

among other things, reaffirmed the necessity of sending a visiting mission to Fiji and urgently appealed to the administering power to reconsider its decision in this respect.²⁶ In reply, the Acting Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom stated in a letter dated 30 July 1968 that his Government regretted that it had no ground to vary its previous position.

In its report to the Special Committee, the Sub-Committee deeply regretted that, owing to the continued refusal of the administering power to receive the visiting mission in Fiji, it had not been possible to discharge the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly and the Special Committee. On 14 October 1968, the Special Committee, at the suggestion of its Chairman, took note of the report and decided to transmit it, together with the working paper on Fiji prepared by the Secretariat, to the General Assembly at its twenty-third (1968) session. It further decided to consider the question again in 1969, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give.

CONSIDERATION BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

During the General Assembly's twenty-third session, discussion of the question took place mainly in the Assembly's Fourth Committee. The representatives of Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, and the United Republic of Tanzania expressed the hope that the United Kingdom would change

its position with regard to receiving a visiting mission from the United Nations in Fiji. Sudan also stated that, in view of the freely expressed desire of the inhabitants of Fiji to become a unified nation free from racial conflict, it was regrettable that the administering power had promoted the domination of one community, the European, over the others.

The representative of Trinidad and Tobago said his country could not agree to the holding of elections in a territory on any basis other than the principle of one man, one vote. He appealed to the administering power of Fiji to eliminate the communal rolls for the purpose of elections in Fiji and to expedite decolonization by holding elections on the basis of one man, one vote and by fixing an early date for independence.

The representative of India asserted that for the independence of Fiji to be practicable, an arrangement should be reached which would encourage inter-racial co-operation. It appeared that the principal parties were at present trying to draw up mutually acceptable constitutional arrangements.

The Fourth Committee recommended that consideration of the question be postponed to the twenty-fourth session in 1969. On 18 December 1968, the General Assembly adopted this recommendation without objection.

²⁶ See Y.U.N., 1967, p. 664, text of resolution 2350 (XXII).

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

Special Committee on Situation with regard to Implementation of Declaration on Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, meetings 594, 643.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—23RD SESSION

Fourth Committee, meetings 1766, 1791-1802, 1810, 1814.

Plenary Meeting 1747.

A/7200/Rev.1. Report of Special Committee of Twenty-four (covering its work during 1968), Chapter XVI.

A/7421. Report of Fourth Committee.

A/7218. Resolutions adopted by General Assembly during its 23rd session, 24 September-21 December 1968, p. 66.

French Territory of the Afars and the Issas²⁷

The French Territory of the Afars and the Issas,²⁷ which is administered by France as an overseas territory, lies on the eastern coast of Africa at the head of the Gulf of Aden and is bounded by Ethiopia and Somalia. It covers an area of 8,900 square miles (23,000 square

kilometres) with an estimated population of 125,000 in 1967.

The new name of the territory formerly known as French Somaliland is "French Territory of the Afars and the Issas." This designation was introduced in United Nations terminology as from 15 April 1968, at the request of the administering power.