

independent and emerging States all possible assistance in the economic, social and other fields;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as of the various resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

99th plenary meeting
2 December 1985

40/58. Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the 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 relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,⁴⁴

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 39/92 of 14 December 1984,

Reiterating the importance of publicity as an instrument for furthering the aims and purposes of the Declaration and mindful of the continuing pressing need to take all possible steps to acquaint world public opinion with all aspects of the problems of decolonization, with a view to assisting effectively the peoples of the colonial Territories to achieve self-determination, freedom and independence,

Aware of the increasingly important role being played in the widespread dissemination of relevant information by a number of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in decolonization, and noting with satisfaction the intensified efforts of the Special Committee in enlisting the support of those organizations in that regard,

1. *Approves* the 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 relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization;

2. *Considers* it incumbent upon the United Nations to continue to play an active role in the process of self-determination and independence and to intensify its efforts for the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with a view to the further mobilization of international public opinion in support of complete decolonization;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, having regard to the suggestions of the Special Committee, to continue to take concrete measures through all the media at his disposal, including publications, radio and television, to give widespread and continuous publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, and, *inter alia*:

(a) To continue, in consultation with the Special Committee, to collect, prepare and disseminate basic material,

studies and articles relating to the problems of decolonization and, in particular, to continue to publish the periodical *Objective: Justice* and other publications, special articles and studies, including the *Decolonization* series, and to select from them appropriate material for wider dissemination by means of reprints in various languages;

(b) To seek the full co-operation of the administering Powers concerned in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To intensify the activities of all United Nations information centres;

(d) To maintain a close working relationship with the Organization of African Unity by holding periodic consultations and by systematically exchanging relevant information with that organization;

(e) To enlist, with the close co-operation of United Nations information centres, the support of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in decolonization in the dissemination of the relevant information;

(f) To ensure the availability of the necessary facilities and services to that end;

(g) To report to the Special Committee on the measures taken in implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Requests* all States, in particular the administering Powers, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations having a special interest in decolonization to undertake or intensify, in co-operation with the Secretary-General and within their respective spheres of competence, the large-scale dissemination of the information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to follow the implementation of the present resolution and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-first session.

99th plenary meeting
2 December 1985

40/60. Co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/38 of 18 November 1981, 37/8 of 29 October 1982, 38/37 of 5 December 1983 and 39/47 of 10 December 1984,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the state of co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee,⁴⁵

Having heard the report of the Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee on the steps taken by the Committee to ensure continuing, close and effective co-operation between the two organizations,⁴⁶

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;⁴⁵

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the further progress achieved towards strengthening the existing co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the study on the strengthening of the role of the United Nations prepared by the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, chaps. II and III.
⁴⁵ A/40/743.

⁴⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Plenary Meetings, 108th meeting.*

Nations,⁴⁷ as well as the study on the role of the International Court of Justice⁴⁸ and other efforts of the Committee in the continuation of its programme of support to the work of the United Nations in several areas;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-first session a report on co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee".

*108th plenary meeting
9 December 1985*

40/62. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, containing the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration,

Recalling also its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 3161 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 3291 (XXIX) of 13 December 1974, 31/4 of 21 October 1976, 32/7 of 1 November 1977, 34/69 of 6 December 1979, 35/43 of 28 November 1980, 36/105 of 10 December 1981, 37/65 of 3 December 1982, 38/13 of 21 November 1983 and 39/48 of 11 December 1984, in which it, *inter alia*, affirmed the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros,

Recalling, in particular, its resolution 3385 (XXX) of 12 November 1975 on the admission of the Comoros to membership in the United Nations, in which it reaffirmed the necessity of respecting the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoro Archipelago, composed of the islands of Anjouan, Grande-Comore, Mayotte, and Mohéli,

Recalling further that, in accordance with the agreements between the Comoros and France, signed on 15 June 1973, concerning the accession of the Comoros to independence, the results of the referendum of 22 December 1974 were to be considered on a global basis and not island by island,

Convinced that a just and lasting solution to the question of Mayotte is to be found in respect for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Comoro Archipelago,

Convinced further that a speedy solution of the problem is essential for the preservation of the peace and security which prevail in the region,

Bearing in mind the wish expressed by the President of the French Republic to seek actively a just solution to the problem,

Taking note of the repeated wish of the Government of the Comoros to initiate as soon as possible a frank and serious dialogue with the French Government with a view to accelerating the return of the Comorian island of Mayotte to the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,⁴⁹

Bearing in mind the decisions of the Organization of African Unity, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference on this question,

1. *Reaffirms* the sovereignty of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros over the island of Mayotte;

2. *Invites* the Government of France to honour the commitments entered into prior to the referendum on the self-determination of the Comoro Archipelago of 22 December 1974 concerning respect for the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros;

3. *Calls* for the translation into practice of the wish expressed by the President of the French Republic to seek actively a just solution to the question of Mayotte;

4. *Urges* the Government of France to open negotiations with the Government of the Comoros with a view to ensuring the effective and prompt return of the island of Mayotte to the Comoros;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to maintain continuous contact with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity with regard to this problem and to make available his good offices in the search for a peaceful negotiated solution to the problem;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte".

*109th plenary meeting
9 December 1985*

40/63. Law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/66 of 3 December 1982, 38/59 A of 14 December 1983 and 39/73 of 13 December 1984, regarding the law of the sea,

Taking note of the increasing and overwhelming support for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,⁵⁰ as evidenced, *inter alia*, by the one hundred and fifty-nine signatures as of 9 December 1984, the closing date for signature, and twenty-four of the sixty ratifications or accessions required for entry into force of the Convention,

Considering that, in its resolution 2749 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, it proclaimed that the sea-bed and ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, as well as the resources of the area, are the common heritage of mankind,

Recalling that the Convention provides the régime to be applied to the Area and its resources,

Further recalling the Declaration adopted by the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on 30 August 1985,⁵¹

Seriously concerned at any attempt to undermine the Convention and the related resolutions adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea,⁵²

Recognizing that, as stated in the third preambular paragraph of the Convention, the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole,

Convinced that it is important to safeguard the unified character of the Convention and related resolutions adopted therewith and to refrain from any action to apply

⁴⁷ A/40/726 and Corr. I. annex

⁴⁸ A/40/682, annex.

⁴⁹ A/40/619.

⁵⁰ *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

⁵¹ LOS/PCN/72; see also A.40:923, paras. 109-112, on the Declaration and the Chairman's statement at its adoption.

⁵² *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/121, annex I.