

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 emphasizing the desirability of sending, at an appropriate time, a further visiting mission to American Samoa,

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>28</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;

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, bearing in mind the rights, interests and wishes of the people of American Samoa as expressed freely in any act of 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. 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;

6. 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 American Samoa 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;

7. Also urges the administering Power to continue to foster close relations between the Territory and other island communities in the region and promote co-operation between the territorial Government and regional institutions, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system;

8. 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 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-fourth session.

59th plenary meeting  
22 November 1988

#### 43/44. 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>36</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 resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to the United States Virgin Islands, including in particular General Assembly resolution 42/89 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 States of America, as the administering Power,<sup>39</sup>

Taking note of the statement of the representative of the administering Power that the people of the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands, through their democratically elected legislature and executive, exercise responsibility for local government and control of their future, including the possibility of modifying their present relationship with the United States and that the Government of the United States stands ready to respond to their wishes whenever they so decide in that regard,<sup>40</sup>

Noting that the Government of the United States Virgin Islands is reviewing the possibility of further devolution of power thereto, taking due account of the related experience of other Non-Self-Governing Territories,<sup>41</sup>

Welcoming the enactment of legislation, in March 1988, providing for a referendum, to be held in November 1989, on options available for the Territory's future status, namely, statehood, independence, free association, incorporated territory, *status quo*, commonwealth and compact of federal relations,

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 measures being taken by the territorial Government with a view to strengthening the Territory's financial viability and facilitating its economic development,

Noting also the stated position of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands on the disposition of Water Island,<sup>42</sup> as well as the need for the Territory to exercise control over its own resources,<sup>43</sup>

Noting further the concern expressed by a petitioner at the reclamation and development of submerged land at Long Bay in the Charlotte Amalie Harbour, which should be addressed by the administering Power,

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

Noting the active interest of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands in participating in the related

<sup>40</sup> A/AC.109/955, para. 43.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 27.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 53-55.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 33.

work of the international and regional organizations concerned,

*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,

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>28</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;

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 continue 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);

5. *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, the Declaration and the 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 of political education in the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

6. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to continue to promote the economic and social development of the United States Virgin Islands, and urges the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to continue to take measures with a view to strengthening and diversifying the Territory's economy;

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 the United States Virgin Islands 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. *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;

9. *Urges* the administering Power to facilitate the participation of the United States Virgin Islands in various international and regional organizations;

10. *Also 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;

11. *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-fourth session.

*59th plenary meeting  
22 November 1988*