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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS PLEASED THAT THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE UNITED NATIONS DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEES HAVE EMBARKED ON THE PROCESS OF REFORM. AS A MEMBER STATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND AS AN ADMINISTERING POWER, WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SET FORTH OUR VIEWS ON THIS VITAL SUBJECT.

INTRODUCTION

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IGENERAL COMMENTS

IN OUR VIEW, IT IS NECESSARY TO REESTABLISH THE COMMON GROUND THAT WAS THE BASIS FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF CHAPTER XI OF THE CHARTER AND OF THE CAMPAIGN BY THE UNITED NATIONS THAT LED TO THE SPECTACULAR DECOLONIZATION WHICH HAS;MAR-EQ THE SECOND HALF OF THE TNENTIETH CENTURY. INDEED, IF T 535: E\$E NO OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECOND HALF OF THE WENTIETH CENTURY BUT THE GLOBAL REALIZATION OF THE CHARTER PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL RIGHTS AND SELF-DETERMINATION, IT WOULD FOR THIS REASON ALONE BE ONE OF THE MOST NOTEWORTHY FIFTY YEARS IN HUMAN HISTORY.

IN PART BECAUSE OF THE SUCCESS THAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, THERE HAS BEEN A LOSS OF FOCUS ON WHAT UNITES US, A TENDENCY TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE MACHINERY OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAS WORKED TO ENHANCE THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL RIGHTS AND SELE'DETERMINATIO& BECAUSE WE HAVE SO OFTEN FOUND COMMON GROUND. AS PARTICIPANTS IN THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEES RECALL, CHAPTER XI OF THE CHARTER ENSHRINES THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF GOVERNING TERRITORIES ARE PARAMOUNT. THE CHAPTER ACCORDINGLY OBLIGATES ALL ADMINISTERING POWERS TO ACCEPT AS A BINDING OBLIGATION PROMOTION OF THE WELL-BEING OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE TERRITORIES. PERHAPS THE MOST CENTRAL OF THESE OBLIGATIONS IS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 73(8):

"TO DEVELOP SELF-GOVERNMENT, TO TAKE DUE ACCOUNT OF THE POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLES, AND TO ASSIST THEM IN THE PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR FREE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, ACCORDING TO THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH TERRITORY AND ITS PEOPLES AND THEIR VARYING STAGES OF ADVANCEMENT."

ADMINISTERING POWER HAS FULFILLING ITS OBLIGATIONS. SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WOULD BE RAISED, DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WOULD BE AIRED, PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS WOULD BE SOUGHT, ALL WITH THE SPECIFIC INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLES OF THE TERRITORIES IN MIND. THE ADMINISTERING POWERS AGREED TO SUBMIT TO SUCH INTERNATIONAL

SCRUTINY BECAUSE THEY RECOGNIZED THAT THEIR LONG-TERM INTERESTS WOULD BE FURTHERED BY PARTICIPATION IN A CONSTRUCTIVE, PUBLIC PROCESS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR SACRED TRUST. FOR MANY YEARS, THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEES AND THE ADMINISTERING POWERS COOPERATED SUCCESSFULLY IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF CHAPTER XI AND THE SUBSEQUENT KEY RESOLUTIONS. OF THE MORE THAN SEVENTY FORMER NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES THAT EXISTED PRIOR TO 1960, ONLY THE FOLLOWING FEW HAVE NOT YET ACHIEVED A FULL MEASURE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT: AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS, GIBRALTAR, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, NEW CALEDONIA, PITCAIRN, ST. HELENA, TOKELAU, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, AND WESTERN SAHARA.

IN SOME SENSE, THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEES BECAME THE VICTIM OF THEIR OWN SUCCESS. WITH THESE FEW NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES REMAINING UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION, THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEES BEGAN TO PLACE THEIR FOCUS ELSEWHERE. INSTEAD OF DEALING WITH PARTICULAR PROBLEMS BROUGHT TO THEIR ATTENTION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TERRITORIES, THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEES BEGAN TO INJECT EXTRANEOUS AND ANACHRONISTIC RHETORIC INTO THEIR DEBATES AND RESOLUTIONS, RHETORIC THAT BORE LITTLE RELEVANCE TO THE ACTUAL SITUATION OF THE TERRITORIES. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ALSO BEGAN TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING ENTITIES OVER WHICH IT NEVER HAD JURISDICTION OR WHICH HAD ACHIEVED SELF-GOVERNMENT LONG AGO. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEES EMBRACED A VERY TROUBLING PREMISE, NAMELY, THAT THE FEW REMAINING NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES HAD FAILED TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION DUE EXCLUSIVELY TO SOME PERSISTENT COLONIAL ANIMUS ON THE PART OF THE ADMINISTERING POWERS. IN FACT, THESE FEW TERRITORIES, THE MAJORITY OF WHICH SHARE SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS IN TERMS OF GEOGRAPHY, POPULATION, AND NATURAL RESOURCES, HAVE REMAINED NON-SELF-GOVERNING LONG AFTER THE OTHER ORIGINAL NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES FOR EXTREMELY COMPLEX REASONS. THAT THESE TERRITORIES REPRESENT UNUSUAL CASES IS UNDENIABLE; THAT THEY REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION IN THEIR PARTICULAR EVOLUTION TOWARD SELF-GOVERNMENT IS CLEAR. WHAT THESE TERRITORIES DO NOT NEED, HOWEVER, IS IRRELEVANT RHETORIC REPRODUCED IN ANNUAL, REPETITIVE RESOLUTIONS. THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEES TO SET ASIDE THIS APPROACH IN FAVOR OF PROMOTING THE ORIGINAL GOALS OF CHAPTER XI. THE GOAL OF THE COMMITTEES SHOULD BE TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES -- AS ARTICULATED BY THE INHABITANTS OF THOSE TERRITORIES THEMSELVES--

AS AN ADMINISTERING POWER, HE RECOGNIZE OUR CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER CHAPTER XI. WE ALSO REMAIN WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEES TO FURTHER THE GOALS OF CHAPTER XI, PROVIDED THAT THE COMMITTEES ARE WILLING TO ADOPT A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH. IN THIS ERA OF A NEW-FOUND SPIRIT OF COOPERATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS, IT IS CLEAR THAT COOPERATION SHOULD BE THE WATCHWORD OF THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEES AS WELL.

IN SHORT, WE BELIEVE THAT THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEES SHOULD REORIENT THEMSELVES AND PLAY THE FOLLOWING ROLES TO BEST ASSIST IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF CHAPTER XI:

(A) TO PROVIDE A FORUM IN WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REMAINING NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES, AS WELL AS OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES, CAN COMMENT UPON THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE ADMINISTERING POWERS ARE FULFILLING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER CHAPTER XI;

(B) TO REPRESENT FAIRLY AND ACCURATELY THE NEEDS AND PROBLEMS FACING THE REMAINING NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES, BASED SOLELY UPON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE ADMINISTERING POWERS AND THE REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER INHABITANTS OF THE TERRITORIES; AND

(C) TO PROVIDE PRACTICAL GUIDANCE TO THE REMAINING NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES, PARTICULARLY IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SPECIAL NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THOSE TERRITORIES.

SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEES SHOULD EXAMINE THEIR WORK IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE GOALS AND REDIRECT THEIR ENERGIES TOWARD FULFILLMENT OF THESE GOALS. TO THIS END, THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEES SHOULD

(A) REVIEW THEIR ANNUAL RESOLUTIONS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THEIR RELEVANCE TO THE SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE REMAINING NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES;

(B) FAVORABLY CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FOR AN OMNIBUS RESOLUTION FOR 10 OF THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING RESOLUTIONS THAT REFLECT THE ACTUAL NEEDS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE TERRITORIES. THIS OMNIBUS RESOLUTION WOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS GROUP OF TERRITORIES, WITH INDIVIDUAL MENTION ONLY OF UNIQUE PROBLEMS;

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ENSURE OTHER RESOLUTIONS REFER ONLY TO THE V  
CIRCUMSTANCES OF THOSE TERRITORIES NOT COVERED BY  
THE OMNIBUS RESOLUTION;  
REFRAIN FROM NAME-CALLING AND ESCHEH IDEOLOGICAL  
OR ANACHRONISTIC RHETORIC IN ITS DEBATES  
AND RESOLUTIONS THAT DO NOT BEAR UPON THE GOALS  
OF CHAPTER x1;

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IN ADDITION, THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE SHOULD COMPILE  
HELPFUL INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF THE  
REMAINING TERRITORIES; AND  
IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE REMAINING NON- SELFT  
GOVERNING TERRITORIES MAY REPRESENT SPECIAL CASES;  
AND DRAWING ON THEIR CUMULATIVE EXPERlaNCE IN THE  
FIELD OF DECOLONIZATION, THE ADMINISTERING POHERS  
AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEES SHOULD WORK TOGETHER  
TO DETERMINE WHETHER NEH APPROACHES TO THE PROMOTION  
OF SELF- GOVERNMENT ARE REQUIRED WITH RESPECT TO THESE  
'TERRITORIES.