at Rabat, Morocco, on 13 May 1969 and that
the transfer of powers to the Government of
Morocco would take place within a period of
three months from 13 May 1969.

The Chairman subsequently drew the atten-
tion of the Special Committee to a letter dated
9 July 1969 in which the Permanent Repre-
sentative of Spain informed the Secretary-Gen-
eral that the retrocession of Ifni to the Gov-
ernment of Morocco had been effected on 30
June 1969. The Special Committee concluded
its consideration of the territory of Ifni by taking
note of that development.

SPANISH SAHARA

With regard to Spanish Sahara, the rep-
resentative of Morocco pointed out that although
Spain had given its support to the principle
of self-determination for the inhabitants of the
territory, and had stated its acceptance of a
visiting mission to Spanish Sahara, these pro-
visions of various Assembly resolutions remained
to be implemented by the administering power.
In addition, he said, the Spanish authorities in
the territory were taking steps, such as the
establishment of provincial bodies and of a local
assembly, which seemed openly designed to
establish a kind of referendum of the people
of the Sahara in a sort of tete-à-tete with Spain.
Such measures, he thought, were in contradic-
tion to the spirit of self-determination and to
the measures envisaged by the General As-
sembly to ensure that self-determination would
be exercised as soon as possible.

Mauritania favoured a solution that would
uphold the rights of the population of Spanish
Sahara; it was hoped that such a solution could
be found in harmony with the administering
power and in co-operation with all countries
interested in maintaining peace in the area.
Mauritania felt that the elements for a satisfac-
tory solution of the problem were to be found
in the resolution adopted by the General As-
sembly on 18 December 1968— which, inter
alia, invited the administering power to deter-
mine the procedures for holding a referendum.
The Government of Mauritania had exerted
considerable effort in accepting that solution,
its spokesman said, but it would continue to hold
the same attitude, respectful of the rights of
the people of the territory.

The representative of Spain stated that the
Spanish Government was deeply concerned by
the annexationist aspirations that were emerg-
ing concerning the area and could not fail to
heed the appeal for protection it had received
from the elected representatives of the in-
habitants. It was not the fault of the Spanish
Government, he said, that press and radio
campaigns had aroused concern in the people
of the territory, nor was it its responsibility that
foreign agents were constantly being introduced
into the area. For its part, he said, the Spanish
Government was doing its best to improve the
living conditions of the people of the Sahara,
and it was trying to facilitate the implementa-
tion of the General Assembly's resolution of
18 December 1968.27

With respect to the visit of a special mission,
which the Spanish Government had agreed to
receive, the representative of Spain said that
he had nothing to add to the content of the
letter he had sent to the Secretary-General on
17 October 1968, which had stated that his
delagation was ready to start talks with the
Secretary-General to discuss the dispatch of
observers to Spanish Sahara so that they could
observe, analyse, and form a judgement on the
situation. Finally, he said that the population
of the Sahara would have complete freedom to
exercise self-determination at the proper time
and when Spain was so requested.

In response to the Spanish representative's
statement that foreign agents were being in-

troduced into the Sahara, the representative of
the United Republic of Tanzania said that
the only foreigners in the territory were the
numerous Spanish troops, whose presence
hindered the implementation of the General
Assembly resolution on this territory.

On 25 September 1969, the Special Com-
mittee decided to transmit to the General As-
sembly the relevant working paper by the
Secretariat in order to facilitate the considera-
tion of the question by the Assembly's Fourth
Committee, and, subject to any directives which
the General Assembly might give in that con-

See Y.U.N., 1968, pp. 754-55, text of resolution
2428 (XXIII).

Ibid.