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THIRD INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for
the Eradication of Colonialism: accelerating action

Denarau, Nadi, Fiji
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PRESENTATION BY

MR. SERGEI CHERNIAVSKY

(EXPERT)

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE: PAST, PRESENT AND CHALLENGES AHEAD
(Accelerating action in the Third Decade)*

Sergei Cherniavsky (Ukraine)

Adoption of the Declaration

The adoption by the General Assembly of historic Declaration "Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" on 14 December 1960 indeed opened a new chapter in the process of decolonization.

It is a common knowledge that the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev submitted the original Declaration during his address to the General Assembly on 23 September 1960. However, the devil is in the details and probably not many know that the Soviet proposal¹, which was taken as a basis, was subsequently rewritten by 43 member states.

On 28 September, the Assembly's General Committee recommended that the USSR item be put on the Assembly's agenda and, by a vote of 8 to 2, with 9 abstentions, recommended that the item be allocated to the First (Political and Security) Committee. After deciding, on 10 October, to place the item on its agenda, the General Assembly on 13 October unanimously adopted a USSR proposal to discuss the item in plenary meetings—which it did between 28 November and 14 December. Over 70 delegations took part in the debate².

On the same day, 28 November, Cambodia, on behalf of 26 Asian and African countries, introduced a draft resolution, which was eventually sponsored by 43 Asian and African states³. The Cambodian representative said that the sponsors of the draft had tried to find formulae and solutions, which could be acceptable to the greatest possible number of delegations, if not to all Members of the Assembly. They therefore appealed to all delegations to study the text carefully and open-mindedly.

* This paper should not be regarded as an academic essay, but rather a collection of personal observations based on author's experience as part of the United Nations Secretariat team servicing the Special Committee from 1991 to 2011, including his tenure as Secretary of the Special Committee from 2003 to 2011. The paper is based on the UN sources, including United Nations Yearbooks, official documents as well as documents from the author's personal archive.

¹ A/4501. Letter of 23 September 1960 from Chairman of Council of Ministers of USSR proposing for agenda item entitled: "Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples." A/4502 and Corr.1. Declaration on granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples submitted by Chairman of Council of Ministers of USSR, Chairman of USSR Delegation.

² A/PV.925-939 and A/PV.944-947.

³ A/L.323 and Add.1-6. Afghanistan, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Leopoldville), Cyprus, Dahomey, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Republic, Upper Volta: draft resolution.

Many representatives of Asian-African Members referred to the Bandung Conference in 1955, where countries of Asia and Africa had initiated a number of fundamental principles which had become the cornerstone of their policy towards the colonial countries and peoples and which had been re-emphasized at the conferences of African states at Accra in 1958, at Monrovia in 1959 and at Addis Ababa in 1960. They stressed that the draft declaration they were now submitting was the culmination of those principles.

Honduras, on 1 December, submitted a draft proposal—which it later revised twice—by which the General Assembly, among other things, would proclaim the elimination of colonialism throughout the world, in the Western hemisphere as elsewhere. The most interesting was that Honduras proposed that the Assembly also appoint a *five-member commission* to examine the situation in the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, with a view to proposing to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session whatever concrete measures should be recommended or applied in each case in order to achieve the complete abolition of colonialism throughout the world⁴.

On 13 December, the USSR representative introduced two amendments to the 43-power draft declaration, explaining that, although it had something in common with the Soviet declaration, it was incomplete in certain respects⁵.

Guatemala also proposed an addition to the 43-power draft to provide that "the principle of the self-determination of peoples may in no case impair the right of territorial integrity of any state or its right to the recovery of territory."⁶

On 14 December, the Assembly voted first on the USSR draft declaration, in two parts. The part by which Member states would proclaim certain "demands" was rejected by a roll-call vote of 32 in favor to 35 against, with 30 abstentions. The rest of the draft was rejected, also by roll-call, by 25 in favor to 35 against, with 22 abstentions. The first USSR amendment to the 43-power draft was then rejected by a roll-call vote of 29 in favor to 47 against, with 22 abstentions. The second USSR amendment was also not adopted as it failed to obtain the necessary two-thirds vote: the roll-call vote was 41 in favor to 35 against, with 22 abstentions.

⁴ A/L.324 and Rev.1, 2. Honduras: draft resolution and revisions. Subsequently, Honduras did not press its draft resolution to the vote.

⁵ By the first USSR amendment—which would add a new paragraph to the 43-power draft—the Assembly would call upon the powers concerned to ensure the transfer of full and sovereign power to the peoples of all dependent territories, in accordance with the principles stated in the declaration, and for that purpose to enter into negotiations with the representatives of the colonial peoples so that all colonial countries and peoples should attain independence not later than the end of 1961 and take their rightful place among the community of nations (See, A/L.328: USSR: amendments to 43-power draft resolution, A/L.323 and Add. 1-6.) By the second USSR amendment, the Assembly would decide to consider the question of the implementation of the declaration at its sixteenth session (to open in September 1961).

⁶ A/L.325: Guatemala: amendments to 43-power draft resolution, A/L.323 and Add.1-6. This amendment was withdrawn on 14 December at the request of the Indonesian representative, who felt that it was already covered by operative paragraph (6) of the 43-power draft, dealing with attempts to disrupt the national unity and territorial integrity of countries.

The draft resolution sponsored by 43 Asian and African countries was then adopted, on 14 December 1960, as resolution 1514(XV), by a roll-call vote of 89 to 0, with 9 abstentions⁷. At the same session, the Assembly adopted resolution 1541 (XV), which established the principles which should guide Members in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 c of the Charter⁸.

Establishment of the Special Committee

During the 17th session, in 1961, when it considered the agenda item entitled "The situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples" pertaining to general aspects of implementing the Declaration the Assembly had before it four drafts: a USSR draft resolution submitted on 9 October 1961, a draft submitted by Nigeria on 17 October, a draft resolution submitted on 20 November and eventually sponsored by 38 Members and a draft resolution submitted by Mexico on 24 November 1961.

The USSR draft, *inter alia*, proposed that the Assembly establish a *special commission* on the basis of equal representation for the three main groups of States to inquire into the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration and of measures for carrying it into effect and direct the commission to report to the Assembly's next (seventeenth) session⁹.

The 38-power draft proposed, *inter alia*, that the Assembly establish a *Special Committee of 17 members*, to be nominated by the President of the Assembly; request this Special Committee to examine the application of the Declaration, make suggestions and recommendations on the progress of its implementation and report to the Assembly's seventeenth session; direct the Special Committee to use all the means at its disposal for the proper discharge of its functions; authorize the Special Committee to meet away from United Nations Headquarters whenever necessary; invite the authorities concerned to cooperate with the Special Committee; request the Trusteeship Council, the Assembly's Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and the specialized agencies concerned to assist the Special Committee; and (9) ask the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with facilities and personnel necessary to carry out this resolution¹⁰.

The Mexican draft resolution of 24 November 1961, the Assembly, referring, among other things, to the need for the complete, rapid and orderly elimination of colonialism,

⁷ Abstaining were Australia, Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Portugal, Spain, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States. Except for Dominican Republic, all abstentions were cast by the members of the United Nations, having territories under their administration, which clearly fell under the moniker of "the non-self-governing territories".

⁸ It should be recalled that at its eighth session the Assembly adopted resolution 742 (VIII) on factors which should be taken into account in deciding whether a Territory is or is not a Territory whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government.

⁹ A/L.355. USSR: draft resolution.

¹⁰ A/L.366 and Add.1-3. Afghanistan, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroun, Ceylon, Congo (Leopoldville), Cyprus, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Republic, Yemen: draft resolution.

would decide, inter alia, to set up an *ad hoc committee* with the following functions: to indicate which Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories were already in a position to attain full independence immediately; to recommend the measures and conditions under which territories not yet in a position to attain independence might be placed, for minimal periods of time, under the joint administration of the United Nations or an international agency operating under its authority and affording adequate safeguards to enable the peoples of these territories to remain in a position to exercise their right to self-determination as soon as possible; and to report to the Assembly's seventeenth session¹¹.

Also discussed during the Assembly's debate on these three proposals was a draft resolution submitted by Nigeria on 17 October and later co-sponsored by Liberia, which dealt more specifically with the agenda item entitled "Assistance to Africa: A United Nations Programme for Independence." By this text, the Assembly would, among other things, solemnly proclaim that all colonial, dependent and Non-Self-Governing Territories and peoples in Africa should attain independence by, before and not later than 1 December 1970¹².

During the debate on the 38-power draft resolution while responding to the arguments by certain member States that the newly proposed Committee would duplicate or supplant the existing machinery (Chapters XI, XII and XIII of the United Nations Charter¹³), the representative of India eloquently clarified the purpose of the proposed 17-member Special Committee. The Indian representative explained that it was not intended that the proposed Special Committee of 17 members—to be appointed by the President of the Assembly in order to remove it from the context of the cold war—should be a new trusteeship council or vested with a condominium over the dependent areas. Its function, as other sponsors of the text pointed out, would be to supervise and hasten the process of decolonization in consultation and collaboration with the Administering Authorities. It was also stressed that the proposed 17-member Special Committee was to be given the widest possible latitude in carrying out its task. This Committee, the Indonesian representative noted, would have to examine the many colonial questions still outstanding, with all the different problems they presented, and to discharge its function properly must have the greatest responsibility and freedom of action within the framework of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

Before the General Assembly voted on 27 November on the various proposals submitted, the USSR announced that it would not press for a vote on its draft resolution. The 38-power text, the USSR representative said, was in conformity with the principles of the Declaration. He noted with satisfaction that this proposal called for the appointment of the committee to supervise the implementation of the Declaration. But he regretted that the 38-power draft did not set a target date for the liquidation of colonialism and that it failed to mention certain concrete measures, which would ensure that colonialism, was

¹¹ A/L.369. Mexico: draft resolution.

¹² A/L.357 and Add.1. Nigeria and Liberia: draft resolution.

¹³ Chapter XI contains a Declaration regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories; Chapter XII spells out the requirements and details of the International Trusteeship System; Chapter XIII sets out the functions and powers of the Trusteeship Council.

liquidated. The USSR, nevertheless, offered amendments to 38-power draft, which were subsequently rejected.

Mexico and Nigeria, also agreed not to press for a vote on their respective proposals, following appeals of various delegations.

Thus, by voting on 38-power draft of 27 November 1961, the Assembly established the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by its resolution 1654 (XVI). In operative paragraph 3 of that resolution the President of the General Assembly was requested to nominate seventeen members of the Committee¹⁴.

By the resolution 1654 (XVI) the Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration. The resolution 1654 (XVI) also directed the Special Committee to carry out its task by employment of all means, which it will have at its disposal within the framework of the procedures and modalities, which it shall adopt for the proper discharge of its functions.

The Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) also authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters, whenever and wherever such meetings may be required for the effective discharge of its functions, in consultations with the appropriate authorities.

By its resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962, the General Assembly decided to enlarge the Special Committee by adding seven new members and, upon appointment by the President of the Assembly of new members (Bulgaria, Chile, Denmark, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone), the membership of the Committee was enlarged to 24. **This is how the Special Committee received its unofficial nickname of "the Special Committee of 24"**. The enlarged Special Committee was composed of the following 24 members: Australia, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, Denmark, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Poland, Sierra Leone, Syria, Tanganyika, Tunisia, USSR, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia¹⁵.

The General Assembly, by its resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on the

¹⁴ At its 1094th plenary meeting, on 23 January 1962, the General Assembly took note of the appointment by the President of the General Assembly of the following 17 original members of the Special Committee: Australia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Madagascar, Mali, Poland, Syria, Tanganyika, Tunisia, USSR, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

¹⁵ At its 102nd plenary meeting, on 13 December 1979, by its decision 34/425 the General Assembly decided to increase the membership of the Special Committee to twenty-five. By subsequent decisions of the Assembly, the Special Committee was enlarged to 29 members. As of 1 January 2013, the Committee was composed of the following member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (see A/68/23).

question of South West Africa, requested the Special Committee to discharge *mutatis mutandis* the tasks assigned to the Special Committee for South West Africa by resolution 1702 (XVI) of 19 December 1961. By resolution 1806 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Special Committee for South West Africa. The General Assembly by resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963 decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (which practically served as a prototype of the Special Committee of 24) and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations. It also requested the Special Committee to take this information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to undertake any special study and prepare any special report it might consider necessary.

Thus, by mid-1960s, the Assembly established decolonization machinery, by which the Special Committee of 24 became its main specialized body mandated to monitor implementation of the Declaration and to provide the Assembly with recommendations to achieve the goals established by the Declaration. The Trusteeship Council continued to deal with Trust Territories¹⁶, while the Fourth Committee¹⁷ remained the Main Committee of the Assembly dealing with the decolonization issues as part of its mandate.

Original mandate

The General Assembly resolution 1810 (XVII) in its operative paragraph 8 spelled the Special Committee's original mandate:

- a. To continued to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all territories which have not yet attained independence;
- b. To propose specific measures for the complete application of the Declaration;
- c. To submit to the General Assembly in due course, and not later than its eighteenth session, a full report containing its suggestions and recommendations on all the territories mentioned in paragraph 5 of the Declaration¹⁸;

¹⁶ In setting up an International Trusteeship System, the Charter established the Trusteeship Council as one of the main organs of the United Nations and assigned to it the task of supervising the administration of Trust Territories placed under the Trusteeship System. Major goals of the System were to promote the advancement of the inhabitants of Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence. The Trusteeship Council is made up of the five permanent members of the Security Council --China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States. The aims of the Trusteeship System have been fulfilled to such an extent that all Trust Territories have attained self-government or independence, either as separate States or by joining neighboring independent countries. [See, <http://www.un.org/en/mainbodies/trusteeship/>]. With the independence of Palau, formerly part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, in 1994, there presently are no trust territories, leaving the Trusteeship Council without responsibilities. (Since the *Northern Mariana Islands* was a part of the *Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands* and became a *commonwealth* of the USA in 1986, it is technically the only area to have not joined as a part of another state or gained full independence as a sovereign nation.)

¹⁷ In 1993, by operative paragraph 1(a) of its resolution 47/233 the Assembly established the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) by merging the Special Political Committee dealing with special political questions and the Fourth Committee concerned with decolonization issues. Thus the newly established Main Committee moved to the second slot by taking place of the former Special Political Committee.

¹⁸ Operative paragraph 5 of the Declaration reads: "5. Immediate steps shall be taken, in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories or all other territories which have not yet attained independence, to transfer all powers to the peoples of those territories, without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, without any distinction as to race, creed or colour, in order to enable them to enjoy complete independence and freedom." It worth noting that subsequent operative paragraph 6 of that resolution reaffirmed the principle of the territorial integrity of states: "6. Any

- d. To apprise the Security Council of any development in these territories which may threaten international peace and security.

The operative paragraph of the subsequent General Assembly resolutions that renewed the mandate of the Special Committee on an annual basis contains the essence of such mandate.

Today's mandate

The most recent General Assembly resolution 68/97 of 11 December 2013 formulated the mandate of the Special Committee in the following terms:

“7. Requests the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

- (a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;
- (b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;
- (c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;
- (d) To develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;
- (e) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;
- (f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;
- (g) To take all steps necessary to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;
- (h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;”¹⁹

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.”

¹⁹ A/RES/68/97.

Limitations of the current mandate

Comparison of the mandate contained in the original resolution and the most recent one reveals the absence of provisions related to “appraising the Security Council”²⁰ and a “total application of the Declaration to *all territories which have not yet attained independence* [emphasis added – SC]”.

This can be explained by the political climate of the situation in the early 1960s when the Declaration was adopted and the rapid accession to independence of many former colonies in Africa and Asia. Some of them graduated to independent status through the armed struggle, which often required attention of the Security Council. Quite naturally, the Special Committee was mandated by the Assembly in its resolution 1956 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963 “to apprise the Security Council of any development in these territories which may threaten international peace and security”. On the other hand, the Declaration was not a field manual for decolonization, but rather an overarching political declaration by the international community on decolonization. In early 1960s, the Assembly could not prescribe in details how decolonization should proceed. This task was referred to the Special Committee of 24.

The Special Committee started its work with determination of the list of the territories to which Declaration applies. Such preliminary list appeared in the first report of the Special Committee in 1963²¹. The preliminary list contained the names of 64 territories divided into 4 parts²²:

- (a) Trust Territories;
- (b) The Territory of South West Africa;
- (c) Territories which have been declared by the General Assembly to be Non-Self-Governing Territories within the meaning of the Charter of the United Nations, but on which information is not transmitted by the administering Power concerned;
- (d) Non-Self-Governing Territories on which information is transmitted by the administering Powers concerned.

In the first decade of its existence, the Special Committee’s attention was primarily focused on Africa, where most of the colonies were, especially Portuguese-held territories²³. With Namibia’s accession to independence in 1990 as the largest colony in

²⁰ The Special Committee indeed effectively exercised this aspect of its mandate in the first decade of its operation. See, for example, letter dated 26 June 1968 from 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 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/8658), which drew the urgent attention of the Security Council to “the increased threat posed by the situation in the Territories under Portuguese domination, as well as the consequences of the violations by Portugal of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the neighboring independent African States”.

²¹ A/5446/Rev. I, Annex I. It must be noted that in 1946 the Assembly adopted a resolution 66 (I) entitled “Transmission of information under article 73e of the Charter”, which contained the first ever United Nations list of 74 non-self-governing territories. Comparison of the lists reveals that conspicuously absent from the second list compiled by the Special Committee were all French-administered territories as well as some others (see Annex I to this paper).

²² See Annex 2 to this paper.

²³ For more details, see excellent historical essay entitled “The Role of the Decolonization Committee of the United Nations Organization in the Struggle against Portuguese Colonialism in Africa: 1961-1974” by a young Portuguese scholar A. A. E. Santos (<http://www.ipanfrican.com/docs/vol4no10/4.10TheRole.pdf>). After 1974 revolution, the Government of

Africa through elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations (UNTAG), the Committee faced serious challenges, not the least of which was the way to advance the decolonization process, in a situation where most of the non-self-governing territories were small islands or territories subject to territorial disputes.

Also, during the first years of its existence the Special Committee, as a subsidiary body of the Assembly, through its own practice and through the practice of the Assembly learned the limitations of its mandate as far as inscription on or removal from the list of NSGTs is concerned.

The only colonial territory recommended by the Special Committee for inscription by the Assembly on the list of NSGTs to which the Declaration applies was French Somaliland (French Territory of the Afars and Issas). In its 1965 report to the Assembly²⁴, which contained the decision to include French Somaliland in the list, the Special Committee further stated that "subject to any directive the General Assembly at its twentieth session may wish to give for the speedy implementation of the Declaration, the Special Committee intends to continue its consideration of the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable". In its resolution 2105 (XX) of 20 December 1965, the General Assembly, "noting the action taken and envisaged by the Special Committee regarding the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable", approved the decision taken by the Special Committee to include French Somaliland in the list of territories to which the Declaration is applicable. It was after this approval by the General Assembly that the Special Committee proceeded to examine conditions in French Somaliland in 1966²⁵.

In memorandum addressed to the Secretary of the Special Committee dated 4 November 1968, the Legal Counsel of the United Nations specifically advised him that there was a

"...clearly established ... practice that the addition of a territory to the list of territories to which the Declaration applies is subject to the approval of the General Assembly before that territory can be examined by the Special Committee. This practice is sound from the legal point of view for the following reasons:

(1) The Assembly approves the report of the Special Committee regarding the list of territories to be examined by it, and the final decision on whether a specific additional territory should be included in this list rests with the Assembly.

(2) Neither in the initial establishment of the Special Committee nor in subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly which entrusted further functions to, or approved recommendations by, the Special Committee, was there any indication that the Assembly had delegated to the Special Committee the authority to make final decision on additional territories. On the contrary, the Assembly has retained its authority each year in referring to such territories.

Portugal, reaffirming its obligations with regard to Chapter XI of the United Nations Charter, and in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), pledged full co-operation to the United Nations in the implementation of the provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions in respect of territories under its administration (See, Note by the Secretary-General, A/9694-S/11419 dated 6 June 1974).

²⁴ Official Record of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23, p. 9. See also, A/6000/Rev. I.

²⁵ United Nations Juridical Yearbook, 1968. New York, 1970, p. 207.

... It follows therefore that the Special Committee can examine conditions in a territory only after the Assembly has approved the inclusion that of territory in the list of territories to which the Declaration is applicable (emphasis added – SC)²⁶.

In the same year of 1968, in response to a letter addressed to him by Sir Charles Kerruish, Speaker of the House of Keys (Isle of Man), the Secretary of the Committee T. Tanaka reiterated an official point of view of the United Nations regarding the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories by which

“...[T]he General Assembly takes the position that it alone has the competence to decide that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government under the terms of Chapter XI of the Charter and holds that, in the absence of such a decision, the administering Powers concerned should transmit or continue to transmit information called for under Article 73e.”²⁷

In the course of its existence, the Special Committee established a number of subsidiary bodies commensurate with the magnitude of territories within its purview that had different level of dependency, socio-economic development and size of population²⁸. Upon graduation from the list of many former colonial territories, which subsequently joined the United Nations as its members the number of the Committee’s subsidiary bodies shrunk substantially. By the end of the 1980s, the Committee had only three subsidiary bodies: its Working Group, the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance and the Subcommittee on Small Territories. In 1991, the Committee folded these subsidiary bodies into its plenary, thus optimizing its internal structure with significant savings to the Organization. This evolution also reflected diminished number of territories with which the Committee was concerned. At that time, the Committee also condensed the texts of its recommendations to the General Assembly into a dozen of draft resolutions, including the so-called omnibus resolution covering 10 NSGTs²⁹. It must be noted that the Special Committee does not produce resolutions or decisions on Western Sahara and Gibraltar, which are generated at the level of the Fourth Committee of the Assembly.

In 1997, in a similar fashion, by its resolution 52/220 the Assembly reformed the Secretariat bodies servicing the Committee and split them between the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the newly established Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services³⁰ (subsequently renamed Department for General Assembly and Conference Management - DGACM). While Decolonization Unit in DPA is mandated to provide political advisory services to the Committee, Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of DGACM provides substantive secretariat servicing to the

²⁶ Ibid., p. 208.

²⁷ A copy of the correspondence between the Secretary of the Special Committee T. Tanaka and Sir Charles Kerruish, Speaker of the House of Keys (Isle of Man) from author’s personal archive.

²⁸ See Annex 3 to this paper. It also worth noting that throughout its existence the Special Committee developed a very elaborate system of “checks and balances” preventing «unauthorized» and «separatist» movements from being heard in the Committee or participate in its work. It could be also explained by the fact that a number of members of the Committee are essentially poly-ethnic and are extremely sensitive to issues related to their territorial integrity.

²⁹ See A/68/23.

³⁰ A/RES/52/220, Part III, Section 1B, para. 12; Section 2A, para. 22.

Committee³¹. This division of labor within the United Nations Secretariat continues to function as of today.

Membership

Throughout its existence the Special Committee had undergone drastic changes in its membership. Initially, three administering Powers – Australia, United Kingdom and the United States – were members of the Special Committee. However, they all left the Committee by early 1970s. While Australia departed because its mandate was completed with graduation of the territories under its administration from the UN list³², United Kingdom and United States left for political and ideological reasons³³. It is also worth noting that in the span of the Committee's life, 48 members of the United Nations representing all political systems and parts of the world served on the Committee, thus underlying its significance, political weight and legitimacy as the only specialized body within the UN system on decolonization. Given the size of membership of the United Nations at that period of time, it would be safe to say that half of the Organization served at various periods of time as members of the Special Committee (see Annex 4).

The Western Europe was represented in the past by Denmark, Finland, Italy, Norway and Sweden. The Eastern European members included Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic and Poland.

However, by early 1990s all Western European members and all Eastern European members, the Russian Federation excepted, left the Special Committee due to the drastic geopolitical changes in Europe, related to the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the so-called “velvet revolutions” in Eastern Europe. At times, the Committee's membership dropped to as low as 22 members.

Incidentally, showing a renewed interest in the Special Committee's work, Grenada, Dominica, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines joined the Committee as its new members in the 1990s. The most auspicious act of gratitude to the Committee was Timor-Leste becoming its member in 2005, upon its accession to independence in 2002 through UN-sponsored popular consultation exercise and UNAET peacekeeping mission. The then Chairman of the Special Committee, Earl Stephen Huntley of Saint Lucia attended ceremony of raising the flag of a new nation in 2002 on behalf of the Special Committee right after the completion of the 2002 Fiji regional decolonization seminar³⁴.

Currently, the Special Committee has 29 member States, 12 of which are from the Latin American and the Caribbean Group of States (GRULAC), 9 from Asia-Pacific Group, 7

³¹ The functions of the units responsible for servicing of the Committee were detailed in the Bulletins of the Secretary-General: Decolonization Unit/DPA (ST/SGB/1998/14 and ST/SGB/2000/10) and Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch/DGACM (ST/SGB/1997/6).

³² See A/7507.

³³ See letters from both administering Powers in A/8276 and A/8277.

³⁴ In this connection I would like to refer to my paper presented to the 2013 Ecuador regional seminar on the issue of decolonization of East Timor ([http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/pdf/CRS-2013-DP.5%20\(Sergei%20Cherniavsky\).pdf](http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/pdf/CRS-2013-DP.5%20(Sergei%20Cherniavsky).pdf)).

from African Group and one from Eastern Europe – Russian Federation – the only surviving original member from this group. There are no members from the Western European and Others Group (WEOG).

Very often, one can hear arguments that the Special Committee membership is imbalanced in favor of the developing countries, Group of 77 and Non-Aligned Movement and therefore the Committee allegedly cannot objectively review the situation in the remaining NSGTs. It was not the choice of the Special Committee, which had always extended its hand to those administering Powers, which stopped formally cooperate with the Committee and called upon them to resume such formal cooperation. This call is always present in the Assembly resolution when it renews mandate of the Special Committee on an annual basis.

Challenges ahead, particularly in the Pacific region³⁵

There are currently 6 Pacific NSGTs on the United Nations list: two administered by the United States (American Samoa and Guam), two by France (New Caledonia and French Polynesia), Tokelau under New Zealand's administration and Pitcairn which is administered by the United Kingdom.

American Samoa

To my chagrin, I must say that American Samoa is a case of lost opportunity for the Special Committee.

Through many years its representatives at the seminar made statement of their desire to maintain their current arrangement with the United States and requested delisting from the United Nations list of NSGTs. I remember how as far as in 1998, the late Governor of American Samoa Taese Sunia very eloquently presented his case before the Pacific regional seminar held here at Nadi. While being very respectful of the Committee's noble goals, he nevertheless denied that his Territory was a colony and maintained that American Samoans were indeed satisfied with their relationship with the administering Power. At that time he invited the Special Committee to come to the Territory to witness the situation first-hand.

At one point, the Committee came very close to start negotiations with the US Mission to the United Nations regarding American Samoa. An informal meeting was held before the Marshall Islands seminar in 2000 at which US delegation made a PowerPoint presentation on the Territory's status for the members of the Special Committee.

I am also aware that the American Samoa's delegate to the US Congress, Eni Faleomavaega in 2006 wrote a letter to the US Ambassador John Bolton at the United

³⁵ This part of my presentation is not intended as a comprehensive analysis of challenges faced by the Special Committee in the Pacific region as far as Non-Self-Governing territories are concerned, but rather a concise summary of the current situation.

Nations requesting an official statement of the US Government toward American Samoa's status as Non-Self-Governing Territory.

In my own discussions with the representatives of the Territory at a number of regional seminars, they all were very eager to receive guidance from the Committee, a "road map", which would lead to delisting of the Territory.

Unfortunately, the Special Committee was unable to provide any advice to the Territory's representatives.

Maybe it is high time to return this process on track and approach US Mission to the United Nations on the possibility of a visiting mission to American Samoa. It may be a rather difficult task, given the fact that it involves not only the Territorial Government, the US State Department, but also US Department of the Interior and its Office of Insular Affairs, the latter having responsibility over the Territory. It seems that the visiting mission to the Territory is long overdue.

Guam

Representatives of the Territory participated in almost every seminar of the Special Committee, representing the Governor's office, Guam Commission on Decolonization and various civic Chamorro organizations.

Having followed the situation in Guam for many years, including drafting working papers in the Secretariat in the Territory for some time, I must admit that decolonization process in Guam seems very difficult for various reasons. It is good news that the Commission on Decolonization finally receives some funding to conduct education campaign. However, the Committee stills needs to hear answers to some important questions:

What is the level of support for the future plebiscite/popular consultations exercise among indigenous Chamorros?

How complete is the roster of the people of Chamorro origin who are entitled to participate in the popular consultation?

What is the attitude of non-Chamorros towards the proposed plebiscite?

What would be the legal consequences of the proposed popular consultation exercise, if any?

What is the position of the administering Power on this exercise?

Until all these and other questions are adequately answered, the Committee may be very cautious before starting any consultations with the Territorial Government and the administering Power on a prospect of a visiting mission.

As far as the recommendation for the UN assistance with civic education campaign is concerned, I believe that it should be addressed to the Department of Public Information rather than to the DPA's Electoral Assistance Division, which responds to requests for assistance from member States only. Requests from political parties, civil society or other entities are not considered.

New Caledonia

My overall humble impression is that decolonization process in New Caledonia is more or less right on track, give or take certain negative aspects that representatives from the Territory pointed out in their statements. The first-ever visiting mission to the Territory under the able leadership of the Ambassador Amadu Koroma of Sierra Leone, which provides the Committee with fresh material for assessment of the situation in New Caledonia, is of tremendous value.

French Polynesia

As far as newest addition of the list of NSGTs is concerned, it is too early to make any conclusions or recommendations. However, one thing is certain – the Territory needs a civic education campaign to explain to the people the role of the United Nations, the options available to the population in their self-determination of the future political status. The statements made by the representatives of the Union for Democracy to the Assembly of French Polynesia before the Fourth Committee on 8 October 2013³⁶ amply demonstrated the need for such a campaign.

Pitcairn

As far as this territory is concerned, as early as in the year 2000 during the informal discussions in the Special Committee, both American Samoa and Pitcairn were regarded as the most promising candidates for delisting. However, due to certain crisis in recent years related to the child sexual abuse cases on the island, it went under the Committee's radar for a long time.

There are inescapable facts on the population of the island, which currently stands at 49, of which only 31 fall into the economically active category, with only 11 under the age of 50, of whom only 3 are in the 20-30 age group. Half of the population is aged over 50, 18 of whom are aged over 60. This situation is having an increasingly negative impact on economic production and health-care costs. The natural growth rate of the population is already beyond a sustainable replacement rate. In the period 2001-2012, there were only eight births and fewer than five women of childbearing age. Overall situation seems very bleak³⁷.

³⁶ A/AC.109/2014/19.

³⁷ A/AC.109/2014/4.

Nevertheless, the island has a very sound system of self-governance. According to the 2012-revised edition of the Ordinance, the Council consists of seven voting members (the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and five Councilors, all elected) and four non-voting ex officio members (the Governor, the Deputy Governor, and the Governor's representative). This is almost one quarter of the economically active population. The measure of public participation in governance of the Territory, at least from a formal point of view, seems much higher than in most independent countries of the world.

Despite its small size and population, Pitcairn is a member of the secretariat of the Pacific Community. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community provides technical assistance, policy advice, training and research services to 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories in such areas as health, human development, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Pitcairn also participates in the Pacific Community Coastal Fisheries Programme.

The situation of Pitcairn begs the question whether it should continue to be on the list of the Special Committee. Maybe a visit to the island could enlighten the members of the Committee of further action required to complete decolonization of such small entity followed by a fast track recommendations to the General Assembly.

Tokelau

The outcomes of the referenda, neither of which reached the threshold of support set by Tokelau's General Fono for a change of status, have been acknowledged and accepted by New Zealand. As a follow-up to the 2007 referendum result, the then Prime Minister of New Zealand met with Tokelau's leaders in February 2008 to discuss the next steps in the New Zealand-Tokelau relationship. It was agreed that a "pause" should be taken in Tokelau's self-determination efforts and that, in the meantime, Tokelau would focus on meeting its basic needs³⁸. The statement by Ulu and New Zealand at this seminar confirmed that the activity in this direction is ongoing.

I believe that the Committee should respect the "pause" taken by Tokelau and its administering Power and wait for signals to proceed, once both of them indicate their readiness for further action.

³⁸ A/AC.109/2014/2.

Recommendations

1. Given the Special Committee's past experience, the Committee may wish to consider establishing small *ad hoc* working groups (no more than 3 members), which could engage in negotiations with relevant administering Powers and the territorial governments in order to prepare some skeleton recommendations for the case-by-case programmes. As a first step, the first two such groups could focus on American Samoa and Pitcairn.
2. The Chairman of the Special Committee may wish to enter into negotiations with the administering Powers regarding preparation of the visiting missions to American Samoa and Pitcairn. The Chairman has the mandate for such negotiations by operative paragraph 4 of the Committee's annual resolution on visiting missions, which requests the Chair "to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned and to report thereon to the Special Committee on the results of those consultations".
3. The Special Committee may wish to take a critical look at the operative paragraph 7(d) of the Assembly resolution 68/97, which specifically requests the Committee "...to develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories..." For many years this provision remains a "paper tiger", an unfulfilled promise. It is high time to start moving from mere declaration to a very hard work to develop such programmes by conducting appropriate consultations with both - Territories and their administering Powers. As a first step, the Committee should evaluate in the ranking order the priority of action plans on specific territories.

66 (1). Transmission of Information under Article 73e of the Charter

The General Assembly, on 9 February 1946, approved a resolution on Non-Self-Governing Peoples. By this resolution the Secretary-General was requested to include in his annual report on the work of the Organization a statement summarizing such information as may have been transmitted to him by Members of the United Nations under Article 73e of the Charter relating to economic, social and educational conditions in the territories for which they are responsible, other than those to which Chapters XII and XIII apply.

The General Assembly notes that information has been transmitted by the Governments of Australia concerning conditions in Papua; France concerning conditions in French West Africa, French Equatorial Africa, French Somaliland, Madagascar and Dependencies, French Establishments in Oceania, Indo-China, French Establishments in India, New Caledonia and Dependencies, Saint Pierre et Miquelon, Morocco, Tunisia, the New Hebrides under Anglo-French Condominium, Martinique, Guadeloupe and Dependencies, French Guiana, and Reunion (without prejudice to the future status of these territories); New Zealand concerning conditions in the Cook Islands (without prejudice to any interpretation of the expression "Non-Self-Governing Territories" in view of the fact that the Cook Islands are an integral part of New Zealand); the United Kingdom concerning conditions in Barbados, Bermuda, British Guiana, British Honduras, Fiji, Gambia, Gibraltar, Leeward Islands, Mauritius, St. Lucia, and Zanzibar Protectorate; and the United States concerning conditions in Alaska.

¹In this connection reference is made to the *Journal of the United Nations*, No. 25, 10 December 1946, Supplement No. 4, pages 73-80.

America Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The General Assembly also notes that the following Governments have declared their intention of transmitting information: Belgium on the Belgian Congo; Denmark on Greenland; the Netherlands on the Netherlands Indies, Surinam and Curacao; New Zealand on the Tokelau Islands; and the United Kingdom on Aden (Colony and Protectorate), Bahamas, Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate, British Somaliland Protectorate, Brunei, Cyprus, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Gold Coast (Colony and Protectorate), Grenada, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Kenya (Colony and Protectorate), Malayan Union, Malia, Nigeria, North Borneo, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, St. Helena and Dependencies, St. Vincent, Sarawak, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda Protectorate, and the High Commission Territories of the Western Pacific (Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, British Solomon Islands Protectorate, Pitcairn Islands).

The value of the association of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the specialized agencies as a means of attaining the objectives of Chapter XI of the Charter has been stressed.

The procedures to be followed by the Organization in connection with the information transmitted by Members regarding Non-Self-Governing Peoples have been carefully examined.

The General Assembly, therefore,

1. Invites the Members transmitting information to send to the Secretary-General by 30 June of each year the most recent information which is at their disposal;

2. Recommends that the information transmitted in the course of 1947 by Members of the United Nations under Article 73e of the Charter should be summarized, analysed and classified by the Secretary-General and included in his report to the second session of the General Assembly, in order that, in the light of the experience gained, the General Assembly may be able to decide whether any other procedure may be desirable for dealing with such information in future years;

3. Recommends that the Secretary-General communicate to the specialized agencies the information transmitted, with a view to making all relevant data available to their expert and deliberative bodies;

4. Invites the Secretary-General to convene,

²In this connection reference is made to document A/Doc. dated 28 November 1946.

³In regard to the Falkland Islands the delegation of Argentina at the twenty-fifth meeting of the Committee, made a reservation to the effect that the Argentine Government does not recognize British sovereignty in the Falkland Islands. The delegation of the United Kingdom made a parallel reservation, not recognizing Argentine sovereignty in these islands.

some weeks before the opening of the second session of the General Assembly, an *ad hoc* Committee composed in equal numbers of representatives of the Members transmitting information under Article 73e of the Charter and of representatives of Members elected, by the General Assembly at this session, on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution;

5. Invites the Secretary-General to request the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the World Health Organization and the International Trade Organization, when constituted, to send representatives in an advisory capacity to the meeting of the *ad hoc* committee;

6. Invites the *ad hoc* Committee to examine the Secretary-General's summary and analysis of the information transmitted under Article 73e of the Charter with a view to aiding the General Assembly in its consideration of this information, and with a view to making recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the procedures to be followed in the future and the means of ensuring that the advice, expert knowledge and experience of the specialized agencies are used to the best advantage.

Sixty-fourth plenary meeting,
14 December 1946.

At its sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth plenary meetings, on 14 and 15 December 1946 respectively, the General Assembly, in accordance with the terms of the above resolution, elected eight Members of the *ad hoc* Committee.

The composition of the Committee therefore is as follows:

Members transmitting information under Article 73e of the Charter:

Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Members elected by the General Assembly:
Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Philippine Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF TERRITORIES TO WHICH THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 1514 (XV)) APPLIES

Territory	Area		Population (mid-year 1962 estimates in thousands)
	(square kilometres)	(square miles)	
(a) Trust Territories			
AUSTRALIA			
1. New Guinea	240,870	93,000	1,485
2. Nauru ^a	21	8	5
UNITED STATES			
3. The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands ^b	1,813	700	81
(b) The Territory of South West Africa			
SOUTH AFRICA			
4. South West Africa	823,264	317,863	545
(c) Territories which have been declared by the General Assembly to be Non-Self-Governing Territories within the meaning of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, but on which information is not transmitted by the administering Powers concerned			
PORTUGAL ^c			
5. Angola, including the enclave of Cabinda.	1,246,700	481,382	4,950
6. Mozambique	771,125	297,654	6,750
7. Guinea, called Portuguese Guinea	36,125	13,947	549
8. The Cape Verde Archipelago	4,033	1,557	211
9. São Tomé and Príncipe and their de- pendencies	964	372	64
10. Macau and dependencies	16	6	169
11. Timor and dependencies	18,990	7,332	528
UNITED KINGDOM ^d			
12. Southern Rhodesia	389,362	150,333	3,880
(d) Non-Self-Governing Territories on which in- formation is transmitted by the administering Powers concerned			
AUSTRALIA			
13. Cocos (Keeling) Islands	13	5	1
14. Papua	234,498	90,540	540
FRANCE AND UNITED KINGDOM			
15. New Hebrides ^e	14,763	5,700	63
NEW ZEALAND			
16. Cook Islands	234	90	18
17. Niue Island	259	100	5
18. Tokelau Islands	10	4	2
SPAIN			
19. Fernando Póo	2,034	785	67
20. Ifni	1,500	579	50
21. Rio Muni	26,017	10,045	188
22. Spanish Sahara	266,000	102,703	25
UNITED KINGDOM			
23. Aden	287,684	111,075	1,220
24. Antigua	442	171	58
25. Bahamas	11,396	4,400	111

Territory	Area		Population (midyear 1962 estimates in thousands)
	(square kilometres)	(square miles)	
UNITED KINGDOM (continued)			
26. Barbados	431	166	232
27. Basutoland	30,344	11,716	708
28. Bechuanaland	574,980	222,000	335
29. Bermuda	53	20	46
30. British Guiana	214,970	83,000	598
31. British Honduras	22,963	8,866	96
32. British Virgin Islands	153	59	8
33. Brunei	5,765	2,226	90
34. Cayman Islands	259	100	8
35. Dominica	789	305	61
36. Falkland Islands	11,961	4,618	2.6
37. Fiji	18,272	7,055	421
38. Gambia	10,369	4,003	316 ^a
39. Gibraltar	6	2	27
40. Gilbert and Ellice Islands	905	349	48
41. Grenada	344	133	90
42. Hong Kong	1,031	398	3,410
43. Kenya	582,646	224,960	8,676
44. Malta	316	122	329
45. Mauritius	2,096	809	702
46. Montserrat	83	32	13
47. North Borneo	76,115	29,388	470
48. Northern Rhodesia	746,256	288,130	2,550
49. Nyasaland	119,311	46,066	2,950
50. Pitcairn Island	5	2	0.1 ^a
51. St. Helena	419	162	5
52. St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla	396	153	60
53. St. Lucia	616	238	92
54. St. Vincent	389	150	82
55. Sarawak	125,206	48,342	770
56. Seychelles	404	156	44
57. Singapore	581	224	1,740
58. Solomon Islands	29,785	11,500	128
59. Swaziland	17,363	6,704	275
60. Turks and Caicos Islands	430	166	6
61. Zanzibar	2,643	1,020	320
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA			
62. American Samoa	197	76	21
63. Guam	549	212	70
64. United States Virgin Islands	344	133	36

^a Newer is administered by Australia on behalf of Australia New Zealand and the United

Thematic Subsidiary Bodies of the Special Committee
(1962-1991)

1962

- Sub-Committee on the Questionnaire
- Sub-Committee on Petitions

1963

- Sub-Committee on Southern Rhodesia

1964

- Sub-Committees I, II and III
- Sub-Committee on Aden
- Sub-Committee of Good Offices on British Guiana

1966

- Sub-Committee on South West Africa
- Sub-Committee on Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland
- Sub-Committee on Equatorial Guinea (Fernando Poo and Rio Muni)
- Sub-Committee on Fiji

1968

- Sub-Committee on Oman

1973

- Sub-Committees I and II
- Sub-Committee on Petitions and Information

1976-1991

- Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance
- Sub-Committee on Small Territories

1962-1994

- Working Group

C24: MASTER MEMBERSHIP LIST

#	Members	Period	Withdrawal	Document
1.	Afghanistan	1965-1996	1996	A/AC.109/2068
2.	Antigua and Barbuda	1997		
3.	Australia	1961-1969, 1973	1969	A/7507
4.	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1997		
5.	Bulgaria	1962-1995	1995	A/AC.109/2037
6.	Cambodia	1961-1965	1965	A/5983
7.	Chile	1962-1968, 1972	1968	A/7288
8.	China	1971		
9.	Congo	1972		
10.	Ivory Coast/ Côte d'Ivoire	1962		
11.	Cuba	1974		
12.	Czechoslovakia/ Czech Republic	1971-1994	1994	A/AC.109/1178
13.	Denmark	1962-1968, 1973-1975, 1979-1981	1968, 1975, 1981	A/10457, A/36/626
14.	Dominica	2005		
15.	Ecuador	1968-1972, 2009	1972	A/8846
16.	Ethiopia	1961		
17.	Fiji	1970		
18.	Finland	1965-1968	1968	A/7329
19.	Grenada	1992		
20.	Honduras	1968-1970	1970	A/8154
21.	India	1961		
22.	Indonesia	1971		
23.	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	1962		

*Current members of the Special Committee are indicated in bold.

24	Iraq	1962		
25	Italy	1961-1971	1971	A/ 8206
26	Madagascar	1961-1972	1972	A/ 8655
27	Mali	1961		
28	Nicaragua	2010		
29	Norway	1968-1971, 1975-1979, 1981-1992	1971, 1979, 1992	A/ 8205, A/ AC.109/ 1096
30	Papua New Guinea	1990		
31	Poland	1961-1971	1971	A/ 8611
32	USSR/ Russian Federation	1961		
33	Saint Kitts and Nevis	2004		A/ 58/ 601
34	Saint Lucia	1997		
35	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2004		
36	Sierra Leone	1962		
37	Sweden	1970-1973	1973	A/ 9449
38	Syrian Arab Republic	1961		
39	Timor Leste	2005		
40	Trinidad and Tobago	1970-1998	1998	A/ AC.109/ 2133
41	Tunisia	1961		
42	Tanganyika/ United Republic of Tanzania	1961		
43	UK	1961-1971	1971	A/ 8276
44	USA	1961-1971	1971	A/ 8277
45	Uruguay	1961-1967	1967	
46	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	1961-1974, 1979	1974	A/ 9971
47	Yugoslavia	1961-2000	2000	

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7.	Chile	1962-1968, 1972	1968	A/7288
8.	China	1971		
9.	Congo	1972		
10.	Ivory Coast/ Côte d'Ivoire	1962		
11.	Cuba	1974		
12.	Czechoslovakia/ Czech Republic	1971-1994	1994	A/AC.109/1178
13.	Denmark	1962-1968, 1973-1975, 1979-1981	1968, 1975, 1981	A/10457, A/36/626
14.	Dominica	2005		
15.	Ecuador	1968-1972, 2009	1972	A/8846
16.	Ethiopia	1961		
17.	Fiji	1970		
18.	Finland	1965-1968	1968	A/7329
19.	Grenada	1992		
20.	Honduras	1968-1970	1970	A/8154
21.	India	1961		
22.	Indonesia	1971		
23.	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	1962		

*Current members of the Special Committee are indicated in bold.

24	Iraq	1962		
25	Italy	1961-1971	1971	A/8206
26	Madagascar	1961-1972	1972	A/8655
27	Mali	1961		
28	Nicaragua	2010		
29	Norway	1968-1971, 1975-1979, 1981-1992	1971, 1979, 1992	A/8205, A/AC.109/1096
30	Papua New Guinea	1990		
31	Poland	1961-1971	1971	A/8611
32	USSR/ Russian Federation	1961		
33	Saint Kitts and Nevis	2004		A/58/601
34	Saint Lucia	1997		
35	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2004		
36	Sierra Leone	1962		
37	Sweden	1970-1973	1973	A/9449
38	Syrian Arab Republic	1961		
39	Timor-Leste	2005		
40	Trinidad and Tobago	1970-1998	1998	A/AC.109/2133
41	Tunisia	1961		
42	Tanganyika/ United Republic of Tanzania	1961		
43	UK	1961-1971	1971	A/8276
44	USA	1961-1971	1971	A/8277
45	Uruguay	1961-1967	1967	
46	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	1961-1974, 1979	1974	A/9971
47	Yugoslavia	1961-2000	2000	

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