

discussed mainly in the Assembly's Fourth Committee.

In statements made before the Committee, Afghanistan, Barbados, Chad, Ghana, Iran, Sudan, Syria and the United Arab Republic, among others, expressed the hope that the parties concerned would continue their dialogue

and reach a settlement in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

On 16 December 1969, the General Assembly endorsed a recommendation of its Fourth Committee that consideration of the question of Gibraltar be postponed to its twenty-fifth session, due to be held in 1970.

#### DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

Special Committee on Situation with regard to Implementation of Declaration on Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, meetings 659,715.

##### GENERAL ASSEMBLY—24TH SESSION

Fourth Committee, meetings 1842, 1844, 1850, 1851, 1853-1859, 1868.

Plenary Meeting 1835.

A/7550 and Add.1-6. Report of Secretary-General.

A/7623/Rev.1. Report of Special Committee (covering its work during 1969), Chapter XI.

A/7896. Report of Fourth Committee, paras. 10 and 30.

A/7630. Resolutions adopted by General Assembly during its 24th session, 16 September-17 December 1969, p. 75.

##### OTHER DOCUMENTS

S/9461. Letter of 1 October 1969 from Spain (included in A/7550/Add.5).

S/9469. Letter of 9 October 1969 from United Kingdom (included in A/7550/Add.6).

### Ifni and Spanish Sahara

Ifni, situated on the Atlantic coast of Africa and surrounded on the north, east and south by Morocco, covers an area of approximately 580 square miles and has a population of about 50,000 inhabitants. Spanish Sahara, also on the Atlantic coast of Africa, covers an area of about 108,000 square miles and is bounded on the north by Morocco and on the east and south by Mauritania (except for a few miles in the east, where it is bounded by Algeria). At the end of 1966, its indigenous population was estimated at 33,512.

Both territories were administered by Spain prior to the retrocession of Ifni to the Government of Morocco on 30 June 1969. Spanish Sahara is the subject of territorial claims by Mauritania and Morocco.

#### CONSIDERATION BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The questions of Ifni and Spanish Sahara were considered by the General Assembly's Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples at meetings held between April and December 1969.

The Special Committee had before it a work-

ing paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on action previously taken by the Special Committee and by the General Assembly, and on the latest developments concerning the two territories. The Special Committee also had before it a petition dated 17 February 1969 from the Secretary-General of the Party for Liberation and Socialism, Morocco, demanding the return to Morocco of the western Sahara.

The representatives of Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Spain participated in the Special Committee's discussion of the questions of Ifni and Spanish Sahara in April 1969.

#### IFNI

The representative of Spain stated that on 22 April 1969 his Government had ratified the treaty concluded at Fez, Morocco, on 4 January 1969, by which the Government of Spain transferred sovereignty over Ifni to Morocco.

At a Special Committee meeting on 5 June 1969, the Chairman drew attention to two letters dated 14 and 23 May 1969 from the Permanent Representatives of Morocco and Spain, respectively, stating that the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Fez had been exchanged