

The Assembly should look at colonialism in its broadest context and bend its efforts to implementing the Declaration in areas in which progress toward independence and freedom is being deliberately impeded or denied.

We should be especially wary in considering any single formula or general principles to be applied to all the remaining colonial territories. Each of them has its own problems and its own conditions to be met. In some territories steps have already been taken which will ensure the orderly attainment of independence in the near future. In others, delicate negotiations are in train to resolve complex situations. As for some of the very small territories, it may be seriously questioned whether outright independence would serve the best interests of their inhabitants. Varying circumstances require that different methods be applied to achieve practical solutions and in all cases the wishes and the interests of the inhabitants should be regarded as paramount. It seems to us that these realities are recognized in the Nigerian draft resolution on a programme of independence for Africa.

We trust that the Special Committee proposed in draft resolution L.366 will bear these general considerations in mind in adopting its procedures and in carrying out the tasks entrusted to it.

The administering powers cannot share or shift their responsibility. The function of the Special Committee is not to interfere with the Administering Authorities. It is rather, to scrutinize the progress made and to make suggestions and recommendations, essentially with a view to the practical steps which should be taken to further the implementation of the Colonial Declaration.

We interpret operative paragraph 6 as meaning that