

Chapter XIV

Other political and security questions

Twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations

At its twenty-sixth session, which opened on 21 September 1971, the General Assembly had before it the final report of its Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, which had been established on 31 October 1969.¹

On 26 November 1971, without adopting a resolution, the Assembly took note of the final report of the Committee.

¹ See Y.U.N., 1969, pp. 258-59, text of resolution 2499 A (XXIV).

Among the highlights of the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations to which the report referred were the commemorative session of the General Assembly held at United Nations Headquarters from 14 to 24 October 1970, the meeting commemorating the signing of the United Nations Charter, held in San Francisco (United States) on 26 June 1970, and the World Youth Assembly, which met at United Nations Headquarters in July 1970.²

The report also referred to commemorative stamps and medals issued to mark the anniversary, awards for long service presented to staff members, and commemorative ceremonies held at various United Nations offices, by the specialized

agencies and at national levels by many countries.

At its commemorative session, the report noted, the General Assembly adopted several major declarations, including the Declaration on the Occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations.³

The Committee's report also noted that public information activities connected with the anniversary were varied and were devised in such a way as to involve all media, as well as non-governmental organizations and other groups interested in the work of the United Nations.

² See Y.U.N., 1970, pp. 107-18, for details of the anniversary celebrations.

³ See Y.U.N., 1970, pp. 116-17, text of resolution 2627(XXV).

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

General Assembly—26th session
Committee for Twenty-fifth Anniversary of United Nations,
meetings 46-52.
Plenary meeting 1996.

A/8401/Add.1. Introduction to report of Secretary-General on work

of the Organization, September 1971, Part Two, Chapter I,
paras. 154-161.

A/8425. Report of Committee for Twenty-fifth Anniversary of
United Nations.

A/8429. Resolutions adopted by General Assembly during its 26th
session, 21 September-22 December 1971. Decisions, p. 20.

Peace research

At its 1971 session, the General Assembly, at the suggestion of Belgium, discussed the question of scientific work on peace research.

At a plenary meeting on 14 December 1971, the Assembly asked the Secretary-General to prepare every other year an informative report on scientific works produced by national and international, governmental and non-governmental, public and private institutions working in the field of peace research. The Assembly invited Governments and institutions to provide information in this connexion, and it asked the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and specialized agencies active in the field of peace research to assist in the

drafting of the report to the General Assembly.

In taking this decision, the Assembly observed that scientific research on the problems of war and peace had expanded, and considered it desirable to bring this work to the notice of the international community.

These Assembly decisions were set forth in resolution 2817(XXVI), adopted by 59 votes to 7, with 3 abstentions, on the basis of a proposal by Belgium, Burundi, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania and Yugoslavia. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

General Assembly—26th session
Fifth Committee, meeting 1474.
Plenary meeting 2018.

A/8394. Letter of 21 July 1971 from Belgium (request for inclusion in Assembly's agenda of item entitled: "Scientific work on peace research").

A/L.645 and Add.1,2. Belgium, Burundi, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Yugoslavia: draft resolution.

A/C.5/1412, A/8408/Add.17, A/8554. Administrative and financial implications of 15-power draft resolution, A/L.645. Statement by Secretary-General and reports of Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and Fifth Committee.

RESOLUTION 2817(XXVI), as proposed by 15 powers, A/L.645,

adopted by Assembly on 14 December 1971, meeting 2018, by 59 votes to 7, with 3 abstentions.

The General Assembly,

Considering that the fundamental purpose of the United Nations is to save mankind from the scourge of war and to maintain international peace and security,

Considering that scientific research on the problems of war and peace has expanded and that many national and international institutions have made them the subject of their studies,

Noting with interest the work undertaken in this field by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,

Conscious of the importance that States attach to the study of the means and recourses to implement the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations in order to build peace, security and co-operation in the world,

Considering it desirable to bring to the notice of the international community the work done in the field of peace research by national and international institutions and to promote on a permanent basis, in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter, a recording of the studies devoted to this subject,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare every other year an informative report on scientific works produced by national and international, governmental and non-governmental, public and private institutions in the field of peace research;

2. Invites the Governments of Member States and the

institutions referred to in paragraph 1 above to provide the Secretary-General, to the best of their ability and competence, with all the information he may require;

3. Requests the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and those specialized agencies which are active in the field of peace research to lend their assistance in the drafting of the report referred to above;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at the beginning of its twenty-eighth session, the first report prepared under paragraph 1 above.

Proposal by Cuba concerning Puerto Rico

In a letter dated 17 August 1971 to the Secretary-General, Cuba requested the inclusion of an item entitled "The colonial case of Puerto Rico" in the provisional agenda of the 1971 session of the General Assembly. Attached to the letter was an explanatory memorandum stating that the people of Puerto Rico had an inalienable right to independence and that the United Nations had the unavoidable duty to take all necessary steps to

ensure that those people achieved the full exercise of their national rights.

On 24 September 1971, the General Assembly decided, by a roll-call vote of 57 to 26, with 38 abstentions, not to include the item on its agenda. It did so on the recommendation of its General Committee, which had taken its decision on the matter on 23 September by 10 votes to 5, with 8 abstentions.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

General Assembly—26th session
General Committee, meeting 192.
Plenary meetings 1937, 1938.

A/8441. Letter of 17 August 1971 from Cuba (request for inclusion in agenda of item entitled: "The colonial case of Puerto Rico").

A/8441/Add.1. Letter of 20 August 1971 from Cuba.

A/8500. First report of General Committee, para. 17, recommendation, adopted by Assembly on 24 September 1971, meeting 1938, by roll-call vote of 57 to 26, with 38 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Ceylon, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar,* South Africa, Sweden,

Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Zaire.

Against: Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Chile, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Hungary, Iraq, Libyan Arab Republic, Mali, Mongolia, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia.

Abstaining: Argentina, Bahrain, Barbados, Bolivia, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cyprus, Dahomey, Egypt, El Salvador, Gabon, Gambia, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Kuwait, Laos, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

*Subsequently, Qatar advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote against.

Proclamation of United Nations Day as an international holiday

Believing that the anniversary of the United Nations should be an occasion for Governments and peoples to reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly, on 6 December 1971, declared that 24 October—United Nations Day—should be an international holiday. It recommended that the day should be observed as a public holiday by all States Members of the United Nations.

The Assembly took this action with the adoption of resolution 2782(XXVI), by 63 votes to 6, with 32 abstentions, on the basis of a text sponsored by Barbados, Burundi, Cyprus, Greece, Guyana, the Khmer Republic, Liberia, Mauritius, the Philippines, Swaziland, Yugoslavia and Zambia. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

The question was discussed at a plenary meeting at the suggestion of Zambia.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

General Assembly—26th session
Plenary meeting 2000.

A/8393. Letter of 20 July 1971 from Zambia (request for inclusion

in agenda of item entitled: "Proclamation of United Nations Day as an international holiday").

A/L.646 and Add.1.2. Barbados, Burundi, Cyprus, Greece, Guyana, Khmer Republic, Liberia, Mauritius, Philippines, Swazi-

land, Yugoslavia and Zambia: twelve-power draft resolution.

RESOLUTION 2782 (XXVI), as proposed by 12 powers, A/L.646, adopted by Assembly on 6 December 1971, meeting 2000, by 63 votes to 6, with 32 abstentions.

The General Assembly,
Conscious of the need to enhance the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Mindful that in its resolution 168(II) of 31 October 1947 the General Assembly declared 24 October, the anniversary of the coming into force of the Charter, as "United Nations Day,"

Believing that the anniversary of the United Nations should be an occasion for Governments and peoples to reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Declares that 24 October, United Nations Day, shall be an international holiday and recommends that it should be observed as a public holiday by all States Members of the United Nations.

Communication concerning the foreign relations of Malta

By a letter dated 30 June 1971 to the President of the Security Council, the Acting Permanent Representative of Malta transmitted the text of a statement by his Government concerning its relations with the British Government, the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The statement denied accusations appearing in the foreign press of the unilateral abrogation of the 1964 Defense Agreement. According to the statement, that Agreement was no longer in being.

Although the Maltese Government could have ordered the withdrawal of all British forces from

Malta, the statement went on, it had preferred not to do so, in order for Britain to be given an opportunity for new arrangements to be properly discussed.

The statement declared that the position of NATO was that it had "provisional and limited permission, which should have led to some form of arrangements that were never concluded."

It was also noted in the statement that there was no treaty or agreement between Malta and the United States giving the American Sixth Fleet the right to take shelter in Maltese harbours and that visits by it were not in the interests of Malta.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

S/10246. Letter of 30 June 1971 from Malta.

Report of Security Council

On 20 December 1971, when it took note of the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly for the period from 16 June 1970 to 15 June 1971, the General Assembly asked the Secretary-General to suggest ways and means of enhancing the effectiveness of the Security Council in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. In doing so, he was asked by the Assembly to give due consid-

eration to the views of interested Governments.

The Assembly took this decision in adopting resolution 2864(XXVI), by 76 votes to 10, with 24 abstentions, on a proposal of Belgium, Burundi and Tunisia. Tunisia suggested the addition of the request to the Secretary-General.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

General Assembly—26th session
Plenary meetings 2024, 2027.

A/8402. Report of Security Council, 16 June 1970-15 June 1971.

A/L.654. Belgium and Burundi: draft resolution.

A/L.654/Rev.1. Belgium, Burundi, Tunisia: revised draft resolution.

A/L.664. Tunisia: amendment to draft resolution, A/L.654.

RESOLUTION 2864(XXVI), as proposed by 3 powers, A/L.654/Rev.1, adopted by Assembly on 20 December 1971, meeting 2027, by 76 votes to 10, with 24 abstentions.

The General Assembly

1. Takes note of the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly covering the period from 16 June 1970 to 15 June 1971;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to present in his report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session, due consideration having been given to the views of interested Governments, suggestions concerning ways and means of enhancing the effectiveness of the Security Council in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.