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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Summary record of the 3rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 3 June 2002, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Huntley. (Saint Lucia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

2. **The Chairman** said that he was happy to note the deletion from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories of one Territory, East Timor, which had become an independent State on 20 May 2002. Its achievement of independence was due in no small measure to the efforts of members of the Special Committee. It was, moreover, fully in accordance with the norms laid down in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960. He had had the honour to represent the Special Committee at the ceremony at which the independence of East Timor had been declared, and had conveyed to its President the congratulations and good wishes of the members of the Special Committee. They were all eagerly awaiting the arrival of East Timor at the United Nations in the course of the year. He hoped the attainment of independence by East Timor would strengthen the work of the Special Committee to eradicate colonialism in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Requests for hearing (aides-memoires 6/02 and 7/02)

3. **The Chairman** drew attention to aides-memoires 6/02 and 7/02, containing requests for hearing on the questions of Gibraltar and Western Sahara. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to those requests.

4. *It was so decided.*

Dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/2002/18; A/AC.109/2002/L.5)

5. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Gastaut (Department of Public Information) took a place at the table.*

6. **Ms. Gastaut** (Department of Public Information (DPI)) summarized for members of the Special Committee the report of the Secretary-General for the period from June 2001 to May 2002 on the dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/2002/18).

7. **Ms. Maldonado** (Department of Political Affairs (DPA)) said that in December 2001 DPA had drafted a brochure entitled "The United Nations and Decolonization", as a response to queries about the role of the United Nations in decolonization, the work of the Special Committee, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the options available to Territories regarding their future status and the assistance for which they were eligible.

8. The brochure, containing factual information and references to further sources of information, had been distributed through DPI information centres and at the Pacific Regional Seminar in Fiji in May 2002. Those participating in the Seminar had commented that some of the information in the brochure was completely new to them.

9. Following the Fiji seminar, Guam had requested 6,000 copies of the brochure, which according to its request would be a remarkable tool for use in its schools and at community presentations. The Department of Public Information had indicated that it would send an initial consignment of 4,000 copies in the very near future.

10. The Department of Political Affairs had also provided a briefing for United Nations tour guides on the history of decolonization, the 1960 Declaration, the work of the Special Committee and its reporting to the General Assembly, and the situation in the 16 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

11. The Department had continued to expand its roster of individual experts, academics and organizations concerned with decolonization. The roster helped to bring together at the regional seminars specialists from countries of the region and experts on the situation in those countries.

12. Thanks to direct contacts with organizations and programmes in the region, the Fiji seminar had been attended by representatives of the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the World Health Organization.

13. Interviews had also been arranged with the Chairman or Acting Chairman of the Special Committee, and an article had been prepared for the United Nations Chronicle. In addition, the Department had regularly collected, prepared and disseminated

information on decolonization issues, working in cooperation with the administering Powers.

14. In the context of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the progress by the Special Committee in its consultations with the administering Power of Tokelau, there were new challenges in the area of information. DPA, in close cooperation with the Department of Public Information, would endeavour to anticipate new requirements and identify priorities so as to make the best possible use of the scarce resources available.

15. **The Chairman** drew attention to the draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/2002/L.5 and invited the Special Committee to adopt it without a vote.

16. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2002/L.5 was adopted without a vote.*

17. **The Chairman** announced that the Special Committee had completed its consideration of the item.

Question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (A/57/74; A/AC.109/2002/L.6)

18. **The Chairman** drew the attention of members of the Special Committee to the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/74) containing information provided by the administering Powers under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations. That information enabled the Special Committee to make a thorough study of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He also drew attention to the draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/2002/L.6 and invited the Special Committee to adopt it without a vote.

19. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2002/L.6 was adopted without a vote.*

20. **The Chairman** announced that the Special Committee had completed its consideration of the item.

Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/2002/L.7)

21. **The Chairman** drew attention to the draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/2002/L.7, and invited the Special Committee to adopt it without a vote.

22. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2002/L.7 was adopted without a vote.*

23. **The Chairman** announced that the Special Committee had completed its consideration of the item.

Other matters

24. **The Chairman** suggested that, in accordance with past practice, the Special Committee should authorize the Rapporteur to reformulate its draft resolutions and draft decisions in General Assembly format at the time when the reports of the Committee were prepared for submission to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

25. *It was so decided.*

26. **The Chairman** informed members of the Committee that he had received communications from Ulu-o-Tokelau as well as from Dr. Carlyle Corbin, the representative of the United States Virgin Islands, containing requests to participate in the work of the Special Committee when it took up the question of the small territories. They were also requesting the Committee to facilitate their participation through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses incurred in that regard, in accordance with the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (A/AC.109/L.1791, annex, and A/AC.109/L.1804). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the funding of those representatives and authorized the Secretariat to make the necessary administrative arrangements.

27. *It was so decided.*

28. **Mr. Stanislaus** (Grenada) thanked the representatives of the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs for their informative statements. He expressed his appreciation of the Pacific Regional Seminar held in Fiji and thanked the authorities of Fiji for their hospitality and their competent organization of the seminar.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.