tanzania (June 2003), India (October 2005) and Madagascar (July 2008). Agreements are presently under consideration with Kenya, Uganda and Burundi.

C. Voluntary pledges taken by Mauritius as candidate for election to the Human Rights Council

68. Mauritius pledged to continue to uphold primacy of democracy, good governance and development and strengthen national institutions that protect human rights of citizens, to play a constructive role in advancement of human rights and further contribute to the enhancement of United Nations human rights activities, to participate actively in the work of the Human Rights Council for the promotion and protection of all Human Rights in a spirit of impartiality, dialogue and cooperation, to be reviewed under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and to support international efforts to enhance intercultural dialogue and understanding amongst civilizations, cultures and religions with a view to facilitating the universal respect of all human rights.

69. Mauritius believes it has lived up to and continues to honour these pledges through the action it has undertaken at domestic and international levels.

1. National Human Rights Institutions Activities

(a) The National Human Rights Commission

70. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) conducted a workshop on Human Rights for newly recruited prisons officers. Two experts from the International Centre for Prison Studies came to Mauritius to advise the Commissioner of Police on a training course for prisons officers a to undertake a training system assessment

71. Members of the NHRC also visited all the prisons in Mauritius including “Pointe la Gueule” in Rodrigues during the year 2007 to examine conditions of detention therein. The NHRC has further produced a Prisoners’ Manual containing the prisons regulations in a simplified version in English, French and Creole to be distributed to convicted prisoners on their admission to prison.

(b) Sex Discrimination Division

72. The Sex Discrimination Division pursued its awareness raising campaign on sex discrimination and sexual harassment in schools, the private sector, banks, the Police Force Training School, social groups and women’s centres in Mauritius and in Rodrigues.

2. The Office of the Ombudsperson for Children

73. The Ombudsperson for Children organizes training sessions and a number of talks, seminars and workshops, both in Mauritius and in Rodrigues, in order to sensitise stakeholders working with children on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on related issues such as violence against children, child abuse and prostitution, and child labour. A kit on violence against children addressed to the personnel working in the education sector has been prepared by the Ombudsperson in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

3. Cooperation with Human Rights Mechanisms

74. Mauritius actively participated in establishing the Human Rights Council as a founding member and has contributed towards making this body as effective as possible. As a member of the Council, it has consistently made its voice heard in defence of those who are deprived of their fundamental freedoms. Mauritius is committed to ensuring that attempts to make the world safer are not to the detriment of human rights and personal freedom. It holds the view that the multilateral system, in particular the United Nations, must work with all countries in a spirit of dialogue, cooperation, objectivity and non-selectivity to pursue the advancement of human rights in each and every country.

75. In addition to upholding human rights at national level, Mauritius is committed to their promotion and protection at the international level. Mauritius fully cooperates with the human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies and is actively engaged on the full range of human rights issues with other international and regional organisations such as the African Union. Mauritius also participates in regional efforts to promote and protect human rights. It is thus a party to regional human rights instruments, including the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights.

76. Mauritius has fielded the candidatures of its nationals to serve on human rights treaty bodies. Mauritian nationals are currently members of the following bodies: Human Rights Committee; Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Human Rights Council

Advisory Committee; and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Further, the Chief Justice serves on the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

77. Mauritius recognizes that the fight against poverty, development and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. It is in this spirit that Mauritius hosted the SADC International Conference on Poverty and Development in April 2008. The Conference agreed, *inter alia*, to work towards the establishment of a Regional Poverty Observatory to monitor progress made in the implementation of actions in the main priority areas of poverty eradication.

IV. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

A. Achievements and Best Practices

1. Human Rights Centre

78. The Human Rights Centre was set up in 2007 for the promotion of Human Rights in Mauritius. The Centre aims mainly at making the public aware of existing human rights institutions and laws so that they may better avail themselves of such.

79. The Centre also serves as one of the main human rights *fora* where non-religious groups and associations, clubs and even political parties from all spheres are allowed to organise debates and meetings on human rights-related issues. Foreign experts in the field of human rights will be invited to hold conferences and talks on a regular basis on the premises of the Centre. The members of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture met Mauritian stakeholders for discussions on the said premises. Training is given to various people from NGOs and Trade Unions who will in turn be assisting and empowering citizens at grassroots level. Training sessions will be held by local guest speakers, on a voluntary basis, from different spheres of society on different human rights topics. The Human Rights Centre also initiates human rights campaigns and the publication of brochures and pamphlets on human rights issues and will distribute copies of the main human rights conventions ratified by Mauritius to the general public.

2. National Action Plan on Human Rights

80. Mauritius is, at present, finalising a National Action Plan on Human Rights. This National Action Plan seeks to develop a strong culture of human rights in Mauritius by providing better protection for individuals, creating more effective programmes that enhance the quality of life for all, particularly vulnerable groups, and by improving national harmony. It also aspires to achieve promotion of greater awareness of human rights, both in the general public and in specific sectors. The overarching objective of the National Action Plan is to bring about tangible improvements in the observance of all categories of human rights.

81. The National Action Plan has been developed, in consultation with stakeholders, on the basis of realistic objectives and clear targets and covers a broad field of areas. It includes an overview of the international and national legal framework, a description of the different categories of human rights enjoyed by Mauritians, the role of national institutions and civil societies and lays emphasis on the need for human rights education. It describes the action taken so far in each field and the shortcomings which need to be overcome, and proposes measures to address these shortcomings. The National Action Plan also proposes specific time frames for the achievement of its objectives, with short term, medium term and long term implementation of the measures. The provision of a time frame will ensure that those involved in realising the targets of the Action Plan have a deadline to structure their activities and should ultimately

facilitate monitoring and final evaluation.

3. Distribution of free copies of the Constitution

82. Over 35 000 copies of the Constitution have been printed and distributed free among various groups of the population. Another 30 000 copies are actually in print and will be distributed to all secondary school students. It is also intended to make copies of the Constitution available in Braille for the benefit of those who have a visual impairment.

4. International Humanitarian Law

83. The National Humanitarian Law Committee was set up under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office in 2002. The purpose of the Committee is to implement and disseminate knowledge of International Humanitarian Law instruments to which Mauritius is a party. "Exploring Humanitarian Law" was introduced in State Secondary Schools on a pilot basis in 2007. Procedures are currently under way to extend the project to Private Secondary Schools. At the tertiary level, a module on International Humanitarian Law was introduced for "Bachelor of Laws with Honours" courses at the University of Mauritius. The Committee also actively sensitises the public on International Humanitarian Law through workshops, seminars and distribution of books to the National Library of Mauritius.

84. Mauritius is a party to the main International Humanitarian Law instruments and is considering adherence to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

85. Training on Human Rights issues was dispensed to more than 700 prisons officers and to new recruits in the Prisons Department. In 2007, the United Nations Development Programme assisted the Prisons Department by providing two consultants to carry out an assessment and a revision of the Prisons Officers' Training Curriculum. Human rights concepts and practices are to be mainstreamed through a revision of the curriculum. The United Nations Development Programme also supported the Prisons department in the Training of Trainers' course in Human Rights for 20 senior officers and its assistance has now been requested for an expert to head the Prisons Training School. Workshops are being organized to empower Prison Officers to combat drugs and HIV/AIDS in prisons.

86. Allegations of police brutality are enquired into and dealt with expeditiously and firmly by the National Human Rights Commission and the Courts. A judicial enquiry is held promptly where a person dies in prison or in police custody. Where enquiry discloses prima facie evidence against police or prisons officers, the officers are prosecuted before Court. The State has, in a few recent cases, made ex gratia payments to the next of kin of persons who have died in police custody, without awaiting the judgement of the Supreme Court on its liability. Other measures to address this problem of police brutality are outlined in paragraph 91.

B. Challenges and Constraints

87. Section 10 (1) of the Constitution entitled "Provisions to secure protection of law" provides that any person who is charged with a criminal offence shall, inter alia, be afforded a fair hearing within a reasonable time. Despite efforts being made by the police, prosecution and the Courts, cases are at times disposed of several years after the date of the offence. The delay in lodging and disposing of cases is mainly due to shortage of staff in the police and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and a backlog of cases before some Courts. Accused parties who have the constitutional right to be defended by Counsel of their own choice often insist on

being represented by particular lawyers who may be unavailable on the dates scheduled by the Court. The period of pre-trial custody has in some cases been decried as being inordinately long.

88. Although the number of allegations of police brutality has drastically decreased in recent months, it is still perceived that police officers focus on obtaining confessions, often described as the “best evidence”, through improper means rather than using more modern investigative methods. These are dealt with in paragraphs 98, 99 and 100 below.

89. Prisons in Mauritius are undoubtedly overcrowded, owing to the rise in the number of prisoners and persons on remand. There have also been reports of drug trafficking in prisons.

90. Migrant workers have complained in recent months of unsatisfactory working and living conditions.

V. KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES, INITIATIVES AND COMMITMENTS OF MAURITIUS

91. The Protection of Human Rights Act setting up the National Human Rights Commission is to be reviewed 10 years after the Act was passed. Government has entrusted this task to a former Chief Justice who is also a serving member of a treaty body. The review of the Act will involve, inter alia, a review of the role, powers and composition of the National Human Rights Commission.

92. Government is committed to make or support far-reaching reforms to the justice sector with a view to improving the delivery of justice, as per the recommendations made by the Presidential Commission chaired by Lord Mackay of Clashfern. Amendments are to be made to the Constitution shortly to provide for separate Court of Appeal and first instance Court within the Supreme Court of Mauritius. Since January 2008, two Judges have been hearing criminal cases and two others have been hearing family law cases on a full-time basis with a view to clearing the backlog. As from January 2009, two Judges will be hearing commercial cases on a full-time basis.

93. The Equal Opportunities Bill will be introduced in Parliament in November 2008, incorporating all the different grounds of discrimination covered under sections 3 and 16 of the Constitution as well as age, pregnancy, mental and physical disability and sexual orientation in areas dealing with employment, education, the provision of accommodation, goods, services and other facilities, sports, the disposal of immovable property, admission to private clubs and premises open to members of the public. The Bill will also provide for the establishment of an Equal Opportunities Commission and an Equal Opportunities Tribunal.

94. It is also intended to introduce a Police Complaints Bill in Parliament shortly. The Bill will provide for the setting up of an independent body which will deal with complaints made against police officers in respect of acts done in the execution of their functions. Consultations were held in October 2008 with the National Human Rights Commission and other stakeholders as well as with experts from the Independent Police Complaints Commission of the United Kingdom, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

95. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources, in line with its National Curriculum Framework, is currently working on the integration of Human Rights Education into the school curricula at primary level. On the finalization of the National Curriculum Framework for secondary schools, Human Rights Education will be introduced at lower secondary level.

96. The development of the Human Rights Education Curriculum will necessitate the training of curriculum writers who are responsible for the writing of teaching and learning resource materials. The training will involve the assistance of technical experts in human rights curriculum in order to ensure that components of Human Rights Education are effectively integrated into the different learning areas to bring the required desirable behavioural changes in pupils.

97. In line with the Programme of Action 2005-2009 of World Programme for Human Rights Education, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources has set up a Human Rights Education Task Force comprising members from different Ministries, NGOs and international organisations to carry out a campaign for immediate visibility and scaling up of Human Rights Education, in addition to integration into the curriculum.

98. The Task Force has proposed a Plan of Activities with a view to achieving better awareness of human rights issues at school level. The activities include, among others, essay/poem/song competitions, drawing and poster competitions, story-telling, debates, elocution contests, exhibition of the best entries and preparation of a kit on human rights for distribution to schools. Schools may also take up human rights issues in their morning assemblies.

99. For a more effective implementation of Human Rights Education, teacher-training has to be carried out. The Mauritius Institute of Education, which is responsible for in-service and pre-service training, will consider having some modules of Human Rights Education into their programmes. Hence, teachers will be better prepared to implement the Human Rights Education curriculum.

100. Many schools are already running “*Amnesty Clubs*” and students actively participate in them by carrying out sensitization programmes on human rights abuses in other countries. A further co-curricular activity could be the setting up of Human Rights Clubs in schools. These Clubs would focus on national human rights issues and activities. In addition, these clubs will provide students with real learning opportunities in human rights approach to develop their personality, strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

101. The Police have engaged in a process of modernization of working methods, structure and technology for the tracking down of criminals. Nowadays, there is a shift from confession-led to evidence-led investigation for crime solving. In this respect, emphasis is being put on the use of new technologies in the field of forensic science.

102. DNA testing facilities are now fully operational at the Mauritius Forensic Science Laboratory. In February this year, a team from the United Kingdom Forensic Science Services was in Mauritius to make an assessment of the Forensic Science Laboratory with a view to developing a long-term strategy for the use and development of Forensic Science in Mauritius. Besides, focus is put on capacity-building at the laboratory with the assistance of friendly countries and institutions. A training programme was run by a team of experts from Staffordshire University (United Kingdom) from 26 August to 5 September 2008, for the benefit of officers of the Forensic Science Laboratory and the Police, and pertaining to Forensic Awareness, Expert Witness Training and Forensic Science Training.

103. In addition, a DNA Identification Bill is currently being fine-tuned in consultation with all stakeholders. With the enactment of this legislation, criminal investigation will be operationally driven with intelligence generated by a DNA Database. The impending DNA Bill will allow the instant search for a match to the DNA fingerprint of each and every known

criminal in the land. Appropriate safeguard measures will be taken in the drafting of the legislation to ensure an appropriate balance between the enhancement of security and the need to protect individual liberties

104. In order to address the problem of overcrowding in prisons, additional accommodation has been created for 377 detainees in various prisons. The infrastructure is being improved wherever possible. Fourteen Segregation and Protection Units have been created to cater for 137 detainees. The Women's Prison will be extended. A new and modern high-security prison providing accommodation to some 750 detainees who will be serving long sentences will be constructed. The tenders for the construction of the new prison are expected to be launched around August 2009.

105. A Sexual Offences Bill was referred to a Select Committee in 2007 for further study and consultation. The object of the Bill is to make further and better provision for sexual offences. In that context, a new definition of the offence of rape is provided, new categories of offences of sexual assaults and provision is made for decriminalizing of sexual activities among consenting adults are created in order to cover various acts of sexual perversions committed by offenders.

106. It is proposed to review the Data Protection Act 2004 to harmonise it with the EU Directives on data protection. The Government proposes to hold consultative meetings with stakeholders to consider amendments to the Act.

107. Following a brainstorming session with stakeholders last year, a Working Committee has produced a Green Paper on the new concept of legal aid, applications for legal aid, the eligibility test, the expanding and extension of legal aid services and the establishment of a Legal Aid Board. The possibility of providing for legal aid at enquiry stage is being seriously looked into. Members of the legal professions will also be encouraged to do more pro bono work.

108. With a view to providing better protection to children as well as adults, a holistic approach is being considered in relation to human trafficking. In that respect, a draft Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill has been prepared with the assistance of the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

109. Government has facilitated access to low cost housing and decent homes for low income earners through a number of subsidy schemes, comprising, *inter alia*, cash grants for the casting of roof slabs, infrastructure subsidies, leases to the lower middle income families and financial assistance through the Trust Fund for the Social Integration of Vulnerable Groups for the purchase of building materials. The Trust Fund will also soon finance the construction of several housing units in the 229 pockets of poverty identified throughout the country, while the Empowerment Programme is undertaking a pilot integrated housing project, inclusive of educational/training opportunities and other community facilities, for the benefit of some 200 vulnerable families, and which would serve as a model that could be replicated in other pockets of poverty. The 2008-2009 Budget has provided for a Social Housing Development Fund of Rs500 million to develop new models of housing to meet the needs of all income segments of the population. This Fund will look into and oversee a new programme for the setting up of mixed housing communities on a Public Private Partnership basis.

110. Further to the latest recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, action has been initiated for the drafting of a Children's Bill to consolidate the various pieces of legislation covering all aspects of children's rights. Opportunity will be taken to, *inter alia*, review the law on juvenile justice and prosecution and detention of juveniles.

**VI. EXPECTATIONS OF MAURITIUS IN TERMS OF CAPACITY-BUILDING
AND REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

111. The Government of Mauritius is pleased to acknowledge ongoing assistance from the United Nations Development Programme and the Commonwealth Secretariat in its efforts to discharge its human rights obligations towards its citizens and other States. Assistance from other States and donor institutions will be required in terms of capacity-building when the Equal Opportunities Commission and Police Complaints Commission are set up.



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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Letter dated 1 March 2010 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius wishes to refer to the joint study by four mandate holders on global practices in relation to secret detention in the context of countering terrorism (A/HRC/13/42), and in particular to page 182 of annex I and page 207 of annex II thereto, in which reference is made to the “UK Overseas Territory of Diego Garcia” and “Diego Garcia Island, British Overseas Territory in the Indian Ocean”, respectively.

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius wishes to reiterate that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, is part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius. The Chagos Archipelago was illegally excised by the United Kingdom from the territory of Mauritius prior to its independence, in total disregard of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965.

The Chagos Archipelago had always been under the administrative rule of Mauritius until its illegal excision by the then colonial power. The Republic of Mauritius has never relinquished its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and has, ever since this illegal excision, consistently and persistently pressed the Government of the United Kingdom, in both bilateral and multilateral forums, for the early and unconditional return of the Chagos Archipelago to the Republic of Mauritius.

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius does not recognize the so-called “British Indian Ocean Territory” or any “British Overseas Territory in the Indian Ocean” or “UK Overseas Territory of Diego Garcia” in so far as these terms purport to describe or refer to the Chagos Archipelago. It deplors the fact that it is still not in a position to exercise effective control over the Chagos Archipelago as a result of the illegal excision of its territory.

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius also views with the utmost concern the use of its territory for activities that may be in breach of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international human rights treaties, such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

In February 2008, the Government of the Republic of Mauritius expressed to the authorities of the United Kingdom and of the United States of America its grave concern about the use of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius for activities that are blatantly in contravention with basic human rights principles.

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius wishes to stress the need for an early return of the Chagos Archipelago to the effective control of the Republic of Mauritius so that it can effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and thus ensure that the obligations of the Republic of Mauritius under international human rights instruments are fulfilled in the entire territory of Mauritius.

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius would be grateful if its comments could be circulated as a document of the Human Rights Council.

(signed) **S.B.C. Servansing**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Mauritius



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Human Rights Council

Thirteenth session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights,
civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Note verbale dated 10 March 2010 from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland refers to the letter from the Permanent Mission of Mauritius dated 1 March 2010 (A/HRC/13/G/14) in connection with the joint study on global practices in relation to secret detention in the context of countering terrorism (A/HRC/13/42).

The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory, which was ceded to Britain in 1814 and has been a British dependency ever since. As the Government of the United Kingdom has reiterated on many occasions, it has undertaken to cede the Territory to Mauritius when it is no longer required for defence purposes.

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland would be grateful if its comments could be circulated as a document of the Human Rights Council.

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**National report submitted in accordance with
paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights
Council resolution 16/21***

Mauritius

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I. Introduction

1. The promotion and protection of human rights in Mauritius is guided by the basic philosophy underlying Government actions which is “*Putting People First*”. In addition to the human rights provisions enshrined in the Constitution, a series of measures have been adopted and are aimed at ensuring that the Citizens of Mauritius, irrespective of their race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex are able to exercise effectively their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The Government of Mauritius is strongly committed to strengthening democracy, promoting nation building and further entrenching the fundamental rights and freedoms of Mauritian citizens.

2. In 2009, when the report of the review of Mauritius was adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 11th Session, Mauritius was ranked by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) as the 26th most democratic nation. The latest EIU Democracy Index now ranks Mauritius as the 18th most democratic nation thereby testifying to the commitment of the Government of Mauritius to strengthen the existing democratic and human rights architecture. Similarly other indicators such as the Heritage Foundation ranks Mauritius 8th in the world in terms of economic freedom and the Yale Institute ranks Mauritius 5th in the world in its environmental performance index. For several years, Mauritius has been ranked 1st in the Mo Ibrahim Index. *As per the 2013 Human Development Report, Mauritius is ranked in the category of High Human Development.* All these indicators demonstrate that despite the capacity constraints of Mauritius as a Small Island Developing State, the Government of Mauritius is committed to ensuring that every Mauritian citizen enjoys to the fullest extent his or her civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

II. Methodology and consultation process

3. In the preparation of the Mauritius Report for the Universal Periodic Review, the General Guidelines for the preparation of information outlined in decision 17/119 of the Human Rights Council have been followed.

4. The national report of the Republic of Mauritius covers the Islands of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agalega, Tromelin, Cargados Carajos and the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia and any other island comprised in the State of Mauritius. This Report has been drawn up as a result of an extensive national consultative process across Government, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organisations and the civil society in the Republic of Mauritius (including Rodrigues). Workshops were organised with the civil society organisations (including from Rodrigues) to explain the UPR process as well as gather inputs for the preparation of the second cycle report. The public was also invited in press articles to submit their views through e-mail. Awareness campaigns on UPR were also broadcasted on the national television, during peak time in order to reach the maximum audience. The Report also aims at providing updates on the recommendations made when Mauritius was reviewed for the first time in February 2009. It should thus be read in conjunction with the following:

- (a) mid-term report of Mauritius submitted in February 2011¹;
- (b) Periodic reports submitted to the Committee against Torture (2010), Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women(2010) and Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination(2012)².

III. Human rights framework – developments since last review in 2009

Political

5. Since October 2008, the portfolio of human rights falls under the responsibility of the Prime Minister's Office. In order to strengthen its commitments in the field of human rights and fulfil its international obligations, the Government has consolidated the institutional and legislative framework to ensure adequate legal protection to all sections of the population. Policies and programmes have also been adjusted, where necessary, to secure greater realisation of economic, social and cultural rights.

6. The Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment was set up in 2010 and has the responsibility of catering for the needs of vulnerable groups.

7. Government adopted in June 2013 a Maurice Ile Durable policy, 10-year strategy and action plan. The major objective of the Maurice Ile Durable is to create a system of economic activities related to the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services that will result in work life balance and improved human well being over the long term, while preventing exposure of future generations to environmental risks and ecological scarcities. Maurice Ile Durable is a societal project which is being implemented in a participative and democratic mode taking into consideration the aspirations of the whole population. It rests on five designated pillars known as the MID 5Es namely, Energy, Environment, Employment/Economy, Education and Equity. Taken together, these 5Es cover a wide spectrum of issues ranging from, land management, water resources, waste management, pollution control, public health and poverty alleviation amongst others.

Legislative

8. **New pieces of legislation** have been enacted since the last review of Mauritius to better guarantee the protection of human rights. The main ones include inter-alia.

9. The **Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act 2012 (Recommendations 2, 9, 13, 15 and 43)** aims at restructuring the National Human Rights Commission so as to enhance its role as a key institution in the protection and promotion of human rights at the national level. It also provides for a change in the composition of the Commission and makes better provision with regard to the recruitment of its staff. The Act provides for the National Human Rights Commission to operate through three divisions, namely the Human Rights Division, the Police Complaints Division and the National Preventive Mechanism Division. The mandate of the Commission has been broadened and its new functions have been aligned with the Paris Principles. The new set up is operational as from 1 July 2013.

10. The **Police Complaints Act 2012 (Recommendations 2, 3, 9 and 22)** provides for the setting up, within the National Human Rights Commission, of a Police Complaints Division to investigate complaints made against members of the Police Force, other than allegations of corruption and money laundering. Provision is equally made for the Division, upon completion of an investigation, to make recommendations to the relevant authority for appropriate action to be taken, including the institution of criminal or disciplinary proceedings or award of compensation. Provision is also made for the Division to investigate the death of a person occurring in police custody or as a result of police action and advise on ways in which any police misconduct may be addressed and eliminated.

11. The **National Preventive Mechanism Act 2012 (Recommendations 2 and 9)** aims at giving effect in Mauritius to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It provides for the setting up, within the National Human Rights Commission, of a National Preventive Mechanism Division which shall be the National Preventive Mechanism under the Optional Protocol. Another object of the Act is to enable the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to discharge its functions under the Optional Protocol in Mauritius.
12. The **Equal Opportunities Act (Recommendation 41)** which was proclaimed on 1 January 2012 ensures better protection against discrimination as it prohibits both direct and indirect discrimination on the grounds of age, caste, creed, ethnic origin, impairment, marital status, place of origin, political opinion, race, sex or sexual orientation. The Equal Opportunities Act also prohibits discrimination by victimization.
13. The **International Criminal Court Act 2011** provides for the effective implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in Mauritius, ensures the fulfilment of the obligations of Mauritius under the Statute, provides for the jurisdiction of the Mauritian Courts to try persons charged with international crimes and lays down the procedure for the surrender of persons to the International Criminal Court and for other forms of cooperation with that body.
14. The **Legal Aid Act** was amended in 2012 to extend the provision of legal assistance to accused parties not only at trial stage but as from the earliest stages of criminal proceedings. The amendments to the Act which came into force on 5th November 2012 provide for legal assistance in the form of (i) legal advice and counselling during the recording of a statement under warning from a detainee or an accused party and (ii) legal representation, during a bail application. Section 7B (2) of the Act provides that any detainee or accused party, being suspected of having committed a criminal offence as specified in the Act, shall, upon arrest, be informed by the police officer in charge of the police station that he may make an application for legal assistance during police enquiry and for bail applications. The Act is now known as the Legal Aid and Legal Assistance Act.
15. The **Criminal Code (Amendment) Act 2012** which came into force on 15 October 2012 provides that termination of pregnancies would be allowed in specified circumstances, namely where (a) the continued pregnancy will endanger the pregnant person's life, (b) the termination is necessary to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant person, (c) there is a substantial risk that the continued pregnancy will result in a severe malformation, or severe physical or mental abnormality, of the foetus, as assessed by the appropriate specialists or (d) the pregnancy has not exceeded its fourteenth week and results from a case of rape, sexual intercourse with a female under the age of 16 or sexual intercourse with a specified person which has been reported to the police or a medical practitioner. Amendments have further been brought to the Medical Council Act to stipulate inter-alia, that a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology registered as such may provide treatment to terminate a pregnancy in a prescribed institution.
16. The **Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act (Recommendation 30)** was passed on 21 April 2009. The objectives of the Act are to give effect to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in persons; prevent and combat trafficking in persons; and protect and assist victims of trafficking. It provides for repatriation of victims of trafficking, and return of victims of trafficking to Mauritius, as well as compensation to victims of trafficking.

Sexual Offences Bill/Criminal Code Amendment Bill (Recommendation 4)

17. The Government introduced the Sexual Offences Bill into the National Assembly in April 2007. However, following the controversy provoked by the issue of depenalisation of sodomy, the Bill was referred to a Select Committee for re-examination. The Select Committee held several meetings. However, before the Select Committee could submit any report to the Parliament, Parliament was dissolved in March 2010. Nevertheless, in May 2010, the Attorney General consulted all Ministries in relation to the Bill for their views and comments. Government has in Feb 2013 decided that instead of proceeding with the Sexual Offences Bill, it will amend the existing Criminal Code in order to make better provisions for the criminalization of various acts of sexual perversion including marital rape.

IV. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

New policy measures and institutions

1. National Action Plan on Human Rights (Recommendation 14)

18. The Prime Minister's Office has launched a National Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020 in October 2012.

19. The Action Plan sets out the following goals and objectives:

- (a) reinforcing international co-operation on Human Rights;
- (b) strengthening the National Human Rights Framework;
- (c) protecting and safeguarding civil and political rights;
- (d) securing greater realisation of economic, social and cultural rights;
- (e) securing Women's Rights in the context of Gender Equal Opportunities;
- (f) securing the rights of the Youth;
- (g) better protecting and securing rights of vulnerable persons;
- (h) securing the Right to Sustainable Development;
- (i) enhancing Human Rights education and awareness; and
- (j) encouraging and facilitating greater involvement of civil society and the business sector in general, in the promotion and protection of Human Rights.

20. This Action Plan is a landmark on the human rights landscape of Mauritius. It shows what Mauritius has achieved in terms of protection and promotion of human rights and charts the way forward. One of the main recommendations of the National Human Rights Action Plan is the setting up of a **Human Rights Monitoring Committee** under the chairpersonship of the Senior Chief Executive of the Prime Minister's Office and consisting of stakeholders concerned, including representatives of relevant Ministries and Departments, National Human Rights Institutions, non-governmental organisations dealing with human rights as well as the private sector. The role of the Committee is to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the Action Plan.

21. There are a number of institutions responsible for the upholding of constitutional democracy in Mauritius. These institutions are independent and subject only to the Constitution and the law and operate in an impartial manner. Any person within the

national jurisdiction of Mauritius may avail themselves of these institutions in order to claim appropriate remedies.

22. The **Equal Opportunities Commission** has been set up since April 2012 (**Recommendations 20 and 21**) under the Equal Opportunities Act and its functions are, inter-alia:

- (a) to work towards the elimination of discrimination, and the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different status;
- (b) carry out an investigation on its own motion or following a complaint;
- (c) attempt to reconcile the parties to whom and against whom a complaint relates;
- (d) conduct and foster research and educational and other programmes for the purpose of eliminating discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different status;
- (e) prepare appropriate guidelines and codes for the avoidance of discrimination; and
- (f) take all necessary measures to ensure that the guidelines and codes are brought to the attention of employers and the public. The Equal Opportunities Act also provides for an Equal Opportunities Tribunal consisting of a President and two other persons to hear and determine complaints referred to it by the Commission.

23. Between April 2012 to 20 June 2013, the Commission has received some 655 complaints out of which it has already examined 430 cases as follows:

- (a) 9 cases were conciliated;
- (b) In 27 cases, the Commission found no evidence of discrimination;
- (c) One case has been referred to the Equal Opportunities Tribunal;
- (d) 186 cases were set aside since they were either time-barred, withdrawn by the complainants, fell outside the purview of the Commission or the complainants failed to give further information; and
- (e) 207 cases are still being investigated and additional information being sought.

24. As regards the remaining 225 cases, preliminary investigations are being carried out.

25. The Commission has issued in October 2012 an Interim Report which has been made public. In April 2013, it has also published Guidelines for employers with the following objectives:

- (a) Provide guidance to employers on how to prevent discrimination at work and achieve equality of opportunities in the field of employment;
- (b) Help employers who have duties and obligations under the Equal Opportunities Act to understand their responsibilities and rights;
- (c) Help employers prepare and apply an equal opportunity policy at work with a view to minimizing risk of discrimination; and
- (d) Help employers promote recruitment, training, selection and employment on the basis of merit in relation to its employees or prospective employees.

26. The **Truth and Justice Commission which was set up under the Truth and Justice Commission Act 2008** came into operation on 20 March 2009. The Truth and

Justice Commission was empowered to conduct inquiries into slavery and indentured labour during the colonial period in Mauritius, determine appropriate measures to be extended to descendants of slaves and indentured labourers, enquire into complaints made by persons aggrieved by dispossession or prescription of any land in which they claim to have an interest and prepare a comprehensive report of its activities and findings based on factual and objective information and evidence. The Commission submitted its report to the President of the Republic on 25 November 2011.

27. On 9 December 2011, Government set up an Inter Ministerial High Powered Committee (HPC) chaired by the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development to look into the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Truth and Justice Commission.

28. On 17 February 2012 Government agreed to the proposal made by the HPC to implement a first set of 19 recommendations of the Truth and Justice Commission that would generate quick wins and bring visible benefits. In addition, Ministries represented on the HPC have set up, at their level, a dedicated unit to look, in detail, into the issues and recommendations in the Report related to their respective sector.

29. A Co-ordination Team has been mandated to closely co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of these recommendations and will report on a regular basis to the HPC.

30. A Land Research and Mediation Commission has been set up to:

- (a) carry out an in-depth investigation into cases of dispossession of land as mentioned in the report of the Truth & Justice Commission and any other similar cases referred to it by the HPC;
- (b) assist the applicants to retrieve all necessary documents, including title deeds, plans and Civil Status documents and in collaboration with other appropriate institutions, to draw up genealogical trees;
- (c) provide, within established limits, assistance to claimants as regards land surveys or other necessary actions;
- (d) advise the applicant, after thorough investigation and enquiry, on his claim and any other relevant issues; and
- (e) act as mediator and promote amicable settlements.

2. Rights of women (Recommendation 36)

31. The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare (MGECDWF) has adopted a National Gender Policy Framework (NGPF) in 2008 as a generic policy document (**Recommendation 18**), which calls upon various entities to take ownership of the process of designing their own respective gender policies using a participatory approach. It further provides the broad operational strategies and institutional arrangements for achieving gender equality. The NGPF stands guided by principles of human rights, human-centred development, partnership and accountability. To date, 16 out of 25 Ministries have formulated their respective gender policy statements and the MGECDWF is continuing to extend technical expertise to all Ministries to develop their own sectoral gender policies by the end of 2015.

32. To address the problem of domestic violence, a National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence (**Recommendations 25 & 26**) which was launched, spells out the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders concerned to combat domestic violence. It contains five strategic objectives:

- improving legislation on Domestic Violence and strengthening of the Justice System and other agencies response;
- providing appropriate, accessible, timely, coordinated multi-agency responses and support to all victims and children who need it;
- sensitising and change attitudes to prevent domestic violence from happening in the first place;
- promoting responsible reporting, advocacy, sensitisation and provision of a forum by media specialists to encourage the community at large to discuss domestic violence; and
- undertaking research and studies on domestic violence, strengthen capacity building and set up appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of the National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence for the promotion of best practices.

33. 94 % of the recommended actions in the Plan have already been implemented for example:

- The Protection from Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act 2007 was proclaimed in September 2011;
- A component of domestic violence has been included in the training programme conducted at the Police Training School;
- A series of awareness raising programmes have been undertaken to sensitise women at grassroots level on the problems of domestic violence and services available to them. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials in term of pamphlets, brochures were disseminated.

34. The Ministry has set up a National Platform to end Gender Based Violence (NPEGBV) since October 2011 ensuring national coordination to end gender based violence in Mauritius. In this context, a costed National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence 2012-2015 (NAPEGBV) was elaborated. The NAPEGBV provides for a multi level approach to redress gender based violence (GBV) by:

- (a) Reviewing, adopting and enforcing protective laws and policies;
- (b) Improving health, legal/justice security, education and social welfare systems to monitor and respond to GBV survivors and perpetrators;
- (c) Ensuring provision of prompt and compassionate services to survivors;
- (d) Implementing a coordinated multi-sectoral approach in tackling GBV issues in the country; and
- (e) Bringing behavioural change amongst men and boys likely to perpetuate GBV.

35. 25% of the recommended actions of the Action Plan have already been implemented, for example some 135 officers from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life and the Ministry of Local Government as well as some 89 representatives of the civil societies have benefitted from capacity building programmes.

36. In addition to working with men through the “**Men as Partners**” Project, the MGECDW will shortly come up with a new project known as “**Youth Empowerment Programme to Combat Gender-based Violence**”. This programme will enable youth to grow up with a culture of non-violence and hence reduce the incidence of gender-based violence in the long run. The project of “Men as Partners” has been extended to some 17 regions and more than 13,000 persons have benefitted therefrom.

37. The MGECDWF is also engaging Religious Bodies in the combat against gender-based violence. Joint sensitisation programmes are being implemented with youth, men and women to sensitize them on issues pertaining to gender-based violence and involve them in the fight against gender-based violence.

38. Victims of domestic violence/family problems are assisted at the Family Support Bureaux in terms of:

- Application for Protection Order/Occupation/Tenancy Orders by Family Welfare and Protection Officers;
- Counselling(individual/marital counselling) by Psychologists; and
- Legal advice by Legal Resource Persons.

Shelters (Recommendation 25)

39. A Shelter for Women and Children in Distress Trust Fund has been set up with a view to providing temporary shelter to women and children victims of abuse and family problems. The shelter provides a temporary refuge to women away from conflictual family environment and to children in difficult circumstances such as those who are battered, neglected or ill-treated by parents or guardians. Moreover, the Shelter provides a measure of social integration for the children placed therein.

Protocol of Assistance to Victims of Sexual Assault

(a) With a view to preventing victims from undergoing further trauma at Police Stations and casualty departments of hospitals, a **Protocol of Assistance to Victims of Sexual Assault**, which provides for a coordinated approach of authorities concerned, namely the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life and the Police, for victims to be provided prompt and timely assistance.

(b) The Protocol is effective **since March 2006** and, the Ministry is informed of cases of Sexual Assault by the Police on hotline 119 (operational on a 24-hour basis). Psychological assistance and legal counselling are provided to the victims. Follow up actions are then ensured through the Family Support Bureaux of the Ministry (Bell Village, Goodlands, Flacq, Bambous, Phoenix & Rose Belle).

Women participation in politics and decision-making

40. As regards participation of women in the national decision-making process, Mauritius is committed to the decision taken by SADC to increase women's participation in politics and decision-making by 30%. For the two last general elections held in July 2005 and in May 2010, the main political parties honoured their pledge to increase women representation in National Assembly and there was a marked increase in the number of women candidates.

Women participation in local village and municipal elections (Recommendation 34)

41. With a view to ensuring adequate representation of each sex on a local authority, the Local Government Act 2011 makes provision for any group presenting more than 2 candidates in an electoral ward, during Municipal and Village Council elections, to ensure that the candidates are not all of the same sex. A National Platform for Women in Politics has been set up to increase women participation in politics and to work towards equal representation of both men and women in politics.

42. As regards women's representation in decision-making bodies, in 2010, women made up to 47.1% of Judges and 63.6% of Magistrates at Intermediate Court. In the public

sector 35% of Permanent Secretaries are women and 37.2% are Directors/Heads of Departments. Presently the Vice-President of our Republic is Mrs. Monique Agnes Ohsan-Bellepeau.

3. Rights of children

43. Following the visit of the Special Rapporteur, Mauritius ratified the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography on 14 June 2011. It signed on 13 August 2012 the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Communications Procedure (**Recommendations 1 & 28**).

44. Action has already been initiated for the preparation of a National Child Protection Strategy with a view to consolidating and strengthening ongoing efforts and measures to respond to child protection issues and to ensuring protection of children from any forms of abuse and violence.

45. The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare (MGECDWF) is in the process of finalizing a Children's Bill and it is expected to present the Bill in the National Assembly by end of this year (**Recommendations 8 & 12**). The aim of the Bill is to consolidate the various pieces of legislation on children's rights and to harmonize all laws in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

46. In line with the UN recommendations, the Police have also set up a Police Family Protection Unit (PFPU) with the special mandate to provide specific services to a category of people who are termed vulnerable within society. This category of people includes children as well.

47. As children are becoming more and more vulnerable in our society, the Mauritius Police Force has, at the request of the MGECDWF, set up a new unit styled "*Brigade pour la Protection des Mineurs*" as from May 2004. One of the priorities of the Brigade is to act as a watchdog against all forms of exploitation and abuse against children. The Brigade is providing a meaningful and sound customer care service aimed at optimizing the protection of children and helping to alleviate the anxiety of parents whose children have been subjected to such abuses. The "*Brigade pour la Protection des Mineurs*" will continue its work with the MGECDWF on the protection of the child from all forms of abuse including commercial sexual exploitation of children (**Recommendation 29**).

48. With a view to promoting Mauritius as a safe family destination, the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure has embarked on a sensitization campaign on the impact of CSEC. A pamphlet on "Zero Tolerance to Child Exploitation" has been prepared.

49. Since January 2008, crackdown operations have been conducted island wise at regular intervals by Officers of the MGECDWF, National Children's Council, Brigade des Mineurs (Police Department), in collaboration with NGOs to ensure that young persons and students are attending schools during normal school hours. Such operations are seen to contribute in an efficient way to prevent young persons from playing truancy and loitering thereby getting involved in illicit activities.

50. The Police in collaboration with the Social Workers of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and the Child Development Unit also redirect children who are cut off from schools to the education system (**Recommendation 27**).

51. Police Officers refer children who have been abused to the Child Development Unit for psychotherapy and placement to shelters, if required in addition, the Police provide the following services:

- A 24 hour hotline service. (Tel: 999)
- At divisional level, an Operations Room is open on a 24 hour basis.

- Likewise, at line barracks the Operations and Information Room is open on a 24 hour basis.
- A protocol of assistance to child victims ranging from protection to counselling exists, whereby all Police Officers serving in any part of the country know how to deal with reported cases of child abuse.

52. A residential Care Drop-in-Centre for victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children has been constructed. Its purpose is to assist those children victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, who are indulged in Commercial Sexual Exploitation and to help them to integrate society. A Hotline (113) is available to public for referral of cases of victims of child prostitution.

53. Officers of the Inspection and Enforcement Section of the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment effect systematic visits at undertakings and all places of work, thus covering both the formal and informal sectors of employment to detect and sanction cases of child labour. Whenever a child is found in illegal employment, the employer is required to discontinue such employment and criminal action is taken against the employer accordingly (**Recommendation 29**).

4. Rights of the disabled (Recommendation 39)

54. Mauritius has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in January 2010. Government's vision is that all citizens should have equal opportunities and that no discrimination should exist in the society. In Mauritius the employment of persons with disabilities is specifically regulated by the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Act (TEDP). It stipulates that the workforce of any enterprise having 35 or more employees should include 3% of persons with disabilities. This legislation applies also to Parastatal Bodies, Statutory Boards and Committees and Companies in which Government is a shareholder.

55. The Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Act was amended recently to -
- (a) better provide for the enforcement of the Act with a view to promote the access of persons with disabilities to employment;
 - (b) provide for the setting up of a hearing committee which shall be vested with the responsibility to determine the contribution of employers and the exemptions from the Act; and
 - (c) increase the fine provided for non-compliance with the Act.

56. It is now provided that the Board, set up under the Act, shall be responsible for the setting up of a hearing committee to hold a hearing for the purposes of the Act, and any finding and recommendation made by the Hearing Committee shall be communicated to the Board for consideration and decision. The Hearing Committee shall, after the completion of the hearing, determine whether the employer cannot reasonably be expected, having regard to the nature of his business, provide suitable employment to or create suitable employment opportunities for the employment of disabled persons. Furthermore the Board may, in the light of the determination of the Committee give such directions to an employer as it may consider reasonable and proper in all the circumstances including a direction that the employer shall pay to the Board such contribution in the following manner: Rs 4,000 monthly for each disabled worker not yet recruited to meet the 3% percentage as specified above.

57. The Excise Regulations have also been amended to provide for duty-free facilities to purchase a motor car to new categories of disabled persons (apart from the physically

disabled), i.e deaf or blind persons who are in gainful employment and parents of severely disabled children.

58. In a bid to empower the physically handicapped persons to enhance their creative talents, the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives launched on 17th January 2013 an Incubator at the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) in Coromandel.

59. The objectives of the new Incubator are to enhance creative talents of special needs trainees for the production of quality handicraft products; support the entrepreneurial skills development of physically handicapped persons; facilitate the creation of Small Business Enterprises for these persons through Business Training and Mentoring; and build confidence and capabilities for an enhanced economic contribution by our fellow citizens with special needs.

60. As from February 2013, physically handicapped persons are benefitting from free courses in the following areas: fancy jewellery, fibre craft, ceramic, pyrogravure and fashion garment making. With this Incubator, physically handicapped persons will also benefit from training in craft production, entrepreneurship and digital literacy skills.

61. Government has adopted a rights-based approach to the issue of disability as follows:

- (a) Government has adopted a policy of inclusive education;
- (b) A number of facilities are being provided to enhance educational opportunities for persons with disabilities:
 - (i) Refund of bus fare for accompanying parents;
 - (ii) Scholarship scheme to pursue secondary and tertiary studies; and
 - (iii) Refund of taxi fare to students with disabilities attending university and who cannot travel by ordinary means of transport;
- (c) The Equal Opportunities Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability;
- (d) The Building Control Act provides for enhanced accessibility to public infrastructure by disabled persons;
- (e) Voting procedures have been made disabled-friendly to enable persons with disabilities to participate in public affairs and governance;
- (f) A Forum of Women with Disabilities has been set up to lobby for the Rights of Women with Disabilities to equal opportunities in all spheres of life;
- (g) A Special School of Performing Arts has been set up to develop the talents of persons with disabilities;
- (h) Athletes with disabilities are provided with facilities to participate in competition at both local and international levels.

5. Rights of older persons

62. The Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions started the construction of a third Recreation Centre in April 2012, to provide for an additional yearly accommodation capacity of 12,000. The project is due to be completed around 1st week of July 2013. A fourth Recreation Centre is also planned to be constructed.

63. An Observatory on Ageing is being set up to carry out action-oriented research on the socio-economic aspects of ageing, in view of the ageing phenomenon. The Ministry

has already embarked on the constitution of the Advisory Board and is in the process of recruiting the members of the Research Team.

64. The Ministry is proposing to set up a Legal Counselling Programme on property rights for senior citizens to provide enhanced protection to the elderly in as much as property rights are concerned to avoid abuse and exploitation.

65. The Ministry will further promote IT Literacy programme among the elderly so as to enable them to communicate through new technology. The Ministry, with the collaboration of the National Computer Board is setting up computer clubs in all the 19 Day Care Centres.

66. The Ministry is pursuing, in collaboration with the Mauritius Institute of Health, a training programme to train some 500 carers and 2500 informal carers to constitute a pool of carers as there is a high demand for their services with the increasing number of our elders.

6. Protecting the rights of migrant workers (Recommendation 40)

67. Mauritius has been active in promoting circular migration. Since 2006, Mauritians have embarked on Circular Migration Programmes and some 300 workers have taken employment in Canada. In April 2010, a Bilateral Agreement with France was ratified and the Mauritian authorities are working with the French authorities in that respect. Circular migration agreements with other countries like Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Italy are also under consideration. The National Empowerment Foundation (NEF), under the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment is the Implementation Agency for the Circular Migration Programmes. The NEF has set up a Circular Migration Committee (CMC) comprising representatives of different Ministries and Departments to drive the whole process. The Government of Mauritius is assisted by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in the recruitment, selection and preparation of Mauritian workers.

68. Mauritius is the first African State to host the Global Forum on Migration and Development which was held in 2012 in Mauritius on the theme '*Enhancing the Human Development of Migrants and their Contribution to the Development of Communities and States*'. The ultimate purpose of the 6th GFMD Meeting is to achieve improvements in the conditions and prospects of people on the move and their families. The GFMD provided a platform to take up the issue of migration and migration-related issues from an African perspective by putting emphasis on:

(a) Outcomes that will make a difference for migrants, diaspora, their families, and communities and states of origin and destination, and that may be achieved in the coming years to guide the future work of the Forum;

(b) The specific needs and challenges of African countries and their migrants and diaspora, also in the South-South migration and development context;

(c) Close consultations with civil society and international organizations, particularly the Global Migration Group (GMG), to support GFMD governments in achieving agreed desirable outcomes; and

(d) Engagement of the private sector and diaspora as appropriate to support governments in achieving agreed outcomes.

69. Although Mauritius is not a signatory to the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the Government as far as possible applies the essence of the Convention in cases of disputes between migrant workers and their employer.

70. Article 13 of the Code Civil Mauricien provides as follows -

13. “L'étranger jouira à Maurice des mêmes droits civils que ceux qui sont ou seront accordés aux Mauriciens par les traités de la nation à laquelle cet étranger appartiendra.”

71. Migrant workers enjoy the same terms and conditions of employment, including minimum wages as those laid down for local workers in our labour legislation.

72. Regular inspection visits are carried out by officers of the Special Migrant Workers' Unit of Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment at workplaces where migrant workers are employed to ascertain that employers are complying with the existing labour laws and to enquire into any reports of bad treatment. Moreover, the Unit provides a service whereby foreign workers can register their collective and individual complaints and tripartite meetings are held to resolve the workers' grievances. Most of the complaints are being resolved within a day or two.

73. For period January to December 2012, the Unit carried out 441 visits covering a total number of 26,525 workers (19,013 male and 7,512 female) and a total amount of Rs 863,292 was recovered in favour of the migrant workers. Besides 225 complaints were registered at the level of the Unit and a total sum of Rs 7,877,026 was recovered.

74. Employers are required to submit a model contract of employment duly vetted by the Special Migrant Workers' Unit at the time they apply for work permits on behalf of their foreign workers. Payment of the total salary and other benefits has to be effected directly to the foreign workers in Mauritius itself and this clause should be included in the contract of employment before it is vetted. Officers verify that this clause is strictly complied with and during inspection officers ensure that workers have been given a copy of the vetted contract of employment.

75. According to Section 38 of the Employment Rights Act 2008, employees benefit from protection against termination of their work agreement. An agreement shall not be terminated by an employer by reasons of a worker's race, colour, national extraction, social origin, pregnancy, religion, political opinion, sex, sexual orientation, HIV status, marital status or family responsibilities amongst others.

The right of association

76. The right to organise which equally applies to migrant workers has been reinforced in the Employment Relations Act 2008 which came into force on 2 February 2009. Section 29 protects in unambiguous terms the right of workers to be or not to be a member of a trade union and to participate in trade union activities, including the right to seek and hold appointment or election as officers of a union. Section 30 protects trade union of workers against acts of interference and section 31 protects workers against discrimination, victimisation or termination of employment by the employer in the exercise of this right.

77. The Occupational Safety and Health (Employees' Lodging Accommodation) Regulations 2011 was promulgated on 28 January 2011. These regulations aim at establishing norms for workers' lodging accommodations with a view to improving the standards of living conditions in lodging accommodation provided to any employee including migrant workers.

7. Vulnerable groups (Recommendations 20, 35 & 42)

78. The problem of poverty is an issue which cut across all components of society and does not affect a specific community. From a survey conducted by the National Empowerment Foundation, there were some 10,200 households that is approximately 40,000 persons living below the poverty line as at 31 December 2012. Poverty in Mauritius

based on the relative poverty line (half median monthly income) is at 7.9% although on the basis of the USD 1 definition is less than 1%. Poverty in the country is largely structural and is not correlated with economic opportunity to earn income. Since 2006, various programmes have been put in place to eliminate/alleviate poverty.

79. In May 2010, Government has created a specific Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment which has as main objective to eradicate absolute poverty. A three pronged strategy has been adopted and includes three main programmes, namely the Social Housing and Community Empowerment, Child Development and Family Welfare and Training and Placement. The National Empowerment Foundation, the executive arm of the Ministry, is already implementing a package of programmes with a holistic framework so as to provide immediate support to vulnerable groups, foster integrated community development, enable re-skilling of the unemployed and promote development of income generated activities.

8. Right to housing

80. With regard to vulnerable groups and their housing needs and in line with the social housing policy, the Ministry of Housing and Lands has come up with a National Housing Programme for the next ten years. The programme will provide access for housing to the low income groups, mainly targeting families earning a monthly household income up to Rs 15,000, through its executive arm, i.e. the National Housing Development Company.

81. In addition, Government encourages self-help construction of housing units by low income families that already own a plot of land. These families are financially assisted through a grant scheme for the casting of roof slabs to complete their construction or the purchase of building materials to start their construction. As at date, some 47,000 families have benefited from that scheme and Government has disbursed an amount of about Rs1.8 Billion since 1997.

V. Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints

Sensitisation programmes on human rights

82. The Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, National Human Rights Commission, Ombudsperson for Children, Equal Opportunities Commission carries out three hour sensitization sessions on human rights in all Citizen's Advice Bureaux around the island. Around 1500 participants (from NGOs, women's associations, vulnerable groups) are sensitised each year. A whole module is dedicated to the Constitution (**Recommendation 7**).

Training programmes on human rights

83. In August 2011, Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with National Development Unit, National Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International organised a two day training programme on Human Rights for 60 Citizens Advice Bureaux Organisers of Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Ministry of Youth and Sports, National Human Rights Commission;

84. In May 2012, Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with Ministry of Youth and Sports and Equal Opportunities Commission and other Resource Persons organised a two days training programme on Human Rights for all Officers of youth cadre.

85. In May 2012 the Prime Minister's Office organised in collaboration with MACOSS a two day training programme on human rights for 125 representatives of civil society organisations.

MBC programme on human rights

86. Television programme on Human Rights is broadcasted every Saturday after the French news bulletin during peak time in order to reach the maximum audience. The programme has been developed in collaboration with the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation and all our stakeholders on the following themes:

- (a) Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- (b) Constitution and Democracy (**Recommendation 7**);
- (c) Rights of Prisoners and Detainees;
- (d) Rights of Women;
- (e) Rights of the child;
- (f) Rights of older person;
- (g) Rights of disabled person;
- (h) Civil and Political Rights;
- (i) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- (j) The role of the National Human Rights Commission;
- (k) The role of the Equal Opportunities Commission;
- (l) Rights of Migrant workers;
- (m) Universal Periodic Review exercise.

Human rights portal

87. The creation of the human rights portal (<http://humanrights.gov.mu>) aims at providing a common platform for Government officials, NHRIs, Human Rights NGOs, students and citizens to assist in the implementation of the recommendations of the Action Plan including:

- (a) Information to all stakeholders about the human rights status and strategy of the Republic of Mauritius;
- (b) Support to policy makers, trainers in human rights and students in terms of access to research materials on human rights;
- (c) Platform for training and sensitisation;
- (d) Communication tool between all human rights stakeholders;
- (e) Link to all National Human Rights Institutions in Mauritius including NHRC, Equal Opportunities Commission and Ombudsperson for Children; and
- (f) Link to OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights) website which contains status of all reports presented by Mauritius and recommendations by UN Treaty Bodies and all treaties and Conventions signed by Mauritius.

Database of human rights indicators

88. The Prime Minister's Office has worked in collaboration with the University of Mauritius with a view to preparing a Database of Human Rights structural, process and outcome indicators. The Human rights indicators serve as a scientific tool for a proper monitoring of all sectors and also allow follow up on recommendations of UN Treaty Bodies.

Human rights education (Recommendation 38)

89. At tertiary level, Human Rights Education already forms part of the curriculum of LLB courses. Human Rights are an essential component of training of Police and Prisons Officer (**Recommendation 24**). The University of Mauritius is also coming forward for academic year 2013-2014 with a new LLM in International Human Rights Law.

90. With a view to promoting respect for human rights through teaching and education, the Commonwealth Secretariat was approached by the Prime Minister's Office to ensure the integration of human rights across the curriculum at pre-primary, primary and secondary levels.

91. In this respect a Consultant of the Commonwealth Secretariat was on official visit in Mauritius from 28 November to 2 December 2011 in order to have working sessions with the Mauritius Institute of Education on curriculum development and preparation of textbooks at pre-primary, primary and secondary levels to address the following:

- (a) Integration of human rights across the curriculum;
- (b) Integration of human rights in school textbooks; and
- (c) Development, implementation and evaluation of human rights project in school.

92. The report from the Consultant has been finalised and the assistance of Commonwealth Secretariat has been sought for its implementation.

93. The Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with Ministry of Youth and Sports and Equal Opportunities Commission implements a 12-hours Human Rights Education Programme in all youth centres around the island for around 500–750 youths each year.

Prison

94. A new prison is being constructed in accordance with required norms and standards at Melrose to reduce overcrowding in existing prisons (**Recommendation 32**). Its construction is expected to be completed by end August 2013.

Education

95. Since 28th January 2012, the Mauritius Prison Service is conducting courses in Basic Numeracy and Literacy in the creole language. The Training is being run continuously for the benefit of detainees. In addition, Training of Trainers is being carried out in the Garment Making. Subsequently, the trainers will deliver courses in creole language to detainees following Garment Making Course run by the MITD.

96. In the women prison, rehabilitation programmes such as vegetable gardening, garment making, pastry, food preparation, handicraft, beauty care and hairdressing, massage therapy, meditation, Tai-Chi are run by prison staff in collaboration with private organisations and NGOs.

97. Detainees also have individual and group counselling sessions, group therapy and health counselling.

Medical and health facilities available in prisons

98. At Beau Bassin Prison, there is a ward with an accommodation capacity of 20 patients and manned by Hospital Officers (male) round the clock. Each Institution has a dispensary where medical treatment and care is dispensed to detainees during the day. During the night and weekends, Hospital Officers from Central Prison, Beau Bassin attend to any emergencies.

99. In order to improve the physical and mental well being of the detainees, a team of health-care workers provides service round the clock. The team comprises three full time medical officers, and one part time, one dental surgeon and twenty four qualified nurses including eight female nurses presently.

100. A methadone Induction Unit has been set up at the central Prison for inducing and dispensing of methadone to drug addicts.

101. A Rehabilitation unit (Lotus Centre) for rehabilitation of substance abusers.

102. An AIDS unit for the prevention, care, treatment and support of detainees living with HIV/AIDS in prison.

103. There is also one 12 bedded ward for male and another 6 bedded ward female at J. Nehru Hospital for detainees requiring admission thereto. On admission to the prison, every detainee is seen by a doctor who assesses the detainee's general health. The same process is observed when he is released. During his period of detention, whenever the need arises, the detainee can be seen by the doctor at the Prison hospital or dispensaries for any health problem. In addition, detainees requiring specialist treatment are referred to public hospitals.

104. The prison health service is also equipped with two dental clinics, one for male detainees located in the medical centre at BBP and the other for female detainees at women prison where various treatments relating to dental care are provided, namely, extraction, scaling and filling.

105. In addition to these facilities for general medical and dental care, suitable arrangements have been put in place in prison to provide specialist consultation and out-patient follow-up in the field of Medicine, Surgery, Dermatology, Psychiatry, HIV/AIDS, Orthopaedics, ENT and Psychologist also attend clinic on a regular basis.

106. A referral system has been established between the Prison Department and the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life, for proper medical case management regarding health facilities not available in prison.

107. Medicine and medical equipment are procured from the Central Supplies Division, Ministry of Health & Quality of Life, and from the local suppliers

108. The provision of medical services in our prisons is consistent with the Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of offenders adopted by the United Nations Congress.

Training on human rights

109. Training on Human Rights is an ongoing activity at the Mauritius Prison Training School. Up to present, 809 Officers have attended training.

Number of children in prison and facilities provided

110. At present, there are 7 children in Prison. They are accommodated in a special unit called the *Mother and Baby Care Unit*. Recently, with the opening of the Day Care Centre "Kids R Kids" on 24th May 2012, the children attend the centre from 08 00 hours to 16 00 hours on weekdays and from 09 00 hours to 12 00 hours on Saturdays.

111. Three Children attend the Municipal pre-primary school at Mont-Roches from 09 00 hours to 14 00 hours during week days. They are provided with all the school materials and lunch pack. After school hours and on Saturdays, they remain at the Day Care Centre up to the closing hours as mentioned above.

Police

112. Police have launched on 24th February, 2010 a National Policing Strategic Framework which aims at promoting an effective and efficient service delivery.

113. The NPSF comprises six main pillars:

- (a) Community Policing:- greater accountability to the community;
- (b) Achieving a Human Rights Compliant Organisation: commitment to professional standards (Recommendation 3);
- (c) Human Resource Management Capability: modernizing human resources management;
- (d) Permanent Strategic Planning Capability (strategic direction at Force and Divisional level);
- (e) Intelligence-Led Policing (development of proactive responses);
- (f) Enhancing Reactive Capability (a step change in the quality of our reactive activities).

114. In line with the new provisions of the Bail Act, the Bail and Remand Court (**Recommendation 22**) is now operational 7 days a week, including weekends and public holidays. All persons arrested during weekends and public holidays are either being brought before the court for bail procedures or released on parole pending the next district court sitting, hence reducing the probability that the arrested persons spend the weekend in Police cell.

115. In its quest to ensuring strict compliance with set standards, including human rights, the Mauritius Police Force has established a Professional Standards Department (PSD) both at Force and Divisional Level under the Reform Programme launched in February 2010. The PSD basically carries out thematic inspections and provides Police Commanders with objective reports and recommendations to improve processes and systems in the Police. In that context, Police cells are regularly inspected, detainees visited and all relevant documentations pertaining to the rights of arrested persons are scrutinized which include the checking of books and files. PSD also ensures the upholding of values, integrity and best practices.

116. Following the recommendation of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Police have formalised the procedure for informing the relatives of arrested persons and detainees of latters' arrest and detentions through a circular 4/2009 dated 5th March 2009 issued by the Commissioner of Police. The circular also guarantees that arrested persons are entitled to be visited by family and close relatives. Police is working in collaboration with the Judiciary to reduce the detention period until the case is called for trial and a judgement is pronounced (**Recommendation 23, 31**).

117. Likewise, since June 2012, with a view to further improving the conditions of detention of arrested persons in police cells, every detainee is being further provided with two services of tea daily in addition to the two meals provided to them.

Justice (Recommendation 33)

Achievements

- Cases are being disposed of more efficiently and speedily through the creation of dedicated and specialized divisions at the level of the Supreme Court (e.g. Commercial, Family, Criminal and Mediation).
- Faster disposal and sustained decrease in backlog of cases at the Supreme Court with establishment and operationalization of the Mediation Division.
- Judges and members of the legal profession trained in January 2011 as a precursor to the setting up of the Mediation Division.
- E-judiciary phase I project successfully developed, leading to an electronic case management and filing system of civil and chambers cases before the Supreme Court, including the Commercial Division.
- The Divorce and Judicial Separation Act 2011 (Miscellaneous) enacted in May 2011.
- A third batch of fifteen Court Officers completed the Diploma Course in Legal Studies with Court Administration at the University of Mauritius.

E-Judiciary

- The objective of the e-judiciary project is to provide an electronic platform for the filing and management of cases before all Courts and to replace the paper based system by adopting new and modern technologies more attuned to present day needs.
- Phase 1 of the project covers civil and commercial cases only (including Judge in Chambers cases) brought before the Supreme Court. Phase II of the project will take on board all civil and criminal cases brought before other divisions of the Supreme Court and before the lower jurisdictions of the Judiciary.

Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies

- The Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies was set up by the Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies Board Act 2011 on 19 July 2011 and proclaimed on 01 October 2011. The official launching of the Institute was carried on 27 July 2012
- The Institute seeks to promote proficiency and ensure the maintenance of standards in the Judiciary, among law practitioners and legal officers and in the delivery of court services in general. This will be done through the organisation and provision of Continuing Professional Development programmes, i.e continuous training courses, seminars and workshops, for the benefit of existing and prospective law practitioners and legal officers.

VI. Key national priorities, initiatives and commitments

118. Section 12 of the Constitution provides for freedom of expression. The local media enjoy a long tradition of freedom and pluralism. The audiovisual landscape consists of the national radio and television broadcaster, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, and private radio stations.

119. Government also proposes to introduce a Media Bill (**Recommendation 6**) shortly in a bid to enhance the democratic principles applying to media practice, with special

emphasis on freedom of expression and individual rights. In this respect, Mr Geoffroy Robertson Q.C, has already submitted a preliminary report on “*Media Law and Ethics in Mauritius*” for consultation among the general public.

120. In forging the development of the country, the Government has always been guided in its actions by the underlying philosophy of “Putting People First”. We have always considered economic success to be meaningful only if it leads to improvement in the quality of life for all in a sustainable manner. Government maintains its unflinching determination to nurture a more inclusive, plural and cohesive society based on human dignity, equality of treatment, economic efficiency and social justice.

121. In its Government Programme 2012-2015 “Moving the Nation Forward” developments in such sectors as education, health, law and order, children, women, disabled, elderly persons, prisons, judiciary and social integration of vulnerable groups rank high on the agenda of the Government.

VII. Capacity building and technical assistance (Recommendation 19)

122. A regional seminar was organised from 18 to 19 April 2011 by the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the Prime Minister’s Office in Mauritius with the following objectives -

(a) Encourage and support Commonwealth States and other stakeholders (National Human Rights Institutions and non-governmental organizations) to remain committed to the UPR following the review in Geneva;

(b) Support Commonwealth States to implement and act on the accepted UPR recommendations; and

(c) Provide constructive forum for Commonwealth States and other stakeholders to share their expertise and discuss challenges and strategies in respect of the implementation of the UPR recommendations.

123. From 31 October to 1 November 2011, Mauritius was represented at the 3rd Francophone Seminar organized by Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) in Tunisia. Mauritius was invited to make two presentations, namely on the challenges of UPR Implementation and preparation of the 2nd cycle report.

124. Mauritius in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will be hosting from 30 to 31 July 2013 an interregional pre-session seminar to support the participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review Mechanism.

125. In February 2012, the Commonwealth Secretariat organised a Leadership Seminar on Human Rights for Heads of Ministries in order to sensitise them on the importance of human rights in their respective sectors and ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020.

126. The Commonwealth Secretariat is also assisting in the project of “Integrating Human Rights across the curriculum” (**Recommendation 16**) and a Consultant was appointed to make a survey of the status and make recommendations for the implementation by Commonwealth Secretariat of the project. His report has already been finalised and we are awaiting the implementation which will be done in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and the Mauritius Institute of Education.

127. The local UNDP office partly sponsored the “Database on human rights indicators” project which has been implemented in collaboration with the University of Mauritius.

VIII. Conclusion

128. Mauritius is fully committed to the UPR process and recognises its importance in improving human rights in the world. Civil society organisations play and will continue to play a conspicuous role in fostering a human rights culture among the whole population. Collaborative arrangements with all Ministries/Departments, National Human Rights Institutions, NGOs and international partners are essential to achieve our ultimate goal to make Mauritius a human rights friendly island.

Notes

¹ <http://www.gov.mu/portal/sites/HRC/downloads/mauritius%20mid%20term%20report.pdf>

² <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G10/468/49/PDF/G1046849.pdf?OpenElement>
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G12/467/19/PDF/G1246719.pdf?OpenElement>
http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/CEDAW.C.MAR.6-7_en.pdf

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Universal Periodic Review

**Report of the Working Group on the Universal
Periodic Review***

Mauritius

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its seventeenth session from 21 October to 1 November 2013. The review of Mauritius was held at the 6th meeting on 23 October 2013. The delegation of Mauritius was headed by Arvin Boolell, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade. At its 10th meeting held on 25 October 2013, the Working Group adopted the report on Mauritius.

2. On 14 January 2013, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Mauritius: Austria, Botswana and Qatar.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Mauritius:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/17/MUS/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/17/MUS/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/17/MUS/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Slovenia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Mauritius through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review (UPR).

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation introduced the national report of Mauritius.

6. Mauritius reaffirmed its commitment and continued support to the work of the Human Rights Council and the UPR mechanism. It recalled that in July of this year, the Government of Mauritius, OHCHR and the Human Rights Council had co-hosted a seminar in Mauritius for least developed countries and small island developing States to prepare them for the second cycle of the UPR.

7. Mauritius provided information on the actions taken to implement the recommendations that it accepted during the first review. It noted that its mid-term progress report, submitted in 2011, and its 2013 national report contain comprehensive information on such actions. Mauritius highlighted numerous steps taken to consult the public in the preparation of its national report, including information made available through the media, awareness campaigns and collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

8. It stated that the Government had launched, in October 2012, the National Human Rights Action Plan for the period 2012–2020. This Plan embodies all commitments taken by Mauritius to improve the human rights situation in line with international best practices. A Human Rights Monitoring Committee was also established, comprising representatives

of relevant ministries and departments, national human rights institutions as well as NGOs, to ensure the implementation of the plan.

9. Mauritius indicated that the Human Rights Action Plan advocates a number of measures, including strengthening international cooperation on human rights through ratification of human rights instruments; domestication of human rights treaties; greater realization of economic, social and cultural rights; strengthening women's rights in the context of equal opportunities; better protection and safeguarding of the rights of vulnerable persons.

10. Additionally, a database of human rights indicators to monitor progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Action Plan is in the process of being finalized with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the University of Mauritius.

11. Mauritius noted that in 2012, the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, the Police Complaints Act and the National Preventive Mechanism Act were passed so as to broaden the mandate and functions of the National Human Rights Commission in line with international best practices. It provided details in this regard.

12. It was highlighted that the National Preventive Mechanism Division of the National Human Rights Commission gives effect to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT). It is responsible for visiting places of detention in order to ensure that persons deprived of liberty are protected against torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and is also mandated to investigate complaints made by detainees and make recommendations on the treatment of persons in custody.

13. Mauritius also indicated that in 2012, the Equal Opportunities Act was enacted to provide better protection against all forms of discrimination. This Act aims at eliminating direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of age, caste, creed, ethnic origin, impairment, marital status, place of origin, political opinion, race, sex or sexual orientation.

14. As regards political representation of women, Mauritius highlighted that the Local Government Act, which was passed in 2011, stipulates that any group presenting more than two candidates in an electoral ward during municipal and village council elections shall ensure that the candidates are not of the same sex. The Constitution was also amended in this regard. As a result, there has been a significant increase in the number of women standing as candidates. and elected in recent elections.

15. On the question of domestic violence, Mauritius stated that the Government was aware of the need to address the issue in all its forms, and that it was endeavouring to curb gender-based violence by 2015. It provided detailed information on a number of initiatives adopted, including a National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence launched in 2011, the undertaking of a series of awareness programmes and special programmes aimed at young people.

16. On the rights of the disabled, Mauritius recalled that it had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2010 and submitted its report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities last year. Various measures adopted to ensure that disabled persons are not deprived of their rights were outlined.

17. Mauritius noted that it had made a reservation on article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which deals with situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies, and explained that measures to include the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities in such situations are being addressed. It added that the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Bill currently being prepared includes provisions for the disabled. Once the law is passed, the Government will withdraw the reservation.

18. Regarding the reservation to article 24, paragraph 2 (b) on education, Mauritius indicated that it has engaged in a policy of inclusive education and expects to withdraw the reservation as soon as this policy is fully implemented. As for the reservation to article 9, paragraph 2 (d), which requires the State “to provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille”, Mauritius explained that the reservation had been made in view of the costs involved and that the Government proposes to withdraw the reservation in due course.

19. Mauritius then stated that it is committed to the protection of children from any form of abuse and exploitation and that a National Child Protection Strategy has been initiated in this regard.

20. It also highlighted that the Government was in the process of finalizing a Children’s Bill which would be introduced in the National Assembly shortly. Furthermore, Mauritius noted that it had invited the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to visit Mauritius; ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OP-CRC-SC) in 2011 and signed the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure (OP-CRC-IC) in 2012.

21. Mauritius stated that educating the population on human rights at all levels and nurturing a culture of human rights remains a priority. It noted that the Government has approached the United Nations for technical assistance in this regard. Detailed information regarding initiatives taken to promote a culture of human rights was provided.

22. The delegation indicated that the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment has been set up with a view to eradicating absolute poverty and combating social exclusion. Moreover, the National Empowerment Foundation which falls under this Ministry is already implementing a number of programmes in this regard.

23. With regard to the elderly, Mauritius referred to the Government policy “Moving the Nation Forward: pleasant and active retirement for our elderly”. It also highlighted a number of projects and programmes launched over the past years in this connection.

24. On HIV/AIDS, Mauritius noted that the National AIDS Secretariat has formulated a National Strategic Framework 2013–2016, following wide consultations with stakeholders. The Framework aims to achieve the 10 targets of the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, to which Mauritius is signatory

25. Mauritius said that the report of Truth and Justice Commission was presented to the National Assembly in 2011. The Government set up an Inter-Ministerial High-Powered Committee to oversee the implementation of the recommendations in the report, and it has decided to implement a first set of 19 recommendations. In addition, a Land Research and Mediation Commission was set up to deal in depth with complaints made by persons aggrieved by dispossession or prescription of any land to which they claim to have an interest from colonial times.

26. Mauritius recalled that it had sent an update on the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Justice Commission to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination following its review in 2013.

27. As regards the practice of detaining suspects on the basis of provisional information, Mauritius indicated that the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill stipulates that the police shall not arrest a person on the basis of a mere allegation by a third party, unless the necessary investigations have been conducted to verify that an offence has been committed or is about to be committed. Mauritius also noted that the Police Force is already equipped with a video-recording system to record statements from suspects involved in high-profile cases.

28. As regards the decriminalization of sodomy, Mauritius stated that further consultations were necessary on this issue. It indicated, however, that the Government intends to amend the Criminal Code in order to provide, inter alia, for the offence of marital rape.

29. The delegation stated that the Government is aware that retooling for the future requires a review of the Constitutional regime, including reform of the electoral system. It will present a White Paper on electoral reform in the light of the various proposals made by constitutional experts, including proposals on gender balance. It highlighted the need to bring Constitutional changes through consultations by engaging the population in a national debate.

30. With regard to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Mauritius noted that although it was not yet a party to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Court, draft regulations for the implementation of the agreement have been circulated for comments. Mauritius has already forwarded an instrument of ratification with regard to article 8 of the Rome Statute.

31. Mauritius stated that it was still considering the Kampala amendments with regard to the crime of aggression and that any technical assistance in this regard would be welcome, once the decision is taken to incorporate the crime of aggression in the International Criminal Court Act.

32. In conclusion, Mauritius stated that the review would help it to evaluate how much it has achieved whilst also enabling it to identify areas for improvement.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

33. During the interactive dialogue, 72 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report.

34. A number of delegations commended Mauritius for holding wide consultation with civil society during the preparation of its national report, as well as for the submission of the mid-term follow-up report on the recommendations of the first UPR cycle.

35. India noted that Mauritius has launched the National Human Rights Action Plan, the Human Rights Portal and the Equal Opportunities Commission. It appreciated its commitment to ensuring the rights of women and children and combating violence against women and commended Mauritius for ratifying the OP-CRC-SC.

36. Indonesia welcomed the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan and the legal measures to ensure children's rights. It applauded Mauritius on its chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2012, which demonstrated Mauritius' high commitment to protecting migrants' rights. It made recommendations.

37. Tunisia welcomed the sustained economic, social and human development in Mauritius. It noted the new Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment, the National Human Rights Action Plan, the national torture prevention mechanism and the incorporation of the provisions of the Rome Statute into national law. It made recommendations.

38. Kenya commended Mauritius for adopting and implementing long-term policies and actions. It noted that economic, social and political indicators pointed to a healthy environment conducive to an enhanced socioeconomic life. It welcomed recent efforts to strengthen the national human rights institution. Kenya made a recommendation.

39. Kuwait noted that Mauritius had implemented strategies for combating poverty, including the establishment of the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic

Empowerment. It observed the adoption of strategies on social housing, child development and training and employment and made recommendations.

40. Lesotho commended Mauritius on adopting legislation to combat trafficking in persons, ensure equal opportunities, protect human rights and provide legal aid, and encouraged it to continue in its efforts. It called on the international community to continue to support the Government's efforts to fulfil its human rights obligations. Lesotho made recommendations.

41. Madagascar welcomed the creation of the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment and the restructuring and strengthening of the National Human Rights Commission. It commended the efforts to enhance policies on education, elimination of poverty, women's and children's rights and judicial reform. It encouraged Mauritius to continue its efforts to consolidate the achievements in improving the human rights situation.

42. Malaysia commended Mauritius for its considerable progress in implementing the recommendation from the first UPR cycle on addressing violence against women and protection of children. In particular, it welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence. Malaysia made recommendations.

43. Maldives noted with appreciation the implementation of the recommendations of the first UPR cycle. However, it noted that further progress could be achieved in improving existing safeguards for children and the child protection system. It expressed hope that further consideration would be given to these in the implementation of the recommendations from this second UPR cycle. It made recommendations.

44. Mauritania noted efforts to strengthen the rule of law through judicial reforms. It commended measures to protect persons with disabilities, provide public access to government institutions and ensure stability and security.

45. Mexico commended the establishment of the National Human Rights Action Plan and its related monitoring mechanism. It applauded the adoption of laws criminalizing domestic violence, while urging Mauritius to promote awareness campaigns to reduce physical, verbal and psychological aggression. It made recommendations.

46. Monaco congratulated Mauritius on the progress achieved in promoting and protecting human rights, especially those of the elderly, since the first UPR cycle. It asked for information on the work and human resources of the newly established National Observatory on Aging. It made a recommendation.

47. Montenegro welcomed the establishment of a committee to monitor the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan. It shared the concerns of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography at the number of children in care institutions that fail to meet the required standards. It made recommendations.

48. Morocco congratulated Mauritius on the launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan and the related monitoring committee. It asked for information on the development of the database of human rights indicators. It commended Mauritius' commitment to small island developing States and made a recommendation.

49. Mozambique applauded Mauritius for establishing the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment. It noted with satisfaction the strengthening of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities and commended the side event on the Equal Opportunities Act and on the National Human Rights Action Plan. It made a recommendation.

50. Namibia observed that Mauritius enjoyed a strong democracy and a robust human rights framework, including the National Human Rights Action Plan. It made recommendations.

51. Nepal commended the adoption of the “Maurice Ile Durable” policy and efforts to ensure the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly. It noted encouraging progress in increasing female participation in politics and decision-making. It made recommendations.

52. The Netherlands commended the efforts to improve women’s rights and combat gender-based violence, and stated that the full implementation of the action plan to end gender-based violence would be an important step. It called upon Mauritius to submit the requested follow-up information to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It made recommendations.

53. Singapore noted Mauritius’ efforts to eliminate all forms of violence and abuse against children, including sanctions against child labour, and the special government unit providing psychotherapy and shelters for victims. It noted the efforts towards gender equality and combating gender-based violence. It made recommendations.

54. Nigeria commended the participatory approach adopted by Mauritius in preparing the report. It further commended the authorities for the progress made in promoting and protecting human rights across a broad range of areas. It made recommendations.

55. Oman commended the ongoing commitment to strengthening the legislative and institutional framework geared toward legal protection for all without distinction. It recalled that Mauritius was committed to complying with its international obligations and implementing the National Human Rights Action Plan. It noted the focus on the rights of persons with disabilities, equality for all and non-discrimination. It made a recommendation.

56. The Philippines was pleased with the enactment of several laws aimed at strengthening the human rights normative framework. It congratulated Mauritius’ efforts to safeguard the rights of women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities and acknowledged Mauritius’ commitment to advancing the cause of migrant workers. It commended the formulation of the National Human Rights Action Plan and expressed appreciation that the Office of the Prime Minister was leading its implementation. It made recommendations.

57. Rwanda commended Mauritius on enacting legislation in a number of areas, including human rights protection, equal opportunities and combating trafficking in persons. It also commended the adoption of the National Gender Policy Framework. Rwanda made recommendations.

58. Senegal noted the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the first UPR cycle. It further noted the significant progress made in promoting and protecting human rights, that is reflected in initiatives such as the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan, the restructuring of the National Human Rights Commission and the measures taken to combat gender-based and domestic violence. It made recommendations.

59. Seychelles applauded the progress made in enhancing the rights and status of women, including the implementation of the National Gender Policy Framework and the National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence. It made recommendations.

60. Sierra Leone congratulated Mauritius on its recent ranking for democracy of 18 by the Economist Intelligence Unit, compared to the previous rank of 26. It welcomed the policies adopted and the institutions established to address the needs of vulnerable groups,

poverty, human rights training and the ratification of CRPD and OP-CRC-SC. It made recommendations.

61. New Zealand welcomed the adoption of the policy of inclusive education and steps taken to improve equal access to education for children with disabilities, noting, however, that challenges remained in the implementation. New Zealand recalled that it had raised the issue of ongoing traditional attitudes and stereotypes concerning women in family and society in 2009. It made recommendations.

62. Slovenia noted positive developments in the area of children's protection, especially in the context of abuse and violence, but noted that there was no mention of sexual and reproductive health education in schools. It made recommendations.

63. South Africa noted the ratification of international instruments and the establishment of institutional protection mechanisms to enhance the promotion, protection and enjoyment of rights by children. It also welcomed the launching of the National Human Rights Action Plan. It made recommendations.

64. South Sudan noted the efforts to reform the political and legislative systems, and increase women's participation in politics and decision-making. It welcomed the ratification of OP-CRC-SC. It made a recommendation.

65. In its response to the issues raised so far, Mauritius stressed the relevance of the National Human Rights Action Plan and stated that the political will exists to implement it and that necessary budget will be allocated for it. It also referred to the steps taken to ratify or accede to major international human rights instruments, especially those that are still outstanding.

66. Mauritius stressed the importance of respect for its territorial integrity. It reiterated that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia and Tromelin, form an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius. Chagossians are full-fledged citizens of Mauritius, enjoying the same rights as other Mauritian citizens. With a view to improving the well-being of the Chagossians, the Government of Mauritius has taken special measures in their favour, such as donating land for the construction of houses and setting up the Chagossian Welfare Fund.

67. With regard to the standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, Mauritius stated that although it has not yet extended a standing invitation, one of the recommendations of the National Human Rights Action Plan is to invite special procedures of the Human Rights Council to visit the country. Mauritius indicated that it will therefore consider extending such a standing invitation to the special procedures.

68. On ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, Mauritius noted that as it is a small country with limited resources, it would not be able to allow migrant workers to bring their families. Mauritius explained that a series of measures have been taken to protect the legitimate rights of migrant workers.

69. On the issue of the asylum seekers, Mauritius indicated that it has not signed the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, but that it always extend the necessary assistance to those who apply for asylum through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

70. Regarding gender-based violence, Mauritius reiterated the information already provided and highlighted some of the salient parts of the National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence and gave detailed information in this regard.

71. On human rights training for police officers, Mauritius provided information on the measures taken, including a tailor-made training module on human rights.

72. Concerning enforced disappearances, Mauritius explained that it has not yet ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPEd) as a number of policy matters are still being studied before a decision to ratify can be taken.

73. Regarding media reform and freedom of the press, Mauritius indicated that it is presently reviewing the media landscape with a view to reforming the media law. In this context, a report on media law reform has been commissioned with the aim of putting in place an appropriate media framework.

74. On the issue of school dropouts, Mauritius described numerous measures that have been taken, and stated that the results are tangible.

75. Regarding children, Mauritius recalled the information it had already provided on the comprehensive Children's Bill, which was under preparation, and provided additional information.

76. Concerning the rights of persons with disabilities, Mauritius stated that many of the measures adopted had been highlighted in its opening remarks.

77. Spain enquired about measures to ensure that legislation on the electoral process has been amended in line with the ruling of the Human Rights Committee that the requirement for citizens to declare their ethnic and religious status constitutes a violation of article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). It made recommendations.

78. Thailand welcomed the efforts to adopt legislation and reform institutions, and applauded the launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan and the efforts to increase public awareness on human rights education through the media and in school curricula. It noted the National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence 2012–2015 and made recommendations.

79. Togo praised Mauritius for its strengthened democracy, nation-building activities and consolidation of the fundamental freedoms and rights of its people, despite the limited capacity and resources of the island. It noted the adoption of new laws and the ratification of international human rights instruments. It made a recommendation.

80. Trinidad and Tobago commended Mauritius' commitment to raising public awareness of human rights and the international treaties through programmes, training and tertiary education. It was heartened to note the enactment of the International Criminal Court Act, which provides for the implementation of the Rome Statute. Trinidad and Tobago made recommendations.

81. Egypt welcomed the new legislation enacted to better guarantee protection of human rights in the areas of equal opportunities, human trafficking and legal aid. It made recommendations.

82. Turkey noted the launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan and welcomed the establishment of the Human Rights Monitoring Committee, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Truth and Justice Commission. It made recommendations.

83. Uganda welcomed legislation on combating trafficking in persons, legal aid, equal opportunities and protecting human rights. It commended the ratification of OP-CRC-SC and made recommendations.

84. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland urged the Government to prioritize efforts to tackle gender-based violence. With regard to the comments made by the delegation of Mauritius about the British Indian Ocean Territory, the United Kingdom stated that it had no doubts about its sovereignty over the territory, which was ceded to

Britain in 1814 and which has been a British dependency ever since. It made recommendations.

85. The United States of America expressed concern about commercial sexual exploitation of children and adults, failure to designate persons aboard fishing vessels in Mauritian territorial waters as victims of human trafficking, and the situation of children who work in dangerous conditions in agriculture, street vending, and domestic service. It regretted that the NHRC had inadequate resources. It made recommendations.

86. Uruguay highlighted the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan, the establishment of the Truth and Justice Commission and the enactment of legislation, regarding, inter alia, reporting police violations, equal opportunities, legal aid, amendments to the Criminal Code, abortion and the adoption of a national mechanism on the prevention of torture. It made recommendations.

87. Viet Nam noted progress in ensuring the rights and freedoms of all people, not least through the adoption of new laws, programmes and action plans, such as human rights awareness-raising and training programmes, and the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission. It made a recommendation.

88. Zambia commended Mauritius on its institutional and legislative framework. It welcomed the enactment of new legislation such as the Employment Rights Act, the Equal Opportunities Act and the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment. It made a recommendation.

89. Zimbabwe noted that Mauritius was consolidating its legislative and institutional framework and amending policies and programmes to ensure greater enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. It welcomed the ratification of OP-CRC-SC and CRPD and harmonization of its national laws with the provisions of those conventions. It made recommendations.

90. Algeria commended the inclusive consultation process with other stakeholders in preparing the national report. It welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan — which it hoped would further the promotion and protection of human rights —, and the ratification of CRPD and the Optional Protocols to CRC. It made recommendations.

91. Angola commended the creation of the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment and the reform of the national human rights institution. It welcomed the adoption of legislation on the protection and promotion of human rights and on legal assistance to groups of people in vulnerable situations. Angola made a recommendation.

92. Argentina welcomed the amendments to Mauritius' legislative framework and the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan. It commended the National Preventive Mechanism Act, which gives effect to OP-CAT, and encouraged Mauritius to continue making progress in that area. It made recommendations.

93. Armenia noted the launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan and the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission. It welcomed the measures and initiatives taken to protect children's rights, not least the ratification of OP-CRC-SC and the development of a national child protection strategy. It made recommendations.

94. Australia welcomed the Government's significant efforts to bolster its national human rights framework through the creation and resourcing of the human rights ombudsman, the Equal Opportunities Commission, the National Human Rights Council and the Truth and Justice Commission. It urged the Government to continue disability-inclusive policies. It made recommendations.

95. Benin noted that many laws have been adopted since the first UPR cycle with a view to enhancing human rights protection. It welcomed the existence of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, as well as the Equal Opportunities Commission, which show that promoting and protecting human rights is a government priority. It made recommendations.

96. Bhutan commended the enactment of new legislation on protecting human rights and combating human trafficking. It noted the positive achievements in protecting the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, combating domestic violence and providing training for law enforcement officers. Bhutan also commended the launch of the National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence. It made a recommendation.

97. Botswana commended the implementation of most of the recommendations from the first UPR cycle, in particular legislative reforms in human rights. It also welcomed the strengthening of human rights institutions and the ratification of OP-CRC-SC. It raised concerns about discrimination — especially on grounds of race —, sexual exploitation and human trafficking. It made recommendations.

98. Brazil noted the efforts to improve the functioning of the police. It welcomed the public policies to eradicate poverty and hunger, namely the Eradication of Absolute Poverty programme and the Food Security Strategic Plan. It expressed concern over women's and children's rights. It made recommendations.

99. Burkina Faso noted the numerous measures taken to implement the rights protected by different international and national instruments, and encouraged Mauritius to continue in this direction. It urged Mauritius to adopt legislation and a national strategy for the protection of children, to complete the construction of a new prison in compliance with international standards and rules to ease overcrowding and to continue the process of amending the Penal Code to criminalize marital rape. It made recommendations.

100. Cambodia noted with appreciation the progress made in implementing most of the recommendations from the previous UPR. It welcomed the launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan and the national platform to end gender-based violence. It made a recommendation.

101. Canada requested information on the status of plans to amend the Criminal Code to criminalize marital rape and decriminalize homosexuality, including progress achieved, remaining steps and deadlines for completion. It welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan and the measures to promote human rights training and to facilitate access to information. It expressed concern about reports of sexual exploitation of children, and stressed the importance for the Government to intensify its commitment to programmes that protect children from violence and sexual abuse. It made recommendations.

102. Cabo Verde noted that Mauritius has highlighted democracy and rule of law, adopted a consistent legal and institutional framework and devoted significant means to its institutions. It noted the ratification of several international human rights instruments and the compliance of its national human rights institution with the Paris Principles. It encouraged the further transposition of international instruments into domestic law and made recommendations.

103. Chad noted that in addition to Constitutional provisions, Mauritius has adopted laws related to human rights protection, complaints against the police, national prevention mechanism, equality of opportunities and legal aid. It noted that the implementation of the recommendations in the action plan is being monitored by a committee for follow-up on the human rights situation. It further noted that Mauritius has been implementing international conventions to ensure that its citizens enjoy human rights. It made a recommendation.

104. China commended Mauritius' human rights achievements and stable democracy. It highlighted the National Human Rights Action Plan to protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and migrants. It made a recommendation.

105. Congo welcomed the efforts to implement legal reforms to take into account the recommendations from the first UPR cycle. It noted the establishment of the follow-up committee, the National Human Rights Action Plan and the Equal Opportunity Commission. It expressed satisfaction with Government initiatives that allowed awareness-raising of NGOs, women's associations, vulnerable groups and members of the security forces. It commended the amendments to bring domestic legislation in line with international instruments.

106. Costa Rica noted the legislative and institutional measures, including the restructuring of the National Human Rights Commission and the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan. It encouraged the Government to continue to take measures to eliminate domestic and gender-based violence. It made recommendations.

107. Côte d'Ivoire noted the implementation of measures to prevent abuses — particularly those committed by members of security forces —, protect persons with disabilities and minors, and protect vulnerable persons against gender-based and domestic violence. It welcomed the "Mauritius Sustainable Island" programme, aimed at ensuring economic sustainability, and the law guaranteeing equal opportunity in the employment sector. It made recommendations.

108. Cuba commended the efforts made in implementing the recommendations of the first UPR cycle and the measures taken to guarantee the rights to education and health. It noted progress in the justice system and the efforts to eliminate poverty through the creation of the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment. It made recommendations.

109. The Czech Republic commended the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan and the creation of the monitoring body. It raised concerns about continued domestic violence, especially against women and children. It made recommendations.

110. The Democratic Republic of the Congo commended the adoption of new laws and the establishment of institutions. It enquired about the "Men as Partners" programme to combat sexual violence and requested information about its structure and operation. It made recommendations.

111. Djibouti noted the creation of committees and institutional bodies in different areas — from the protection of minors to equal opportunities —, and a coordination team to avoid overlap and encouraged follow-up of these new bodies. It noted the introduction of a human rights culture through a broad awareness-raising programme and welcomed Mauritius' effective commitment to persons with disabilities. It made recommendations.

112. Ecuador commended the efforts in implementing the recommendations of the first UPR cycle and the ratification of OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC. It highlighted the new laws to prevent discrimination and violence against women. It made recommendations.

113. Ireland noted the positive steps taken since the first UPR, including the restructuring of the National Human Rights Commission, the adoption of legislation transposing the Rome Statute, and the development of a human rights action plan. It expressed concern about the criminalization of sexual conduct between consenting adults of the same sex. It commended the proposal for a media bill, however, underlined that Mauritius does not currently have a law enabling access to government information. It made recommendations.

114. Estonia encouraged Mauritius to continue to fully cooperate with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. It encouraged Mauritius to increase protection of

freedoms of expression, assembly, association as well as of the Internet, and to continue with the protection of children's rights and the elimination of domestic violence. It made recommendations.

115. Ethiopia commended the adoption and implementation of legislation transposing the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children into domestic legislation. It highlighted the efforts to change negative attitudes towards disability. It made a recommendation.

116. France welcomed Mauritius' commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, as reflected through the ratification of CRPD and the Optional Protocols to CRC. It welcomed the legal achievements, particularly the 2012 law restructuring the National Human Rights Commission, and the women-oriented policy. It further welcomed the submission of the mid-term progress report. France made recommendations.

117. Gabon noted the "Mauritius Sustainable Island" project, which has been implemented in a holistic and democratic manner. It noted the efforts to eliminate racial discrimination and highlighted the measures adopted in favour of the Chagossians. It invited the international community and OHCHR to support the efforts to establish sustainable respect for human rights. It made recommendations.

118. Germany requested information on measures taken to implement human rights for children with disabilities, including effective monitoring of and protection from abuse and their inclusiveness in society. It asked how Mauritius planned to strengthen implementation mechanisms for strategies relating to several human rights issues. It made a recommendation.

119. Mauritius responded to additional questions.

120. With regard to recommendations to review section 16 of its Constitution, Mauritius explained that section 16 prohibits discrimination, but provides an exception for personal laws. This measure has historical origins, whereby, prior to independence, the Muslim community had requested the inclusion of such provisions. A consensus has not yet been reached among the different schools of thought in the Muslim community in the country with regard to Muslim Personal Law. Mauritius stressed the need to be culturally sensitive.

121. On the issue of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and specifically the decriminalization of the offence of sodomy, Mauritius stated that the Government had introduced the Sexual Offences Bill, but following the dissolution of Parliament in 2010, consideration of the Bill was deferred. After consultations, it was decided in 2013 not to proceed with the Sexual Offences Bill as further consultations were needed on the matter. The Government decided to introduce a Criminal Code (Amendment) Bill to provide, inter alia, for marital rape.

122. Regarding action to promote access to quality education and ensuring that children whose first language is different from the language of instruction are not disadvantaged, Mauritius clarified that Creole is a language of instruction in some primary schools and is also taught as a subject.

123. On the issue of trafficking in persons, Mauritius recalled the measures taken, including the setting up of a committee under the Office of the Prime Minister to address this issue.

124. On the issue of the death penalty, Mauritius stated that although the death penalty has been abolished by ordinary law, the Constitution has not yet been accordingly amended, which is the reason why the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights has not yet been ratified by Mauritius.

125. On the issue of overcrowding in prisons, Mauritius provided information on the 10-year strategic plan that had been developed to address the issue with the assistance of a consultant from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

126. Mauritius provided additional information about the measures taken to combat violence against children and indicated that it had decided to include corporal punishment as an offence in the Children's Bill in order to bring the laws more in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

127. Mauritius concluded by thanking all those who had participated in the discussions, and assured the Council that it would give serious consideration to all the comments and recommendations. It underlined the importance of respecting different cultural practices in Mauritius: as a multiracial, multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multicultural country, Mauritius cannot be insensitive to the needs and cultural rights of every Mauritian. It added that it would continue its policy of active cooperation with international organizations and their institutions in the field of human rights.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

128. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue listed below enjoy the support of Mauritius:**

128.1. **Take necessary steps to ratify or accede to other major international human rights instruments which are still outstanding (Lesotho);**

128.2. **Reconsider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW) (Indonesia);**

128.3. **Endeavour to accede to ICRMW (Nigeria);**

128.4. **Consider ratifying ICRMW (Philippines);**

128.5. **Consider adhering to ICRMW (Cabo Verde);**

128.6. **Consider ratifying ICRMW (Burkina Faso);¹**

128.7. **Consider becoming a party to ICRMW (Chad);²**

128.8. **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Rwanda);**

128.9. **Consider the possibility of ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED) (Tunisia);**

128.10. **Continue efforts to ratify CPED (Argentina);**

128.11. **Consider ratifying CPED (Burkina Faso);³**

128.12. **Consider ratifying the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (OP-CRC-IC) (Montenegro);⁴**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

¹ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Ratify ICRMW" (Burkina Faso).

² The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Become a party to ICRMW" (Chad).

³ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Ratify CPED" (Burkina Faso).

⁴ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Ratify the third Optional Protocol to

- 128.13. Consider ratifying the third Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Seychelles);⁵
- 128.14. Consider ratifying the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);
- 128.15. Consider ratifying the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol (Rwanda);
- 128.16. Further enhance its efforts to ensure adequate legal protection for all segments of the population (Kenya);
- 128.17. Ensure that the non-discrimination against women is reflected in the provisions of domestic law, including in the context of the current process of the constitutional reform (Cabo Verde);
- 128.18. Continue its efforts to finalize and submit the Children's Bill (Indonesia);
- 128.19. Continue its efforts in the protection of children, including through the finalization of its Children's Bill aimed at consolidating the various legislation on children's rights and harmonizing all laws in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Malaysia);
- 128.20. Finalize the National Child Protection Strategy and the Children's Bill (South Africa);
- 128.21. Finalize the procedure of developing and adopting the Children's Bill (Democratic Republic of Congo);
- 128.22. Continue finalizing the process of reviewing the legal framework on prohibiting, preventing and responding to all forms of sale and sexual exploitation of children, and to ensure the effective implementation of the framework through, inter alia, the harmonization of national legal and regulatory frameworks with ratified international instruments, accompanied by binding measures and mechanisms (Egypt);
- 128.23. Adopt and implement the Children's Bill (Seychelles);
- 128.24. Allocate adequate resources to the National Human Rights Commission (United States of America);
- 128.25. That the Human Rights Monitoring Committee tasked with monitoring the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2012–2020, be given the necessary resources to ensure its effective functioning (South Africa);
- 128.26. Strengthen coordination within the new institutions for the protection of minors and persons with disabilities (Djibouti);
- 128.27. Give continuity to the measures for the creation of a more inclusive, plural and cohesive society (Nepal);
- 128.28. Continue with its resolve towards the promotion and protection of the human rights of all its citizens (Zambia);

the CRC (OP-CRC-IC)" (Montenegro).

⁵ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Ratify the third Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure" (Seychelles).

- 128.29. Continue its reforms to improve policies and programmes towards the promotion and protection of all human rights (Lesotho);
- 128.30. Continue with the sensitization programmes in order to increase human rights awareness among the citizens of the country (Nigeria);
- 128.31. Extend its human rights education and awareness programmes to all sections of the population (Zimbabwe);
- 128.32. Continue and intensify its programmes of human rights mass education (Democratic Republic of Congo);
- 128.33. Continue the efforts related to human rights education and awareness-raising (Algeria);
- 128.34. Continue its efforts in the area of human rights education and training, particularly by implementing relevant provisions of the United Nations Declaration in human rights education and training (Morocco);
- 128.35. Request the international community to provide assistance to the project on incorporating human rights in the school curriculum (Kuwait);
- 128.36. Intensify the efforts to integrate human rights education in the national curriculum (Sierra Leone);
- 128.37. Pursue its plans to integrate human rights across the curricula of primary and secondary schools (Zimbabwe);
- 128.38. Continue its efforts towards human rights training, capacity-building and human rights education, especially through integrating human rights in the educational curriculum (Armenia);
- 128.39. Consider providing appropriate human rights education and training to public servants and law enforcement officials (Philippines);
- 128.40. Continue human rights training and awareness-raising activities, particularly for security forces (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 128.41. Continue implementing measures underway to intensify efforts in providing capacity-building and training programs on human rights for its law enforcement officials as well as judicial and legal officials (Bhutan);
- 128.42. Allocate adequate resources in order to strengthen the implementation of the Human Rights Action Plan 2012–2020 (Angola);
- 128.43. Share with other countries the good practice of holding broad consultations prior to the preparation of the report (Tunisia);
- 128.44. Share the best practices in the implementation of the National Plan on Human Rights, and in the preparation of the UPR (Mozambique);
- 128.45. Continue strengthening the government programme 2012–2015 to improve the situation in areas such as education, health, disabled persons and the social integration of vulnerable groups (Kuwait);
- 128.46. Continue and strengthen its efforts in favour of the elderly (Monaco);
- 128.47. Continue its efforts to enhance the protection of children and improve their well-being (Singapore);
- 128.48. Continue strengthening the national democratic institutions (Nepal);

- 128.49. Disseminate widely the recommendations which will be made to Mauritius at the conclusion of this review (Burkina Faso);
- 128.50. Submit the required information to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Netherlands);
- 128.51. Consider extending a standing invitation to the special procedures mechanism (Seychelles);
- 128.52. Consider issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures (Slovenia);
- 128.53. Consider extending a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders (Tunisia);⁶
- 128.54. Consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council (Montenegro);⁷
- 128.55. Strengthen measures aimed at preventing and eliminating discrimination on the basis of race and ethnicity (Botswana);
- 128.56. Continue combating gender stereotypes and all forms of discrimination and violence against women (Tunisia);
- 128.57. Strengthen its policies of promotion and protection of the rights of women through public policies that foster gender equality in the country (Brazil);
- 128.58. Continue to promote gender equality and work to remove all barriers to the full and active participation of women across all spheres of life (Australia);
- 128.59. Strengthen its policies and measures on the promotion of gender equality in all socio-economic aspects as an effective tool to resolve unemployment and poverty (Viet Nam);
- 128.60. Continue the efforts in favour of the promotion of the rights of women and children, and in the area of the fight against discrimination (Algeria);
- 128.61. Continue to increase women's representation in all national decision-making positions to 30 per cent in line with the SADC decision (Namibia);
- 128.62. Strengthen the equal participation of women in public office (Ecuador);
- 128.63. Strengthen its efforts to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and children (Senegal);
- 128.64. Strengthen the system of protection of the rights of the child by additional measures (Benin);
- 128.65. Continue to address the concerns of disadvantaged and vulnerable persons as a matter of priority, through programs aimed at promoting their fundamental human rights (Philippines);

⁶ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Extend a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders" (Tunisia).

⁷ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council" (Montenegro).

- 128.66. Speed up the realization of equality in the exercise of human rights by disadvantaged groups (Gabon);
- 128.67. Continue to take all necessary measures to ensure that no person is discriminated against by the State, including persons affected by HIV/AIDS (Spain);
- 128.68. Continue with actions aimed at improving the treatment of children with disabilities and children affected and/or infected by HIV/AIDS (Argentina);
- 128.69. Continue to address gender-based violence (Rwanda);
- 128.70. Continue with policies and plans aimed at eliminating domestic violence and violence against children (Ecuador);
- 128.71. Continue its positive efforts in addressing the issue of violence against women, including ensuring the effective implementation of recommendations made by its national platform to end gender-based violence which was introduced in October 2011 (Malaysia);
- 128.72. Further increase its efforts in order to fully implement its own action plan to end gender-based violence (Netherlands);
- 128.73. Continue its efforts to implement the National Action Plan to end gender-based violence and to further promote gender equality (Singapore);
- 128.74. Effectively implement protection mechanisms for victims of domestic violence and provide them with the necessary funding (Spain);
- 128.75. Improve emphasis and transparency in tackling gender-based violence by introducing specific measures to encourage more reporting by the public and increased investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sentences to deter those who commit gender-based violence (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 128.76. Strengthen efforts to combat, prevent, and respond to domestic violence, including by ensuring that victims of domestic violence have access to the necessary support and services that will enable them to leave abusive situations, in particular means to sustainably support themselves financially (Canada);
- 128.77. Strengthen the cooperation with civil society in the area of domestic violence, especially domestic violence against women and children and establish a more effective system of help to victims (Czech Republic);
- 128.78. Improve existing measures on combating violence against children as a key obligation under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments (Maldives);
- 128.79. Put in place initiatives aimed at raising awareness, especially among professionals who work in the area, about violations of the human rights of children, including sexual abuse (Brazil);
- 128.80. Redouble efforts to fight against ill-treatment of children, particularly by the investigation, trial and punishment of perpetrators (Uruguay);
- 128.81. Continue its efforts to strengthening and combating child trafficking (South Sudan);

- 128.82. **Strengthen measures aimed at fighting human trafficking, including addressing its root causes, and exploitation of women and girls (Botswana);**
- 128.83. **Establish a body to coordinate government efforts to combat trafficking in persons and the worst forms of child labour (United States of America);**
- 128.84. **Provide adequate resources to enforce laws against human trafficking through the investigation, prosecution and, if found guilty, conviction of trafficking offenders, including in cases involving forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation (United States of America);⁸**
- 128.85. **Carry out training to identify acts of torture for law enforcement personnel, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, doctors, psychologists and any officials during the detention process. Additionally establish a complaints and follow-up mechanism (Mexico);⁹**
- 128.86. **Ensure the effective implementation of the new laws related to human rights protection, in particular the mechanism of prevention and sanctioning of brutal acts committed by the police (France);**
- 128.87. **Amend the law concerning “certificates of character” so as not to hamper the rehabilitation and reintegration of former convicts in the labour market (Spain);**
- 128.88. **Expedite the process of introducing a media bill to enhance freedom of expression (Sierra Leone);¹⁰**
- 128.89. **Continue to create employment opportunities and promote the development of income generating activities to uplift the poor (Namibia);**
- 128.90. **Continue its efforts to eliminate poverty, ensure the right to food and housing for its population and promote harmony among various communities (China);**
- 128.91. **Continue to make further inroads towards combating poverty and also ensuring that its population has an affordable access to a steady supply of water (Trinidad and Tobago);**
- 128.92. **Strengthen the measures aimed at alleviating extreme poverty (Côte d’Ivoire);**
- 128.93. **Continue the efforts in order to eradicate extreme poverty in the country (Cuba);**
- 128.94. **Maintain its efforts in the context of the right to housing (Djibouti);**

⁸ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Provide adequate resources to enforce laws against human trafficking through the investigation, prosecution and conviction of trafficking offenders, including in cases involving forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation” (United States of America).

⁹ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Carry out training to identify acts of torture for specialized personnel of the security forces, public prosecution, doctors, psychologists and any other related to the different moments of the detention process. Additionally establish a complaints and follow up mechanism” (Mexico).

¹⁰ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Expedite the process of introducing a media bill to enhance freedom of expression and individual rights” (Sierra Leone).

- 128.95. Consider mainstreaming sexual and reproductive health education in schools and offering access to contraception to young people (Slovenia);
- 128.96. Continue with the current efforts to implement the national plan to combat HIV/AIDS (Egypt);
- 128.97. Adopt and implement a national plan to combat HIV/AIDS, with an emphasis on prevention (Thailand);
- 128.98. Continue taking measures to further strengthen its education and health systems (Cuba);
- 128.99. Strengthen its education policies to ensure that no child drops out of school at primary level due to structural reasons (Namibia);
- 128.100. Step up efforts, particularly in the educational system, by taking additional measures to put an end to the phenomena of some students being absent from school during the elementary and secondary level, in order to reach the desired goals in this friendly country (Oman);
- 128.101. Consider adopting policies to encourage women and girls to choose non-traditional fields of education, including technical and vocational training (Egypt);
- 128.102. Adopt policies to encourage women and girls to choose non-traditional fields of education and work, including relevant technical and vocational training (New Zealand);
- 128.103. Continue to raise the literacy rate amongst women, particularly those living in rural areas (Namibia);
- 128.104. Expand activities to promote access to quality education for all children, in particular ensuring that children whose first language is different from the language of instruction are not at a disadvantage (Canada);
- 128.105. Promote the linguistic plurality through education (Djibouti);
- 128.106. Make further efforts in increasing participation of persons with disabilities at all levels of political and public life, especially the electoral process (Maldives);
- 128.107. Intensify the positive action already taken for improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities (Senegal);
- 128.108. Work to ensure inclusive, quality and free primary and secondary education to children with disabilities on an equal basis with other children (New Zealand);
- 128.109. Support steps regarding the rights of persons with disabilities with administrative arrangements, in order to ensure that these rights are enjoyed by all persons with disabilities within the society, especially children with disabilities (Turkey);
- 128.110. Continue implementation of the National Plan of Action, including social programs that aim at carrying out information and education activities with regard to people with disabilities and their social protection according to the relevant Convention which the country has ratified (Cambodia);
- 128.111. Continue increasing skills development programmes to public officers and staff, hospital staff and police officers on how to assist persons with disabilities as well as children with special needs (Ethiopia);

- 128.112. Consider deepening the measures taken for socio-economic promotion of the ethnic minorities (Cabo Verde);¹¹
- 128.113. Continue its current efforts aimed at improving the fate of the Chagossians (Gabon);
- 128.114. Maintain the philosophy of putting the people first in its development agenda (Nigeria);
129. The following recommendations will be examined by Mauritius which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the twenty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council in March 2014:
- 129.1. Sign and ratify ICRMW (Sierra Leone);
 - 129.2. Accede to the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR (Australia);
 - 129.3. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Estonia);
 - 129.4. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);
 - 129.5. Formally abolish the death penalty by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and support the next General Assembly resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty (Germany);
 - 129.6. Proceed to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (Benin);
 - 129.7. Proceed to the ratification the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Benin);
 - 129.8. Ratify CPED (France);
 - 129.9. Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (France);
 - 129.10. Withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (Togo);
 - 129.11. Withdraw its reservations to CRPD articles 9 (accessibility), 24 (education) and 11 (situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies) (Uruguay);
 - 129.12. Ratify the Optional Protocol to CRPD (Australia);
 - 129.13. Ratify the Convention on the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Estonia);
 - 129.14. Sign the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Spain);
 - 129.15. Ratify the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);

¹¹ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Consider deepening the measures taken for socio-economic promotion of the ethnic minority which is the Creole population of the country” (Cabo Verde).

- 129.16. **Ratify the Kampala convention and create an adequate national and legal policy framework to effectively deal with internally displaced people (Uganda);**
- 129.17. **Make further efforts to review the Constitution with a view to explicitly recognizing economic, social and cultural rights equally with other constitutional rights (Uruguay);**
- 129.18. **Grant a legal rank to the ICESCR that allows its provisions to be directly invoked in the domestic legal system (Uruguay);**
- 129.19. **Review article 16 (4) (c) of its Constitution to ensure that such a provision is not discriminatory against women (Trinidad and Tobago);**
- 129.20. **Extend a standing invitation to the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations (Costa Rica);**
- 129.21. **Extend a standing invitation to the special procedures of the United Nations (France);**
- 129.22. **Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Czech Republic);**
- 129.23. **Finalize issuing a standing invitation to the United Nations mandate holders, which was already declared to be considered after the first round of the universal periodic review (Turkey);**
- 129.24. **Remove norms, including at the constitutional level, that may be deemed as an exemption from the prohibition of discrimination, and take practical measures for its implementation (Costa Rica);**
- 129.25. **Promote concrete action to combat inequality and guarantee the participation of women in social, cultural, political and economic development through affirmative action programmes (Mexico);**
- 129.26. **Continue to promote women’s participation in decision-making and political participation by providing necessary assistance and capacity building, as well as gradually increasing proportion of women parliamentarians (Thailand);**
- 129.27. **Consider introducing temporary special measures in areas where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged and raise awareness among parliamentarians and government officials about the necessity of such measures (Egypt);**
- 129.28. **Introduce special measures in areas where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged and raise awareness among parliamentarians and other government organs (Uganda);**
- 129.29. **Adopt legislation that explicitly prohibits corporal punishment, and continue awareness raising campaigns on the negative effects of corporal punishment (Uruguay);**
- 129.30. **Ensure that the new Police and Criminal Evidence Bill fully addresses the practice of detention on the basis of “provisional information” by specifying that detention beyond a short time limit, defined in statute, is only possible once a suspect is formally charged (United Kingdom);**
- 129.31. **Repeal the sections of its Criminal Code that criminalize consensual homosexual activity (Australia);**

129.32. **Remove from the Criminal Code the penalization of same-sex conduct between consenting adults (Canada);**

129.33. **Repeal section 250 of the Criminal Code which criminalizes sexual conduct between consenting adults of the same sex (Ireland);**

129.34. **Enact legislation to provide for freedom of information requests (Ireland);**

129.35. **Formulate strict legislation to prevent abuse and exploitation of children with disabilities by parents or other members of society; and provide necessary measures to assist them in their quest of justice (Maldives);**

129.36. **Continue actions aimed at the return to the Chagos Archipelago of the Chagossians displaced from the island of Diego Garcia and the other islands of the Archipelago, and to consider including in these actions processes for the reparation of victims (Mexico).¹²**

130. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

¹² The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Continue action aimed at the return to their lands of the Chagossians displaced from the island of Diego Garcia and other islands from the Chagos archipelago, and that such actions include processes for the reparation of victims” (Mexico).

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Mauritius was headed by Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell, G.O.S.K. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, and composed of the following members:

- Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell, G.O.S.K., Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Head of Delegation;
 - H. E. Mr. Israhyananda Dhalladoo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Alternate Head of Delegation;
 - Mrs. Prameeta Devi Rasheela Goordyal-Chittoo, Ag. Assistant Parliamentary Counsel, Attorney General's Office, Member;
 - Mrs. Bilkiss Rajahbalee-Cader, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Member;
 - Mr. Anandrao Hurree, Deputy Permanent Representative, Member;
 - Mrs. Dilshaad Uteem, First Secretary, Member;
 - Mrs. Asha Muthusawmy-Pillay, State Counsel, Attorney General's Office, Member;
 - Mrs. Vimla Huree-Agarwal, Second Secretary, Member;
 - Mr. Hambyrajen Narsinghen, Economic and Trade Adviser, Member;
 - Mr. Subhas Gujadhur, Member.
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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Mauritius

Addendum

**Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments
and replies presented by the State under review**

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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Written replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue of the UPR Working Group in October 2013

129.36. Continue actions aimed at the return to the Chagos Archipelago of the Chagossians displaced from the island of Diego Garcia and the other islands of the Archipelago and to consider including in these actions processes for the reparation of victims (Mexico)

38. The Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius under both Mauritian law and international law.

39. The United Kingdom illegally excised the Chagos Archipelago from the territory of Mauritius prior to its accession to independence, in breach of international law and United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966 and 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967.

40. The illegal excision of the Chagos Archipelago from the territory of Mauritius also involved the shameful eviction by the United Kingdom of the Mauritians who were residing at the time in the Archipelago ('Chagossians') in total disregard of their human rights in order to pave the way for the establishment of a military base by the United States in Diego Garcia. Most of the Chagossians were removed to Mauritius.

41. The long-standing struggle of Mauritius to effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and the right of the former inhabitants of the Chagos Archipelago, as Mauritian citizens, to be resettled in the Archipelago are indissociable. The Government of Mauritius will continue to press for the early and unconditional return of the Chagos Archipelago to the effective control of Mauritius, whilst firmly supporting the right of return of the Chagossians and other Mauritians to the Archipelago.

42. With regard to the question of reparation to the victims, Mauritius is of the view that this should be addressed by the United Kingdom which forcibly removed the former inhabitants of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius and continues to deny them and other Mauritians the right of return.



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Agenda item 6

Universal Periodic Review

Note verbale dated 24 September 2014 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council and, with reference to letter MMG/HR/28/2,* dated 5 September 2014, addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council by Mr. I. Dhalladoo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mauritius, has the honour to request the secretariat to issue the said letter as an official document of the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 6.

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

GE.14-18401 (E)



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Annex

[English only]

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius wishes to refer to the mid-term report submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in August 2014 to the Human Rights Council in connection with the universal periodic review and, in particular, to paragraph 5 in the section entitled “Summary of the outcome of the engagement process with the National Human Rights Institutions and with civil society organisations” (page 7), wherein mention is made of the “Chagos Islands (part of the British Indian Ocean Territory...)”.

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius reiterates that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius under both Mauritian law and international law.

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius reaffirms that it does not recognize the so-called “British Indian Ocean Territory” which the United Kingdom purported to create by illegally excising the Chagos Archipelago from the territory of Mauritius prior to its accession to independence. This excision was carried out in violation of international law and of United Nations General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 2232 (XXI) of 20 December 1966 and 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967.

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius would be grateful if this letter could be circulated to all member and observer States of the Council.

(Signed)

I. Dhalladoo
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

United Nations Universal Periodic Review
Mid Term Report

of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland, and the British Overseas
Territories, and Crown Dependencies

(2014)

Introduction

1. In its response of 17 September 2012 to the Human Rights Council's recommendations¹ at the end of the second UPR, the UK committed to providing an update on progress on the recommendations through a mid-term report in 2014.
2. Regarding the UK's responses:
 - A recommendation that **enjoys** the support of the UK is one where the UK supports both the spirit or principle behind the recommendation and is able to implement it in practice.
 - A recommendation that **enjoys** the support of the UK **in part** is one where the UK supports the spirit or principle behind the recommendation but it is only able to implement it in part (due, for example, to legal or constitutional factors, or because the UK considers that its present efforts are sufficient).
 - A recommendation that **does not enjoy** the support of the UK is generally one where the UK is not able to commit to implementation, or where the UK rejects the assertions being made.
3. In preparing this report, the UK Government met with a wide range of external stakeholders², including the NHRIs and a number of NGOs. Stakeholder events were held in: London (on 19 March and 18 September 2013); Edinburgh (on 12 June 2013, hosted by the Scottish Government); Cardiff (on 31 July 2013, hosted by the Welsh Government); and Belfast (on 16 December 2013). In addition, an online submission system, open to all members of the public and organisations, was live on the website of the Ministry of Justice between March and 1 October 2013. Approximately 125 submissions were received (the majority of them from a single organisation).

Summary of the outcome of the engagement process with the National Human Rights Institutions and with civil society organisations

4. Whilst there was a general request that the UK should take on board and implement all of the UPR recommendations, areas for particular concern included: ratification of all UN human rights instruments (particularly the CPED, and those on rights to individual petition to the UN); counter-terrorism measures (for example "stop and search"); allegations of torture by UK officials overseas; extraterritorial application of CAT; diplomatic assurances against torture; full implementation and incorporation into UK law (and extension to all BOTs and CDs) of the CEDAW and the CRC (and ratification of the OP-CRC-COM); child poverty; independence of the Children Commissioners and of the EHRC; VAWG; abortion legislation in Northern Ireland; age of criminal responsibility; corporal punishment of children; caste discrimination; inequality; gender equality; indefinite detention of migrants; hate crime (based on various grounds, including gender and disability); impact of the welfare reform.
5. A number of issues raised by stakeholders were not directly included in the UPR recommendations but were nonetheless of concern to NGOs. The additional issues covered, for example: the rights of older people and of victims of crime; the impact of the legal aid reforms; the Chagos Islands (part of the British Indian Ocean Territory, the UK Government's position on which remains as set out in December 2012 at the conclusion of the application to the ECtHR³); and better performance indicators on various rights.

¹ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/GBSession13.aspx> (as "Addendum 1" and "Annex 1" under "Outcome of the review").

² <http://www.justice.gov.uk/human-rights/universal-periodic-review/upr-events>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/european-court-of-human-rights-decision-on-chagossian-case>



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1–12 May 2017

**National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of
the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21***

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

* The present document has been reproduced as received. Its content does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

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Abbreviations

AAFF	UK Armed Forces
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CD	Crown Dependency ¹
CD2014	Core Document 2014 of the United Kingdom, British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies ²
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEDAW-OP	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRC-OP-AC	Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict
CRC-OP-SC	Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CRPD-OP	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
EA 2010	Equality Act 2010
ECHR	Council of Europe European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
ECtHR	Council of Europe European Court of Human Rights
EU	European Union
HRA	Human Rights Act 1998
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP2	Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
ILO	International Labour Organization
Istanbul Convention	Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions (in the UK they are the: Equality and Human Rights Commission; Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; Scottish Human Rights Commission)
NHS	National Health Service
NIE	Northern Ireland Executive
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OT	British Overseas Territory ³
SG	Scottish Government
SIA	Security and Intelligence Agencies (Security Service, Secret Intelligence Service, UK Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ))
UK	United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales)
UKG	UK Government
UN	United Nations
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
WG	Welsh Government

I. Introduction

1. The UK welcomes the 3rd UPR of its human rights record. The UPR is a constructive process for States to learn from and to help each other in protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. The UK remains fully committed to the UPR and to promoting human rights internationally.

2. On 23 June 2016, the people of the UK voted to leave the EU. However, the UK will remain a close friend, ally and trading partner of its European neighbours; an outward-looking nation, open for business, committed to peace and security, and a leading supporter of the international rules-based system. Recalling the celebrations in 2015 for the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta, the UK is committed to maintaining its strong global role in relation to human rights and continues to comply with its international human rights obligations. The UK will also take action to tackle abuses of these rights. As Prime Minister Theresa May made clear in her speech to the UN General Assembly on 20 September 2016, this includes working together with the UN to adapt a global response to mass migration and reducing the threat from international terrorism, stamping out modern slavery, championing the rights of women and girls and abhorring sexual violence in conflict.

3. The UKG remains committed to reforming the domestic human rights framework. We will consider further the Bill of Rights once we know the arrangements for the EU exit and consult fully on our proposals in the full knowledge of the new constitutional landscape that will create.

V. Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories

93. The legal framework for protecting and promoting human rights and for combating discrimination in the CDs and OTs³⁶ remains broadly as set out in the CD2014³⁷. Major developments since 2012 have been summarised below.

Overseas Territories

97. The UKG continues to expect the OTs to abide by the same basic human rights standards as the UK. There has been steady progress since 2012, but the UK and OT Governments recognise that further work and support is needed to realise this ambition. To date, most of the populated OTs have had one or more of the following UN treaties extended to them: ICCPR, ICESCR, ICERD, CAT, CRC and CEDAW. The Virgin Islands,

Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands have had all six extended to them. In March 2016, the CEDAW was extended to Anguilla and the Cayman Islands. At the annual OT Joint Ministerial Council in November 2016, the UK and OT Governments agreed to work together to achieve progress in the extension of the above six UN human rights treaties and to conduct a review of outstanding reservations on behalf of the OTs. There will be further joint work to further develop the capability of OT NHRIs, in line with the Paris Principles, and to promote understanding of shared international human rights obligations.

98. On 16 November 2016, the UKG announced its decision not to resettle the Chagossian people on the British Indian Ocean Territory on the grounds of feasibility, defence and security interests, and cost to British tax payers. The UKG has considered carefully the practicalities of setting up a small remote community on low-lying islands and the challenges that any community would face. Instead, the UKG will seek to support improvements to the livelihoods of Chagossians in the communities where they now live and will fund a package of approximately £40 million over the next 10 years to achieve this goal.

Notes

- ¹ There are 3 Crown Dependencies: Bailiwick of Guernsey; Bailiwick of Jersey; Isle of Man.
- ² http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/CoreDocuments.aspx
- ³ There are 14 British Overseas Territories but only 10 have permanent indigenous populations, namely: Anguilla; Bermuda; Cayman Islands; Falkland Islands; Gibraltar; Montserrat; the group Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno; the group St Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha; Turks and Caicos Islands; Virgin Islands (commonly known as the British Virgin Islands).
- ⁴ http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/countries.aspx
- ⁵ http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session13/GB/UKMidTermReport_Aug2014.doc
- ⁶ ICERD, ICCPR, ICESCR, CAT, CEDAW, CRC, CRPD.
- ⁷ OPCAT, ICCPR-OP2, CRC-OP-AC, CRC-OP-SC, CEDAW-OP, CRPD-OP.
- ⁸ UPR recommendations 110.4, 110.6–110.8, 110.11–110.13, 110.30, 110.31.
- ⁹ UPR recommendations 110.1, 110.5, 110.26.
- ¹⁰ UPR recommendation 110.48.
- ¹¹ UPR recommendations 110.14–110.19, 110.20–110.26, 110.28.
- ¹² UPR recommendation 110.3.
- ¹³ UPR recommendations 110.33, 110.67, 110.68.
- ¹⁴ 18 November 2016.
- ¹⁵ As at 26 January 2017.
- ¹⁶ UPR recommendations 110.29, 110.74.
- ¹⁷ UPR recommendations 110.32, 110.39, 110.44, 110.46, 110.49, 110.50, 110.53, 110.66, 110.102, 110.103, 110.116.
- ¹⁸ Pages 36–38 of CD2014.
- ¹⁹ UPR recommendation 110.61.
- ²⁰ UPR recommendation 110.92.
- ²¹ UPR recommendations 110.40, 110.51, 110.69–110.71.
- ²² UPR recommendations 110.72–110.76, 110.99.
- ²³ UPR recommendations 110.43, 110.59, 110.60, 110.90, 110.91.
- ²⁴ UPR recommendations 110.58, 110.118–110.121.
- ²⁵ UPR recommendation 110.83.
- ²⁶ UPR recommendations 110.54–110.57.
- ²⁷ UPR recommendation 110.122.
- ²⁸ UPR recommendations 110.86–110.89, 110.94–110.96.
- ²⁹ UPR recommendation 110.42, 110.101.
- ³⁰ UPR recommendation 110.41.
- ³¹ UPR recommendations 110.40, 110.52, 110.62–110.65.

- ³² UPR recommendations 110.9, 110.10, 110.38, 110.78–110.80, 110.106.
³³ UPR recommendation 110.102.
³⁴ UPR recommendation 110.77.
³⁵ UPR recommendation 110.129.
³⁶ UPR recommendations 110.2, 110.45.
³⁷ Respectively pages 115–147, and 40–115 of CD2014.
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