

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

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1629 (XVI). Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

The General Assembly,

I

Deeply concerned that as a result of the renewed discharge into the earth's environment of radio-active debris there have been sharp increases in the levels of radio-active fall-out in many parts of the world,

Fearful that the prolonged exposure of mankind to increasing levels of radio-active fall-out would constitute a growing threat to this and future generations,

Recognizing the great importance of the contribution made by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation in the study of the extent and nature of this hazard,

1. *Declares* that both concern for the future of mankind and the fundamental principles of international law impose a responsibility on all States concerning actions which might have harmful biological consequences for the existing and future generations of peoples of other States, by increasing the levels of radio-active fall-out;

2. *Approves* the annual progress report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation¹ and draws particular attention to the Committee's view that the resumption of nuclear test explosions since the publication of its last comprehensive report increases the urgency for the intensification of relevant scientific studies;

3. *Expresses appreciation* for the valuable information on radio-active contamination, radiation levels and radio-biological questions which has been furnished to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 24, document A/4881.*

the International Commission on Radiological Protection and the International Commission on Radiological Units and Measurements, in compliance with General Assembly resolutions 1376 (XIV) of 17 November 1959 and 1574 (XV) of 20 December 1960;

4. *Reaffirms* the desirability of continuing full international co-operation through the Scientific Committee and interchanges of the results and experience of research conducted at the national level, so that man's knowledge of the hazards of radiation will constantly improve and in particular so that the second comprehensive report to be presented in 1962 by the Committee will be as scientifically authoritative and informative as possible;

5. *Invites* countries wishing to do so to take advantage of the offers of laboratory facilities which have been made by Member States, the World Health Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the analysis of samples of air, water, bone, soil and food collected in their territories, as envisaged in section IV of resolution 1376 (XIV);

6. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to examine the possibility of accelerating its second comprehensive report and to consider at the earliest possible time whether the facts at its disposal call for the submission of an interim report;

II

Noting that, in accordance with procedures and practices established by the World Meteorological Organization, the countries of the world have for many years operated a system for the routine reporting of atmospheric conditions from a world-wide network of meteorological stations for the prompt dissemination of these reports by telegraphic and other means,

1. *Invites* the World Meteorological Organization, in consultation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, as necessary, to

examine urgently the feasibility of extending the present meteorological reporting system to include measurements of atmospheric radio-activity with the following aims in mind:

(a) To ensure that reliable and standardized measurements of atmospheric radio-activity are made at a world-wide network of stations;

(b) To ensure the day-to-day exchange of this information by telegraphic and other means with a view to its prompt reception at appointed national centres;

(c) To ensure that national and/or international arrangements be made for these observations to be stored as permanent records of atmospheric radio-activity and to be published in appropriate forms at suitable intervals;

2. *Invites* the World Meteorological Organization to implement the above-mentioned scheme, if found feasible, at the earliest possible date.

*1043rd plenary meeting,
27 October 1961.*

1661 (XVI). The status of the German-speaking element in the Province of Bolzano (Bozen)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1497 (XV) of 31 October 1960,

Noting with satisfaction the negotiations which are taking place between the two parties concerned,

Noting further that the dispute remains as yet unresolved,

Calls for further efforts by the two parties concerned to find a solution in accordance with paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the above-mentioned resolution.

*1067th plenary meeting,
28 November 1961.*

1662 (XVI). Treatment of people of Indian and Indo-Pakistan origin in the Republic of South Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1179 (XII) of 26 November 1957, 1302 (XIII) of 10 December 1958, 1460 (XIV) of 10 December 1959 and 1597 (XV) of 13 April 1961,

Having considered the reports of the Governments of India² and Pakistan,³

1. *Notes* that the Governments of India and Pakistan have once again reiterated their readiness to enter into negotiations with the Government of the Republic of South Africa in accordance with the expressed desires of the United Nations, and with the express declaration that such negotiations would be without prejudice to the juridical stands taken by the respective Governments;

2. *Notes with deep regret* that the Government of South Africa has repeatedly ignored the resolutions of the General Assembly, has not replied to the communications from the Governments of India and Pakistan on this subject and has not shown any disposition

to arrive at a solution to this problem in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the repeated recommendations of the Assembly;

3. *Calls upon* the Government of South Africa to enter into negotiations with the Governments of India and Pakistan, in conformity with the repeated resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. *Invites* Member States to use their good offices in such manner as may be appropriate to bring about the negotiations envisaged by the General Assembly in this matter;

5. *Invites* the parties concerned to report to the General Assembly, jointly or separately, regarding any progress which may be made.

*1067th plenary meeting,
28 November 1961.*

1663 (XVI). The question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of *apartheid* of the Government of the Republic of South Africa,

Considering that in its resolutions 616 B (VII) of 5 December 1952, 917 (X) of 6 December 1955 and 1248 (XIII) of 30 October 1958 the General Assembly has declared that racial policies designed to perpetuate or increase discrimination are inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations and with the pledges under Article 56 of the Charter,

Noting that in its resolutions 395 (V) of 2 December 1950, 511 (VI) of 12 January 1952 and 616 A (VII) of 5 December 1952 the General Assembly has successively affirmed that the policy of racial segregation (*apartheid*) is necessarily based on doctrines of racial discrimination,

Recalling that the Security Council in its resolution of 1 April 1960⁴ recognized that the situation in South Africa was one that had led to international friction and, if continued, might endanger international peace and security,

Recalling further that the Security Council in its aforesaid resolution called upon the Government of South Africa to initiate measures aimed at bringing about racial harmony based on equality in order to ensure that the present situation does not continue or recur and to abandon its policies of *apartheid* and racial discrimination,

Recalling in particular that the Government of South Africa has completely disregarded General Assembly resolution 1598 (XV) of 13 April 1961 and, far from bringing its policies and conduct into conformity with its obligations under the Charter, has continued to re-inforce its racial policies in disregard of those obligations,

² *Ibid.*, agenda item 75, documents A/4803 and Add.1.

³ *Ibid.*, document A/4817.

⁴ *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifteenth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1960, document S/4300.*