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THE QUESTION OF WESTERN SAHARA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

I. The inscription of Western Sahara  
in the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories

The territory of Western Sahara did not figure amongst the territories

of territories to which the Declaration on the Granting of Independence

by 33 votes to 2 with 69 abstentions. 11/

When the Scheme and Test questions were ...

his country believed that the Spanish Sahara should be "completely

The positions of these two countries were further elaborated when  
the Special Committee resumed consideration of the item in the fall of

1966. 13/ Mauritania called for the exercise of the right of self-deter-  
mination by the people of the Spanish Sahara "under the supervision of

1966 by the Special Committee 17/ and by the General Assembly 18/ distinguished for the first time, the process to be followed in the decolonization of the Spanish Sahara from that of Ifni. The latter Territory was clearly perceived as falling within paragraph 6 of resolution 1514 (XV) 19/ for both the Special Committee and the General Assembly requested Spain to accelerate the decolonization of Ifni and to arrange with the Government of Morocco procedures for the transfer of powers in accordance with the

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erated when  
the fall of  
of self-deter-  
ervention of  
ial Committee

of United Nations participation in the preparation and supervision of

The 1967-1972 period

The General Assembly's call for the "immediate" appointment of a special mission to visit the Golan Heights



the one adopted in 1966. 23/ The only new element lay in the increasingly clear distinction which the General Assembly drew between the legal status of Ifni and that of the Sahara and between the decolonization processes

to be followed in relation to each Territory, a distinction which was in fact explicitly spelt out in the last preambular paragraph of resolution 2428 (XXIII). Both that resolution and resolution 2354 (XXII) adopted in the previous year consisted of two separate parts: In the first part, which referred to Ifni, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the procedures for the transfer of powers was to be determined between

population, and called on Spain to continue the dialogue it had begun for that purpose with the Government of Morocco. In the second part, which dealt with the Sahara, the General Assembly reiterated the call

refrain from making investments in the Territory in order to speed-up  
the achievement of the stated purpose of the Territory.

of the Territory of the stated purpose of the Territory.



people of the Territory", perhaps because the authors of the draft did not wish to give room to Spain to claim that the people of the

tion 2983 (XXVII) 38/ was adopted by a vote of 84 in favour (including Algeria and Mauritania), 10 against (Spain, Portugal, South Africa and some Latin American countries) and 26 abstentions (mostly West European and Latin American countries as well as Morocco). 39/

statute for the Sahara announced by General Franco, the representative of Morocco expressed doubts about the representative character of local assemblies under colonial régimes, particularly when their members found themselves in unanimous agreement with the colonial power. Spain's attitude was based on a dangerous fiction -- a local assembly -- and as a

with the neighbouring States nor with the United Nations. The representative of Morocco criticized the repeated Spanish intention of only allowing "native-born residents" of the Territory to participate in the act of self-determination since, he felt, that reservation did not take

would take part in the consultation since it failed to take into account those Saharouis who were in exile, particularly in the three neighbouring countries. He called for consultation between Spain and the three governments in the region and, above all, for United Nations supervision of the measures undertaken by the Spanish

spoken of the Spanish Sahara and of Gibraltar in the same intervention and hoped that the arguments put forward so forcefully concerning Gibraltar would influence the Spanish Government's position in the case of the Sahara. 44/

The resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1973. 45/ while



rob Morocco of two provinces which had always been an integral part of its Territory, in violation of paragraph 6 of resolution 1514 (XV). 52/



the appropriate means to bring about the decolonization of the Territory. 55/

~~The positions of Great Britain and the other neighbouring countries~~

question of whether the decolonization of the Territory should be

General Assembly has decided that a General Assembly

hiv

representative of Spain reminded the Committee that at the beginning of September he had wished to explain before the Committee of Twenty-Four the policy that the Spanish Government intended to adopt with regard to the decolonization of the Sahara and had sent a note to its Chairman asking to be allowed to participate in the Special Committee's examination of the question. However, his request had been ignored since certain parties had an interest that the question

order to remove any doubt concerning Spain's intention to implement resolution 3162 (XXVIII), his Government was ready to receive a United Nations visiting mission to study every detail of the situation in the Territory. Contrary to the allegations by the representative of

eventually sponsored by 35 African and Arab countries, 61/ recalled  
in its preambular paragraphs, resolution 1514 (XV) as well as all pre-

"Court of Justice". The remaining paragraphs called on States to abstain from contributing by their investments or immigration policy to the main-

cerning aspects of the draft resolution. Criticism was expressed in particular about what some viewed as the casual reference to resolutions of the people of the

The 35-power draft resolution was approved by 87 votes to none with 43 abstentions. 76/

76/ General Assembly resolution 3292 (XXIX). For the full text of the resolution, see Annex IV below. The voting in the Plenary was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

