

43/38. Question of Montserrat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Montserrat,

Having examined the relevant chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,³²

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Montserrat, including in particular General Assembly resolution 42/81 of 4 December 1987,

Conscious of the need to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of the Territory,

Having heard the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power,³³

Noting the stated policy of the Government of the United Kingdom, the administering Power, that it remains ready to respond positively to the express wish of the people of the Territory on the question of independence,³⁴

Taking note of the agreement in principle by the Heads of Authority of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States at its eleventh meeting held at Tortola, British Virgin Islands on 26 and 27 May 1987, for the establishment, subject to approval through a referendum of the peoples of the countries concerned, of a political union among its members and noting the stated position of the Government of Montserrat in favour of independence and of participation in such a political union,³⁵

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of the Territory and bearing in mind the necessity of diversifying and strengthening further its economy as a matter of priority in order to promote economic stability,

Noting the continued growth of the Territory's economy in 1986 and the commitment of the Government of Montserrat to the strengthening and diversification of the Territory's economy,

Noting the measures being taken by the territorial Government to improve the efficiency of the civil service, the priority it places on cadre training and the strengthening of the educational system and its efforts to promote the integration of women in all phases of national development, and drawing attention to the need to associate the Territory in the related work of the United Nations bodies concerned in that regard,

Welcoming the contribution to the development of the Territory by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system operating in Montserrat, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund,

Noting with concern the continued dissociation of the Territory from the activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization since the withdrawal by the administering Power of the associate membership of Montserrat from that organization in 1983, and aware of the active interest of the Government of Montserrat in the readmission of the Territory as an associate member of the agency,

Recalling the dispatch in 1975 and 1982 of United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the small Territories and considering that the possibility of sending a further visiting mission to Montserrat at an appropriate time should be kept under review,

1. *Approves* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to Montserrat;²⁸

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Montserrat to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

3. *Reiterates the view* that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the speedy exercise by the people of the Territory of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration, which fully applies to Montserrat;

4. *Reiterates* that it is the responsibility of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, to create such conditions in the Territory as will enable the people of Montserrat to exercise freely and without interference their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in accordance with resolution 1514 (XV) and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

5. *Reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Montserrat themselves to determine their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration, and reiterates its call upon the administering Power to launch programmes, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to foster an awareness among the people of Montserrat of the possibilities available to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination and independence;

6. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power to promote the economic and social development of Montserrat and calls upon the administering Power to continue, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to strengthen the economy of the Territory and to increase its assistance to programmes of diversification;

7. *Urges* the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the people of Montserrat to own and dispose of the natural resources of the Territory, including marine resources, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources;

8. *Reiterates its call* upon the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to continue the assistance necessary for the employment of the local population in the civil service, particularly at senior levels;

9. *Urges* the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to overcome shortages in human resources by providing appropriate incentives to assist nationals in finding better opportunities at home and to attract qualified nationals from abroad;

10. *Invites* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other international and regional organizations, to intensify their efforts to accelerate progress in the economic and social life of the Territory;

³⁵ *Ibid.*, paras. 14, 15 and 21.

11. *Calls upon* the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to take urgent steps to facilitate the readmission of Montserrat as an associate member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

12. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of this question at its next session, including the possible dispatch of a further visiting mission to Montserrat at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Power, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

*59th plenary meeting
22 November 1988*

43/39. Question of Bermuda

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Bermuda,

Having examined the relevant chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,³⁶

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Bermuda, in particular General Assembly resolution 42/86 of 4 December 1987,

Conscious of the need to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of the Territory,

Having heard the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power,³³

Noting the stated policy of the Government of the United Kingdom, the administering Power, that it remains ready to respond positively to the express wish of the people of the Territory on the question of independence,³⁴

Noting the active discussions in the Territory, both within and outside the territorial Government, on the future status of Bermuda,³⁷

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of the Territory and bearing in mind the necessity of diversifying and strengthening further its economy as a matter of priority in order to promote economic stability,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities,

Noting with appreciation the assistance extended to the Territory by the United Nations Development Programme,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the small Territories and considering that the possibility of sending a visiting mission to Bermuda at an appropriate time should be kept under review,

1. *Approves* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to Bermuda;²⁸

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Bermuda to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

3. *Reiterates the view* that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the speedy exercise by the people of the Territory of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration, which fully applies to Bermuda;

4. *Reiterates* that it is the responsibility of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, to create such conditions in the Territory as will enable the people of Bermuda to exercise freely and without interference their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and, in that connection, reaffirms the importance of fostering an awareness among the people of Bermuda of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of that right;

5. *Reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Bermuda themselves to determine their own future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration;

6. *Reaffirms its strong conviction* that the presence of military bases and installations in the Territory could constitute a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration and that it is the responsibility of the administering Power to ensure that the existence of such bases and installations does not hinder the population of the Territory from exercising its right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter;

7. *Urges* the administering Power to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve Bermuda in any offensive acts or interference directed against other States and to comply fully with the purposes and principles of the Charter, the Declaration and the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly relating to military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration;

8. *Also urges* the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the people of Bermuda to own and dispose of the natural resources of the Territory, including marine resources, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources;

9. *Further urges* the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to continue to provide assistance for increased employment of the local population in the civil service, particularly at senior levels;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue to take all necessary measures, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to counter problems related to drug trafficking;

11. *Invites* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide assistance for the development needs of Bermuda;

12. *Emphasizes* the desirability of sending a visiting mission to the Territory and requests the administering Power to facilitate the dispatch of such a mission at the earliest possible opportunity;

13. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of this question at its next session, including the possible dispatch of a visiting mission to Bermuda at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administer-

³⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/43/23), chaps. III to V and IX.*

³⁷ See A/AC.109/942, paras. 14-16.