

"The General Assembly,

"Notes the information given by the representative of the Administering Authority concerning measures of amnesty already implemented, and recommends that:

"(a) Full and unconditional amnesty, as envisaged in resolution 1579 (XV) be immediately granted by the Administering Authority;

"(b) The few remaining cases which, in the Administering Authority's view, are guilty of 'very grave crimes' be examined by a Special Commission composed of the representatives of three Member States to be elected by the General Assembly, with a view to securing their release from prison or return from abroad in the full implementation of the Assembly's recommendation concerning amnesty not later than two months before the national elections;".

This constituted our terms of reference.

The Special Commission began its work in Brussels on June 9, 1961. At its first meeting with the Belgian authorities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Special Commission considered the text of Legislative Ordinance No. 01/188 of May 31, 1961, granting amnesty for political offences committed between October 1, 1959 and April 1, 1961 as well as the Belgian authorities' estimate of the number of cases covered thereunder.

As a result of their examination the Commissioners pointed out that in their view the Ordinance ran counter to the spirit and the letter of the General Assembly resolutions and would exclude a number of cases from the application of the amnesty measures.