

The international community's obligation to take such action is all the greater - and the need to do so is being felt all the more strongly - since violations of sovereignty, interference in the affairs of others and the use of threats and force are no longer isolated events. It is an increasing concern among weak peoples to stand fast and to protect their security and stability from the dangers that lie in wait for them, dangers that are accentuated by the rivalry among the great Powers and the threat posed by the tendency of the régimes of some newly independent countries to expand and assert their hegemony over others, thus offering the sad spectacle of trying to imitate the super-Powers, whose latent interventionism is thus encouraged.

The Declaration of 14 December 1960, anticipating this serious phenomenon, made it incumbent on all States to "observe faithfully and strictly the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the present Declaration on the basis of equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of all States, and respect for the sovereign rights of all peoples and their territorial integrity". In celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration, the United Nations should solemnly reaffirm its attachment to these rules of law and its determination to see them respected. Failure to abide by these rules would inevitably lead to increasing conflict and constitute a threat to peace as serious as that of denying peoples their freedom.

#### TURKEY

Message from His Excellency Mr. Vahit Halefoğlu, Minister for  
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

Today we commemorate an important anniversary. The adoption by the General Assembly in 1960 of resolution 1514 (XV) constituted a significant step in the life of the United Nations.

Since the establishment of the United Nations, more than 100 countries have achieved their independence; millions of people have been liberated from colonial domination and now possess the sovereign right to determine their own destiny. Turkey would like to pay homage to our Organization, which in the process of decolonization has been a catalyst of great change on the political map of the world. We salute the authors of the Charter who, from the beginning, recognized that a primary objective of the United Nations was to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples. In this way, the Charter recognized without ambiguity a principle that later became a fundamental rule of conduct in international relations.

Despite the great progress in the process of decolonization, there is much to be done. On this twenty-fifth anniversary, our heart is with the peoples who have not yet achieved the fundamental right of self-determination and those who are still unable to decide their own destinies. The traditional involvement of Turkey in support of decolonization is based on the principle on which the Republic of Turkey was established after the first victorious war of national independence in our century. On this solemn occasion, I take great pleasure in conveying our congratulations to you.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Message from Mr. M. S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central  
Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

I extend my greetings to the distinguished representatives of the States Members of the United Nations, who have gathered in New York for a special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The Soviet people feels a profound satisfaction at the recollection that the Declaration, which has become a kind of international anti-colonial manifesto, was adopted at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly in 1960 on the initiative of the Soviet Union.

The Declaration, a product of the collective efforts of many States, has helped to unite the freedom-loving forces of all continents and mobilize them for determined action in order to eliminate the infamous system of colonialism and to guarantee the right of peoples to self-determination and independence and their right to build their future freely, without outside interference.

Within a short historical span, the colonial empires were brought down and dozens of new, independent States in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Oceania became fully fledged Members of the United Nations. The increasing role played by these States in international affairs is a fact of our times.

However, the objectives laid down in the Declaration have not yet been fully achieved. The United Nations cannot condone the fact that the peoples of some 20 colonial and dependent Territories are still deprived of their legitimate right to freedom and independence. In the attempt to maintain their dominance, the imperialist Powers are imposing various types of neo-colonialist status on these Territories and turning them into strategic military strongholds and bases for aggression. One obvious example of this may be found in their acts of annexation in connection with the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

In southern Africa, the racist régime of Pretoria, with the support of its Western protectors, is attempting to perpetuate its colonialist, racist system. In defiance of United Nations decisions and the demands of the international community, the South African racists pursue their criminal policy of apartheid, resist the granting of independence to the people of Namibia and commit acts of aggression against neighbouring African countries.

The policy of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, including racism and apartheid, is inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations and with the Declaration. The conscience of honourable people all over the world cannot accept the continued existence of centres of colonialism on the earth.

It is the duty of the United Nations to take urgent measures to ensure the full implementation of the Declaration in order that all colonial peoples and Trust Territories may achieve genuine political and economic independence and take their rightful place in the international community of States.

It is the duty of the United Nations to participate fully in efforts to speed up the process of economic decolonization and to restructure international economic relations on a just and democratic basis. The Organization should raise its voice against the exploitation of developing countries by transnational monopolies, the plundering of their natural resources and the stifling of their economies with the stranglehold of debt, and should support their protests against "cultural", "informational" and other forms of neo-colonialism.

Success in these important tasks is vitally dependent on the progress made in strengthening world peace and international security, on the halting of the destructive arms race and on a return to the policy of relaxing international tension.

The Soviet Union will continue to make every effort in the struggle for full and unswerving implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and will actively participate in United Nations activities designed to eliminate colonialism, racism and apartheid once and for all.

#### YUGOSLAVIA

Message from Her Excellency Mrs. Milka Planinc, President of the  
Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of  
Yugoslavia

The adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the General Assembly was an historic act of the world Organization. It was a powerful impetus and encouragement to the peoples under colonial domination to persevere in their just struggle for freedom and independence, for the realization of the goals and objectives of the United Nations. The Declaration was the practical application of the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations to the rights of people to freedom and dignified life. It had a decisive role in the strengthening of international solidarity in the efforts aimed at speeding up the process of decolonization in all regions of the world.

In its 40-year-long activity the world Organization has achieved the greatest results precisely in the field of the liberation and emancipation of peoples. Owing to the successful outcome of this historical process, in which a great number of newly liberated countries and peoples took their rightful place in the international community, the United Nations has today realized almost in full the principle of universality. It is a major achievement, of great importance for all that the United Nations represents today in the efforts for the democratization of international relations, maintenance of peace, in the field of economic development and in the solution of all those vital questions on which stability and prosperity in the world depend.

Ever since their inception, the policy and Movement of Non-Aligned Countries have placed the struggle against colonialism and for the liberation of peoples in the centre of their activity. In its 25-year-long activity the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has left a powerful imprint on the successful outcome of anti-colonial revolution.

However, despite great achievements in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, we are witnessing stubborn efforts in some parts of the world to maintain relations of domination, exploitation and racial discrimination with the most brutal use of force.

Such a policy is turning southern Africa into one of the most serious foci of crisis, with unforeseeable consequences for peace and stability in this region and in the world at large. This makes it incumbent upon the international community to undertake the most resolute and urgent actions in order to eliminate all the obstacles that stand in the way of the free and equitable development of peoples.

In this the priority task is to take concrete measures, including the imposition of sanctions provided for by the Charter of the United Nations, in order to check the aggressive policy of the régime of apartheid in South Africa and to put an end to the illegal occupation of Namibia, so that its people could finally achieve freedom and independence on the basis of the decisions already adopted by the world Organization.

Likewise, it is necessary that the United Nations continue its persistent involvement so that the peoples of non-self-governing territories, regardless of their size and economic strength, realize their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Decolonization.

All this makes us even more convinced that we all, with the world Organization, continue to face the obligation of active involvement in order to complete the process of decolonization and the liberation of peoples. Yugoslavia has always pointed out, and this continues to be our conviction, that stability in the world cannot be achieved as long as relations of subjugation and domination are maintained in any of its parts.

In accordance with the principles of the policy of non-alignment and the tradition of its own struggle for liberation and independence, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will continue consistently as it has done so far, to make its full contribution to the elimination of colonialism in the world, the liquidation of apartheid and the full realization of the Declaration on Decolonization.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Message from Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary-General

The Organization of the Islamic Conference joins the international community in the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which coincides with the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Islamic Conference, guided by the divine injunctions of Islam, which proclaim the equality of all human beings irrespective of colour, creed or caste, preach human rights and dignity, and promote freedom, peace and harmony, has consistently and faithfully supported the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It is a matter of great satisfaction for us that the United Nations has played a significant and commendable role in the process of decolonization, and almost 100 States have achieved independence and joined the comity of nations as sovereign States since the establishment of the United Nations. We also appreciate the role and contribution of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in support of the liberation of peoples from colonial rule, through mobilizing world public opinion for the complete elimination of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference, however, remains deeply concerned that vestiges of colonialism continue to exist in certain parts of the world and particularly in southern Africa, where the racist minority régime of Pretoria continues its abhorrent policies of racial discrimination, apartheid and oppression, and continues to deny the people their right to self-determination and independence. We strongly condemn in this respect the continued illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist minority régime of Pretoria, which has continued to place obstacles in the way of independence of Namibia in blatant disregard for the decisions of the United Nations, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and in violation of the inalienable rights of the people of Namibia to self-determination and independence, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), their sole and authentic representative.

On this solemn occasion the Organization of the Islamic Conference reaffirms the inalienable right of the peoples under colonial rule to self-determination and independence, and rededicates itself, in pursuance of its charter and the Charter of the United Nations, to work relentlessly for the removal of the last vestiges of colonialism from all parts of the world.

#### IV. GENERAL DEBATES ON DECOLONIZATION ISSUES

In organizing its work for the 1985 session, the General Assembly, as in previous sessions, allocated to the Fourth Committee for its consideration, nine items relating to specific aspects of the process of decolonization. The Assembly also decided to consider in plenary meeting the questions of: implementation of the Declaration as a whole; Falkland Islands (Malvinas); and Namibia.

A total of 122 statements were made in the general debates within the Fourth Committee and 141 Member States took part in the related debates in plenary meetings of the Assembly.

A full account of the work of the Fourth Committee, as well as an account of the General Assembly's consideration of the above questions, will be given in a subsequent issue of the Decolonization Bulletin.

#### V. RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION

At its 99th plenary meeting, on 2 December 1985, the General Assembly considered the draft resolution on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration, submitted by the Special Committee. <sup>1/</sup>

The report of the Special Committee indicated that the Chairman of the Special Committee had held extensive consultations with Member States and regional intergovernmental bodies throughout the year in respect of the format and substance of the text to be prepared, in order to secure the maximum possible support of the entire membership of the United Nations for the draft resolution. These consultations led to the unanimous adoption of the text of the draft resolution by the Special Committee itself.

On 2 December 1985, the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution by a recorded vote of 139 to none, with 13 abstentions. The result of the voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The text of the resolution adopted by the the General Assembly is set out below:

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING  
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Resolution 40/56 adopted by the General Assembly  
on 2 December 1985

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Having held, in the year of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, a special commemorative plenary meeting in observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, in which the peoples of the world proclaimed their determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, 3/

Recalling its 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 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration,

Considering that the process of national liberation is irresistible and irreversible, and recalling that the Declaration solemnly proclaimed the necessity immediately and unconditionally to put an end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations,

Recognizing the significant and commendable role played by the United Nations, since its very inception, in the field of decolonization and noting the emergence, during this period, of about 100 hundred States into sovereign existence,

Noting with satisfaction, in particular, that during the past 25 years a large number of former colonial Territories have achieved independence, mainly through the courageous liberation struggle carried out by the peoples of those countries, led by their national liberation movements, and that many former Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories have exercised their right to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration,

Noting also with satisfaction the important contribution made 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 in furthering the aims and objectives of the Declaration through the liberation of peoples from colonial rule,



Noting further with satisfaction the active and important role being played by former colonial Territories, as States Members of the United Nations and its system of organizations, in the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter, the preservation of international peace and security, decolonization and the promotion of human progress and the profound impact thereof on contemporary international relations,

Conscious of the fact that the Declaration has played an important role in assisting the peoples under colonial rule and will continue to serve as an inspiration in their efforts to achieve self-determination and independence in accordance with the Charter and in mobilizing world public opinion for the complete elimination of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations,

Deeply concerned at the fact that, 25 years after the adoption of the Declaration, colonialism in the world has not yet been totally eradicated, particularly in Namibia,

Strongly condemning the continuing illegal occupation of Namibia and the colonial oppression of its people by the racist régime of Pretoria, which completely disregards the inalienable right of the people of Namibia to self-determination and independence,

Reaffirming that all peoples have the right to self-determination and independence and that the subjection of peoples to colonial domination constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights and is a serious impediment to the maintenance of international peace and security and the development of peaceful relations among nations,

Increasingly aware of the importance of economic, social and cultural development and self-reliance of colonial countries and peoples for the attainment and consolidation of genuine independence,

Convinced that the total eradication of racial discrimination, apartheid and violations of the basic human rights of the peoples in the remaining colonial Territories, particularly in Namibia, will be achieved peacefully and most expeditiously by the faithful and complete implementation of the Declaration,

Determined to take effective measures leading to the complete and unconditional elimination of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations without further delay,

1. Reaffirms the inalienable right of all peoples under colonial rule to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

2. Declares that the continuation of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, including racism and apartheid, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration and the principles of international law;

3. Expresses its conviction that the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration should provide an opportunity for Member States to rededicate themselves to the principles and objectives enunciated in that document and

for concerted efforts to be made to remove the remaining vestiges of colonialism in all regions of the world;

4. Strongly condemns South Africa's continued illegal occupation of Namibia, its defiance of United Nations resolutions, its brutal repression of the Namibian people, its aggressive activities and acts of destabilization against neighbouring independent African States and its policies of apartheid, as well as its acquisition of nuclear-weapon capability, which constitute a threat to international peace and security;

5. Calls upon Member States, in particular colonial Powers, to take effective steps with a view to the complete, unconditional and speedy eradication of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations and to the faithful and strict observance of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, <sup>4/</sup> as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and those of the Security Council;

6. Urges Member States to do their utmost to promote, in the United Nations and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, effective measures for the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in all colonial Territories to which the Declaration applies;

7. Calls upon Member States to render, as a matter of urgency, all moral and material assistance to the peoples under colonial rule in their struggle to achieve their right to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the Charter and the Declaration;

8. Urges the administering Powers and other Member States to ensure that the activities of foreign economic and other interests in colonial Territories do not run counter to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories and do not impede the implementation of the Declaration;

9. Requests Member States to take legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that illegally own and operate enterprises, including transnational corporations, in the international Territory of Namibia in order to put an end to such operations;

10. Urges Member States to discontinue all economic, financial, trade and other relations with the racist minority régime of South Africa in respect of Namibia and to refrain from entering into any relations with South Africa which may lend legitimacy or support to its continued illegal occupation of that Territory;

11. Requests Member States, as well as the organizations of the United Nations system, to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the colonial Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded;

12. Reaffirms that all administering Powers are obliged, under the Charter and in accordance with the Declaration, to create economic, social and other conditions in the Territories under their administration which will enable them to achieve genuine independence and economic self-reliance;

13. Requests the administering Powers concerned to adopt the necessary measures to discourage or prevent any systematic influx of immigrants and settlers into Territories under their administration which might disrupt the demographic composition of those Territories and prevent the genuine exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by their peoples, and to avoid any forced displacement, complete or partial, of the population of colonial Territories;

14. Further requests the administering Powers to preserve the cultural identity, as well as the national unity, of the Territories under their administration and to encourage the full development of the indigenous culture, with a view to facilitating the unfettered exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the peoples of those Territories;

15. Reaffirms its strong conviction that the presence of all kinds of military bases and installations in colonial Territories could constitute a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration and that it is the responsibility of the administering Powers concerned to ensure that the existence of such bases and installations does not hinder the peoples of the Territories from exercising their right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and the Declaration;

16. Calls upon the administering Powers concerned to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States and to comply fully with the purposes and principles of the Charter, the Declaration and the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration;

17. Requests Member States, in particular the administering Powers, to adopt appropriate measures to prevent the recruitment, financing, training and transit of mercenaries in their Territories for use against the national liberation movements struggling for freedom and independence from the yoke of colonialism, racism and apartheid;

18. Considers it incumbent upon the United Nations to continue to play an active role in the process of decolonization and to intensify its efforts in the widest possible dissemination of information relating to decolonization, with a view to the further mobilization of international public opinion in support of complete decolonization;

19. Urges Member States to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

20. Invites the Security Council to continue to give special attention to the situation in and around Namibia and to consider imposing mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter;

21. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to render, or continue to render, within their respective spheres of competence, all possible moral and material assistance to the peoples of the colonial Territories and to their national liberation movements, to take measures to withhold from the apartheid régime of South Africa any form of collaboration or assistance in the financial, economic and

technical fields and to discontinue all support to that régime until the people of Namibia have exercised their right to self-determination and independence in a united Namibia and until apartheid has been eradicated and a non-racial, united and democratic State based on the will of all South African people has been established in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

22. Invites non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization to intensify their activities in co-operation with the United Nations;

23. Requests the Special Committee to continue to examine the full compliance of all States with the Declaration and with other relevant resolutions on the question of decolonization, to seek most suitable ways for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories to which it applies and to propose to the General Assembly specific measures for the complete implementation of the Declaration in the remaining colonial Territories;

24. Invites all States to co-operate fully with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in the complete fulfilment of its mandate.

Notes

- 1/ See A/40/23 (Part II), chap. II, para. 42.
- 2/ A/40/757 and Add.1.
- 3/ General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.
- 4/ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

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