

6. *Reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of the United States Virgin Islands themselves to determine their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and, in that connection, calls upon the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to facilitate programmes in the Territory to foster an awareness among the people of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

7. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development of the United States Virgin Islands;

8. *Urges* the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to strengthen the economy of the Territory by, *inter alia*, taking additional measures of diversification and continuing to develop the Territory's infrastructure with a view to reducing the heavy economic dependence of the Territory on the administering Power;

9. *Urges* the administering Power, in co-operation with the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, to safeguard the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to the enjoyment of their natural resources by taking effective measures to guarantee their right to own and dispose of those resources and to establish and maintain control of their future development;

10. *Urges* the administering Power to seek a status in the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development for the territorial Government, similar to that of other dependent Territories within the Group;

11. *Reiterates its call* upon the administering Power to facilitate further the participation of the United States Virgin Islands in various regional and intergovernmental bodies and organizations, particularly in their central organs, and in other organizations of the United Nations system;

12. *Urges* the administering Power to continue to take all necessary measures to comply fully with the purposes and principles of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly relating to military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration;

13. *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 the United States Virgin Islands at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Power, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

52nd plenary meeting  
31 October 1986

#### 41/25. Question of Guam

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of Guam,

*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,<sup>33</sup>

*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 relating to Guam, including in particular its resolution 40/42 of 2 December 1985,

*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 States of America, as the administering Power, relating to Guam,<sup>34</sup>

*Taking note* of the statement by the representative of the administering Power that the Guam Commission on Self-Determination, which was appointed in February 1984, has completed its work on the draft text of a Commonwealth Act,

*Taking note* of the statement by the representative of the administering Power that the Department of Defense had authorized the release of nearly 2,000 hectares of land previously under its control and that it was expected that legislation to release that land would be enacted later in 1986,

*Noting* the potential offered for diversifying and developing the economy of the Territory, for example, in the areas of commercial fishing and agriculture, and the statement of the representative of the administering Power that the draft Commonwealth Act seeks to promote economic development by establishing a free trade zone between Guam and the United States of America,

*Taking note* of the statement of the representative of the administering Power that provisions of the proposed Commonwealth Act would recognize the distinct cultural identity of the Chamorro people, the indigenous inhabitants of Guam,

*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,

*Recalling* the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission 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 Guam at an appropriate time should be kept under review, particularly in the light of the plebiscite planned for 1987, referred to in paragraph 5 below,

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 Guam;<sup>24</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Guam to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

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

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chaps. III, V and IX.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, Forty-first Session, Fourth Committee, 13th meeting, paras. 59, 62 and 63.

to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration, which fully applies to Guam;

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of fostering an awareness among the people of Guam of the possibilities open to them with regard to their right to self-determination and calls upon the United States of America, as the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to expedite the process of decolonization strictly in accordance with the expressed wishes of the people of the Territory;

5. *Takes note* of the statement by the representative of the administering Power that should the Guamanian voters approve it in a plebiscite planned for 1987, the draft text of a Commonwealth Act proposed by the Guam Commission on Self-Determination will be submitted to the United States Congress for consideration;

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 of the United Nations;

7. *Urges* the administering Power to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve the Territory in any offensive acts or interference against any 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. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power, under the Charter, to promote the economic and social development of Guam and, in that connection, calls upon the administering Power to take further steps to strengthen and diversify the economy of the Territory, with a view to reducing its economic dependence on the administering Power;

9. *Reiterates* that one obstacle to economic growth, and particularly to agricultural development, stems from the fact that large tracts of land are held by the United States federal authorities, and calls upon the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to expedite the transfer of land to the people of the Territory;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Power to support measures by the territorial Government aimed at removing constraints to growth in the areas of agriculture and commercial fishing and to ensure the development of those areas to the fullest extent;

11. *Urges* the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to continue to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the right of the people of Guam to the natural resources of the Territory, including marine resources within its exclusive economic zone, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources and requests the administering Power to take the necessary steps to protect the property rights of the people of the Territory;

12. *Reaffirms* the importance of continued efforts by the territorial Government, with the support of the administering Power, towards promoting the Chamorro language and culture;

13. *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 Guam at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Power, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

52nd plenary meeting  
31 October 1986

#### 41/26. Question of Tokelau

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of Tokelau,

*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,<sup>35</sup>

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

*Having examined* the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Tokelau dispatched in July 1986<sup>36</sup> at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand and of the General Fono (Council) of Tokelau,<sup>37</sup>

*Having heard* the statement of the Chairman of the Visiting Mission,<sup>38</sup>

*Having heard* the statement of the representative of New Zealand, the administering Power,<sup>39</sup>

*Noting with satisfaction* the continuing exemplary co-operation of the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions thereto,

*Aware* of the special problems facing Tokelau by virtue of its isolation, small size, limited resources and lack of infrastructure,

*Reiterating the view* that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the implementation of the Declaration, which fully applies to Tokelau,

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 Tokelau;<sup>40</sup>

2. *Approves* the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Tokelau in July 1986,<sup>36</sup> and endorses the observations, conclusions and recommendations contained therein;<sup>41</sup>

3. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Tokelau 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);

4. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the elders, people and public service of Tokelau and to the administering Power for the courtesies, co-operation and assistance extended to the Visiting Mission;

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chaps. III and XI.

<sup>36</sup> A/AC.109/877 and Add.1

<sup>37</sup> See A/AC.109/823.

<sup>38</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Fourth Committee*, 13th meeting, para. 50.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 51-53.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chap. XI

<sup>41</sup> A/AC.109/877, sect. III.