

develop its dependent Territories economically and socially and urges the administering Power, in consultation with the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, to take the necessary measures to promote the economic and social development of the Territory and, in particular, to intensify and expand its programme of assistance in order to accelerate the development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Territory;

6. *Emphasizes* that greater attention should be paid to diversification of the economy, which will benefit the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and, in that connection, takes note of the progress reported by the territorial Government regarding the development of mariculture in the Territory;<sup>31</sup>

7. *Recalls* that it is the responsibility of the administering Power, in accordance with the wishes of the people, to safeguard, guarantee and ensure the inalienable right of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands to the enjoyment of their natural resources by taking effective measures to guarantee their right to own and dispose of 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;

8. *Urges* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, to continue to pay special attention to the development needs of the Turks and Caicos Islands;

9. *Urges* the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to provide the assistance necessary for the training of qualified local personnel in the skills essential to the development of various sectors of the economy and the society of the Territory;

10. *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 Turks and Caicos 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

#### 41/23. Question of American Samoa

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of American Samoa,

*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>30</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 American Samoa, including in particular its resolution 40/41 of 2 December 1985,

*Taking into account* the statement of the representative of the administering Power relating to American Samoa,<sup>32</sup>

*Conscious* of the need to promote progress towards the full implementation of the Declaration in respect of American Samoa,

*Noting with appreciation* the continued participation of the United States of America, as the administering Power, in the work of the Special Committee in regard to American Samoa, thereby enabling it to conduct a more informed and meaningful examination of the situation in the Territory,

*Noting* that a constitutional convention to consider amendments to the present Constitution was held from 30 June to 11 July 1986 and that proposals adopted would be put to the voters for approval in November 1986,

*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 1981 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 American Samoa 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 American Samoa;<sup>24</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of American Samoa 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 to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration, which fully applies to American Samoa;

4. *Calls upon* the Government of the United States of America, as the administering Power, to take all necessary steps, taking into account the rights, interests and wishes of the people of American Samoa as expressed freely in conditions leading to real self-determination, to expedite the process of decolonization of the Territory in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration and reaffirms the importance of fostering an awareness among the people of American Samoa of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination and independence;

5. *Notes* that, pursuant to an act of Congress, the United States Secretary of the Interior is no longer authorized to make changes unilaterally in the Constitution of American Samoa and that the people of the Territory are the final ratifying authority over the Constitution;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Power to respond favourably to the request of the Samoan people to appoint the Chief Justice and other members of the judiciary of the Territory themselves;

7. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power, under the Charter, to promote the economic and social development of American Samoa and calls upon the administering Power to intensify its efforts to strengthen and diversify the economy of the Territory and to make it more viable in order to reduce its heavy economic and fi-

<sup>31</sup> See A/AC.109/860, para. 16.

<sup>32</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Fourth Committee, 13th meeting, paras. 59, 60 and 63.*

financial dependence on the United States and to create employment opportunities for the people of the Territory;

8. *Expresses the hope* that the development planning process initiated by the first five-year development plan will be continued and strengthened;

9. *Urges* the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to safeguard the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to the enjoyment of their natural resources by taking effective measures to ensure their right to own and dispose of those resources and to establish and maintain control of their future development with a view to creating conditions for a balanced, diversified and viable economy;

10. *Urges* the administering Power to continue to facilitate close relations and co-operation between the peoples of American Samoa and the neighbouring island communities and between the territorial Government and the regional institutions in order to enhance further the economic and social welfare of the people of the Territory;

11. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of this question at its next session, including the dispatch of a further visiting mission to American Samoa at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Power, taking into account, in particular, the wishes of the people of the Territory, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

52nd plenary meeting  
31 October 1986

#### 41/24. Question of the United States Virgin Islands

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of the United States Virgin Islands,

*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>29</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 the United States Virgin Islands, including in particular its resolution 40/49 of 2 December 1985,

*Noting with appreciation* the continued active participation of the United States of America, as the administering Power, and of the representative of the territorial Government in the work of the Special Committee in regard to the United States Virgin Islands, thereby enabling it to conduct a more informed and meaningful examination of the situation in the Territory, with a view to accelerating the process of decolonization for the purpose of the full implementation of the Declaration,

*Taking note* of the statement of the representative of the administering Power that the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands enjoys a large measure of self-government through its elected representatives, namely, the Governor, members of the Legislature and the Territory's delegate to the United States House of Representatives, and that a delegate—elected for a two-year period—participates in the House of Representatives without the right to vote although he participates and votes in the Committees,

*Noting* that general elections are to be held in November 1986 in the Territory,

*Noting* that, during the period under review, despite some setbacks to its industrialization programme, the economy of the Territory improved, and that, in particular, tourism, construction and private investment increased and the level of unemployment decreased, and taking note of the infrastructural developments taking place in the Territory,

*Welcoming* the continued participation of the United States Virgin Islands, as an associate member, in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and its subsidiary bodies, including the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, and noting the continued participation of a representative of the Territory, as a member of the delegation of the administering Power, in annual meetings of the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development since 1982,

*Noting* the continued policy of the administering Power that representatives of the Territory should participate in forums where the Territory was the subject of discussion,

*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 1977 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

*Mindful* that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in the small Territories, and considering that the possibility of sending a further visiting mission to the United States Virgin Islands at an appropriate time should be kept under review, particularly in the light of the referendum referred to in paragraph 5 below and the preparations for that event,

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 the United States Virgin Islands;<sup>24</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of the United States Virgin Islands 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 to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration, which fully applies to the United States Virgin Islands;

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

5. *Takes note* of the statement of the administering Power that the Government of the United States Virgin Islands had decided that, before a referendum on the issue was called, more time was necessary for the purpose of allowing a further opportunity to study the implications of the various future status options and that, in that connection, it stood ready to respond to the wishes of the people of the Territory concerning their future status;