

safeguard the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to the enjoyment of their natural resources by taking effective measures which guarantee the right of the people to own and dispose of those resources and to establish and maintain control over their future development;

12. Requests the Special Committee to continue the consideration of this question at its next session, including the possible dispatch of a further visiting mission to American Samoa at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Power, and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Anguilla

The Committee on colonial countries decided on 19 August 1981 to consider the question of Anguilla at its 1982 session, subject to any directives by the General Assembly.⁽²⁾ On the recommendation of the Fourth Committee, approved without vote on 23 November 1981 on an oral proposal by its Chairman, the Assembly decided without vote on 25 November to defer consideration of the question until 1982.⁽¹⁾

Decision: (1)GA, 36/418, 25 Nov., text following.

Report: (2)Committee on colonial countries, A/36/23/Rev.1.

Meeting records: Committee on colonial countries: A/AC.109/PV.1200 (19 Aug.). GA: 4th Committee, A/C.4/36/SR.9-20, 25 (19 Oct.-23 Nov.); plenary, A/36/PV.73 (25 Nov.).

General Assembly decision 36/418

Adopted without vote

Approved by Fourth Committee (A/36/677/Add.2) without vote, 23 November (meeting 26); oral proposal by Chairman; agenda item 19.

Question of Anguilla

At its 73rd plenary meeting, on 25 November 1981, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee, decided to defer until its thirty-seventh session consideration of the question of Anguilla.

Antigua

On 21 August 1981, the Committee on colonial countries, through its Chairman, congratulated Antigua on its decision to attain independence as the State of Antigua and Barbuda.⁽¹⁾ Following its independence on 1 November, the former United Kingdom-administered Territory was admitted to the United Nations as a Member State on 11 November (p. 348).

Report: (1)Committee on colonial countries, A/36/23/Rev.1.

Meeting record: Committee on colonial countries, A/AC.109/PV.1202 (21 Aug.).

Belize

Prior to its attainment of independence on 21 September 1981 and its admission as a Member State of the United Nations on 25 September (p. 349), Belize, as a Territory administered by the United Kingdom, was the subject of several letters to the Security Council and the Secretary-General.

In a letter dated 24 March,⁽¹⁾ Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago transmitted to the Secretary-General the "Declaration of Belmopan", signed by their representatives at Belmopan, Belize, on 18 March. The signatories of that document pledged their support for the agreement reached in London on 11 March by the Governments of the United Kingdom, Guatemala and Belize, setting out a basis for settling the controversy over the Territory between Guatemala and the United Kingdom.

In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 17 July,⁽²⁾ Guatemala stated that its latest talks with the United Kingdom (New York, 6-10 July) had not yielded satisfactory results; if no agreement was reached and the United Kingdom granted independence to Belize unilaterally, Guatemala would not recognize the new State and would not regard the lines between itself and Belize as frontiers.

In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 4 August,⁽⁶⁾ the United Kingdom regretted that it had not been possible to reach agreement with Guatemala and announced that it would proceed with preparations to grant independence to Belize.

Guatemala, in a letter of 10 September to the Security Council President,⁽³⁾ requested the Council to investigate the dispute with the United Kingdom over Belize and to consider whether it should make recommendations for peaceful settlement prior to the Territory's independence. In a letter of 18 September,⁽⁵⁾ Guatemala complained of the Council's negative response to its request for a public meeting on the dispute; it added that it would refuse to recognize Belize's unilateral independence, since it considered Belize part of Guatemala.

A Guatemalan letter to the Secretary-General dated 17 September⁽⁴⁾ conveyed the text of a note of the previous day from its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, protesting the violation of its airspace on 10 September by a British reconnaissance aircraft. The United Kingdom, on 22 September,⁽⁷⁾ transmitted its reply rejecting the Guatemalan protest and stating that no such incursion had taken place.

On 19 August, the Committee on colonial countries, through its Chairman, congratulated Belize on its independence and welcomed its intention to apply for United Nations membership.⁽⁸⁾

In a preambular paragraph of its resolution of 1 December⁽¹⁰⁾ on implementation of the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,⁽⁹⁾ the General Assembly welcomed the independence of Belize. Explaining its vote against the resolution,

Guatemala opposed this paragraph and reiterated its non-recognition of the State of Belize and its borders with Guatemala.

Letters: (1) Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago: 24 Mar., A/36/172. Guatemala: (2) 17 July, A/36/390; (3) 10 Sep., S/14683 & Add.1; (4) 17 Sep., S/14694; (5) 18 Sep., S/14699. United Kingdom: (6) 4 Aug., A/36/420; (7) 22 Sep., S/14705.

Report: (8) Committee on colonial countries, A/36/23/Rev.1.

Resolutions: GA: (9) 1514(XV), 14 Dec. 1960 (YUN 1960, p. 49); (10) 36/68, 1 Dec. 1981 (p. 1097).

Meeting records: Committee on colonial countries, A/AC.109/PV.1200, 1202 (19, 21 Aug.).

Brunei

The Committee on colonial countries decided on 19 August 1981 to consider the question of Brunei in 1982, subject to any directives from the General Assembly. (2) On the recommendation of the Fourth Committee, approved without vote on 23 November 1981 on an oral proposal by its Chairman, the Assembly decided without vote on 25 November to defer consideration of the question until 1982 and to request the Committee on colonial countries to review and report to the Assembly on the situation in the Territory. (1)

Decision: (1) GA, 36/414, 25 Nov., text following.

Report: (2) Committee on colonial countries, A/36/23/Rev.1.

Meeting records: Committee on colonial countries: A/AC.109/PV.1200 (19 Aug.). GA: 4th Committee, A/C.4/36/SR.9-20, 25 (19 Oct.-23 Nov.); plenary, A/36/PV.73 (25 Nov.).

General Assembly decision 36/414

Adopted without vote

Approved by Fourth Committee (A/36/677/Add.2) without vote, 23 November (meeting 25); oral proposal by Chairman; agenda item 19.

Question of Brunei

At its 73rd plenary meeting, on 25 November 1981, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee, decided to defer until its thirty-seventh session consideration of the question of Brunei and requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to keep the situation in the Territory under review and to report thereon to the Assembly.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands

On 4 August 1981, the Committee on colonial countries adopted a consensus on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (2) by which it reaffirmed the responsibility of Australia—the administering Power—to create conditions for self-determination, and noted Australia's continued commitment to the advancement of the islanders. The Committee also welcomed Australia's willingness to receive United Nations visiting missions in the Territory and reaffirmed that the need for further missions should be kept under review.

A decision in similar terms was adopted without vote by the General Assembly on 24 November, (1) as recommended by the Fourth Committee without objection on 17 November, on the basis of a consensus text submitted by its Chairman. By this decision, the Assembly also requested the Committee on colonial countries to report again on the Territory in 1982.

In the Fourth Committee, Australia outlined steps taken to benefit the Territory's economic and social development, and said it had maintained its commitment to the advancement of the population towards their rights, including self-determination. Australia believed that the people of the islands should determine their future political status and decide when they wished an act of self-determination to take place.

Decision: (1) GA, 36/407, 24 Nov., text following.

Report: (2) Committee on colonial countries, A/36/23/Rev.1.

Meeting records: Committee on colonial countries: A/AC.109/PV.1188 (4 Aug.). GA: 4th Committee, A/C.4/36/SR.9-15, 16, 17-20, 23 (29 Oct.-17 Nov.); plenary, A/36/PV.70 (24 Nov.).

General Assembly decision 36/407

Adopted without vote

Approved by Fourth Committee (A/36/677/Add.1) without objection, 17 November (meeting 23); draft consensus by Chairman (A/C.4/36/L.12); agenda item 19.

Question of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands

At its 70th plenary meeting, on 24 November 1981, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee, adopted the following text as representing the consensus of the members of the Assembly:

"The General Assembly, having examined the relevant chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and having heard the statement of the representative of Australia relating to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, notes with appreciation the continuing co-operation of the Government of Australia, as the administering Power, with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960. The Assembly notes with interest the continuing commitment of the administering Power to ensure the political, social, economic and educational advancement of the people of the Territory so that they may be able, as quickly as possible, to exercise fully their inalienable rights. The Assembly reaffirms that it is the responsibility of the administering Power to create conditions under which the people of the Territory will be able freely to determine their own future in conformity with resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly. The Assembly welcomes the continuing willingness of the administering Power to receive visiting missions in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and requests the Special Committee, in co-operation with the administering Power, to continue to work towards the implementation of the Declaration with respect to the Territory and to report thereon to the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session."

East Timor question

CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COLONIAL COUNTRIES. The question of East Timor was considered by the Committee on colo-