

Summaries of Reactions of Various Foreign Offices to
United States Decision to Cease Transmitting Information
Under Article 73(e) on Puerto Rico

Non-Committal

Paraguay
Denmark
Venezuela
India
Peru
Uruguay
Ethiopia

Favorable

Mexico
Dominican Republic
Netherlands
Turkey
Belgium
El Salvador
Canada
Union of South Africa
New Zealand
Australia

Critical

Iraq

Non-Committal

The information relative to the United States decision was accepted by the representatives of the foreign offices of the countries listed above under the heading "Non-Committal" with no specific comment or with an indication that comment might be forthcoming after the documents had been studied.

Favorable

Mexico - Minister Carlos Peón del Valle stated that Mexico had welcomed the establishment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and its attainment of self-government. As to the decision of the United States to cease reporting.....he personally was now inclined to believe that such a procedure would appear to be normal....[but] would refrain from any official comment until after the Foreign Minister had expressed his opinion in the matter.

Dominican Republic - Dr. Franco y Franco, Acting Foreign Minister, made no comment on the decision of the United States Government to cease reporting on Puerto Rico...[but]...wished to offer his congratulations on the efforts which the people of the United States had made to help the people of Puerto Rico advance toward self-government. He had an opportunity to witness these efforts at first hand and regarded the "direction and status" of Puerto Rico as extremely interesting.

Netherlands -

Netherlands - The Netherlands Government agrees that the Administering Authority has sole responsibility to decide when the transmission of information is no longer required under Article 73(e).

Turkey - The Turkish delegation to the United Nations has been instructed to support the United States position on Puerto Rico... [if] any question is raised relative to the United States decision.

Belgium - A note from the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that Belgium would vote for any General Assembly resolution to the effect that the transmission of information (on Puerto Rico) would no longer be effected by the United States.

El Salvador - The Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador stated that the attitude taken by United States was quite correct and he did not feel that it should give rise to any important repercussions.

Canada - The Canadian spokesman expressed full satisfaction with the United States decision.

Union of South Africa - The spokesman of the Union of South Africa stated that his government had been contending all along that it was for the Administering Power to determine when to cease reporting to the United Nations.

New Zealand - A spokesman of the Department of External Affairs felt sure that the United States could count on New Zealand's support in any discussion or voting in the United Nations.

Australia - A note from the Australian Department of External Affairs gave general support to the United States position and stated that the Australian Mission to the United Nations will be instructed to keep in close touch with the United States representative on this issue and to lend whatever support is possible.

Critical

Iraq - The Iraqi spokesman stated that his government does not agree that there is a clear distinction between "independence" and "a full measure of self-government". The view that each Administering Authority had the right to determine the constitutional position and status of the territory under its sovereignty and that the decision regarding reporting under Article 73(e)...rested solely with the Administering Members concerned could only be acceptable to Iraq if the territory in question were to become, through the expressed wish of the peoples concerned, a fully integral part of the Administering Member (statehood in the case of Puerto Rico).

Iraq's

Iraq's criteria as to what constituted a territory becoming an integral part of the union would not necessarily agree with the Administering Member, e.g., Iraq considered Algeria neither a self-governing territory nor an integral part of the French Union. Iraq's position on the specific case of Puerto Rico would be largely influenced by the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Committee on Factors.