

# DECOLONIZATION



A publication  
of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs,  
Trusteeship and Decolonization

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Pages

C. Recognition of the Legitimacy of the Struggle of Peoples

**ANNEXES**

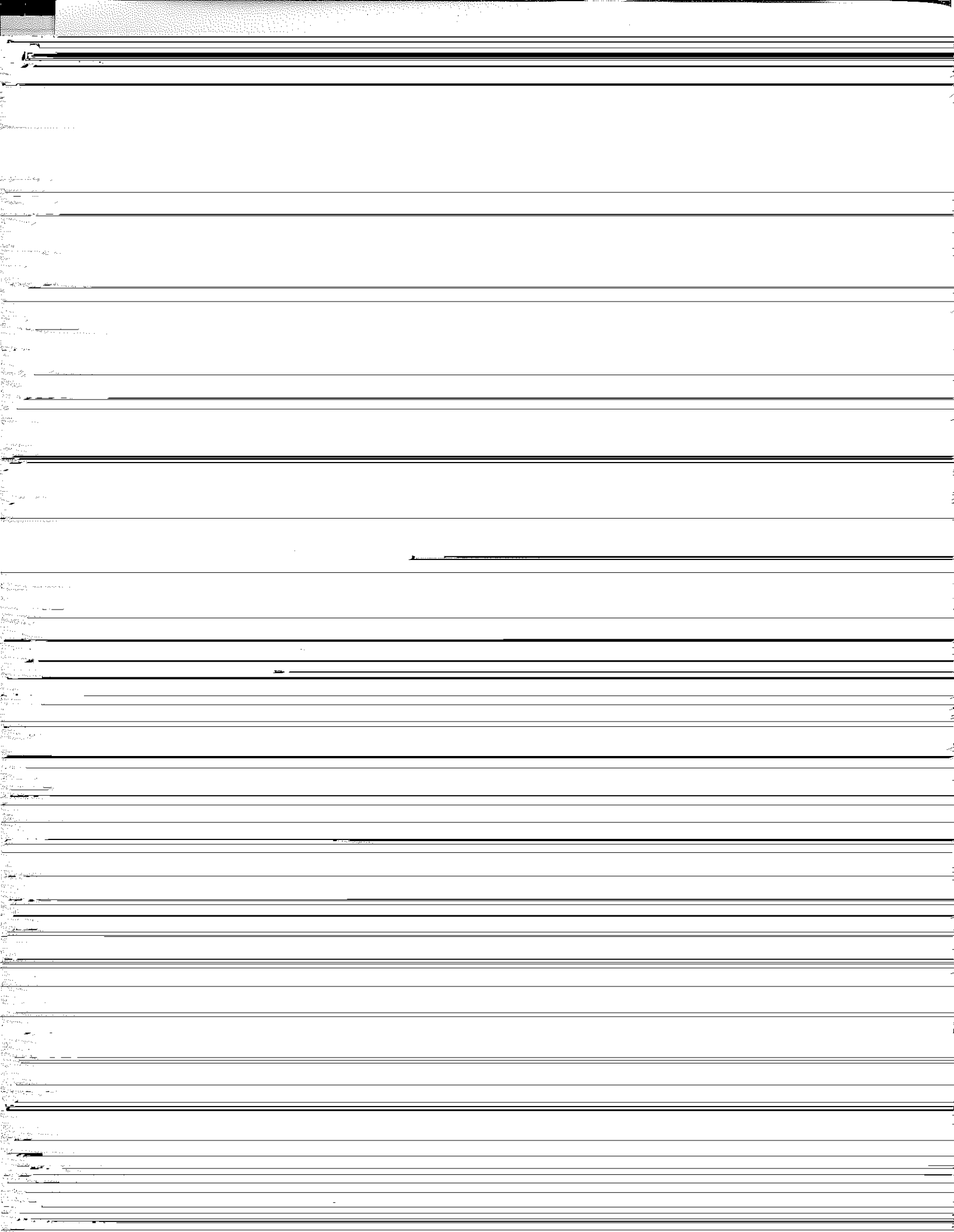
- I. Article 73 of the United Nations Charter. 52
- II. Principles which should guide Members in determining whether



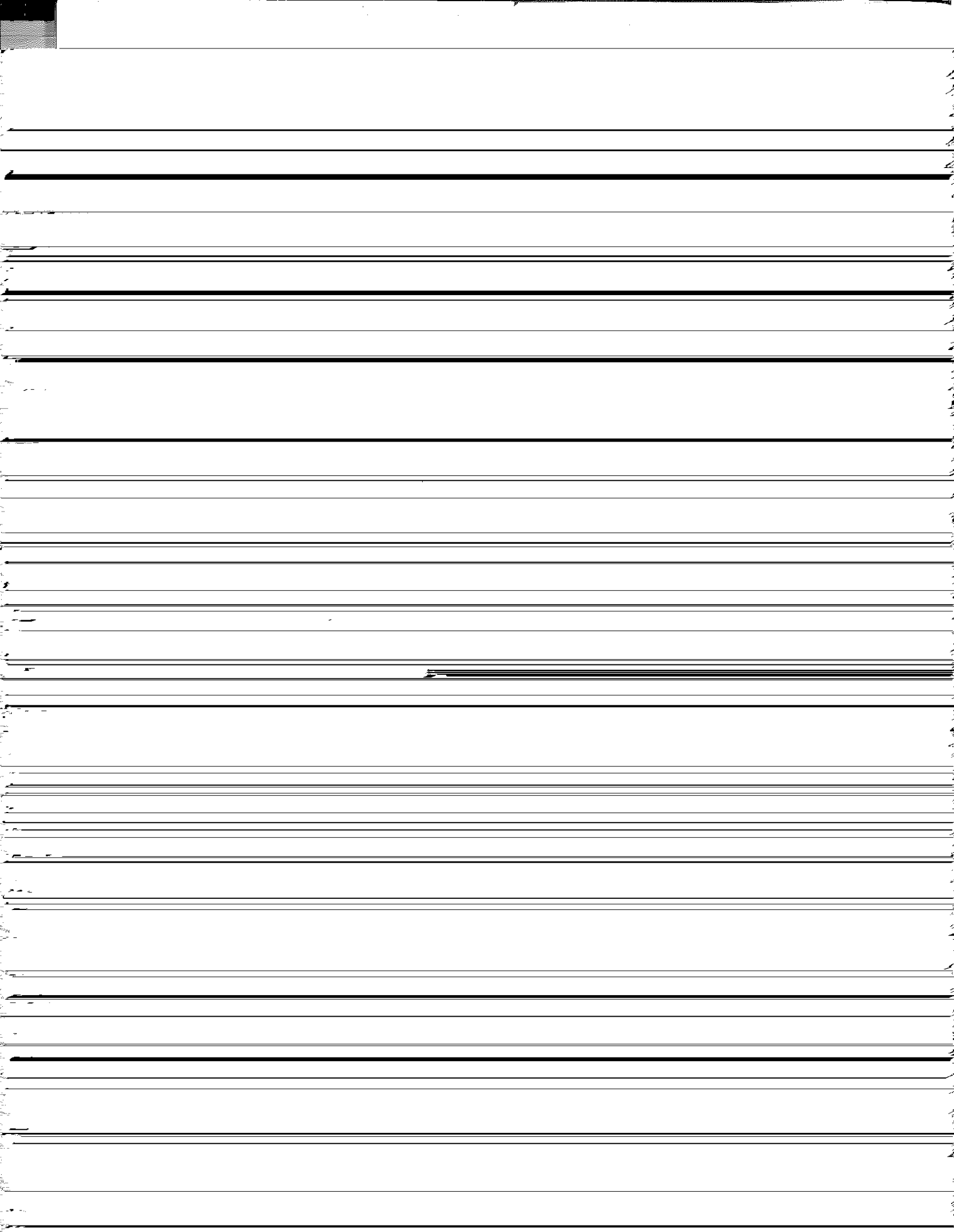
FIFTEEN YEARS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE  
RIGHT OF INDEPENDENCE

and during its early years a great deal of the United Nations efforts were directed towards establishing its role as the principal guardian of colonial peoples. Only in the 1950's did the principle become established, though against the opposition of most administering Powers, that it was for the United Nations to decide ultimately whether a given Territory was or not self-

Some territories listed as non-self-governing in General Assembly resolution









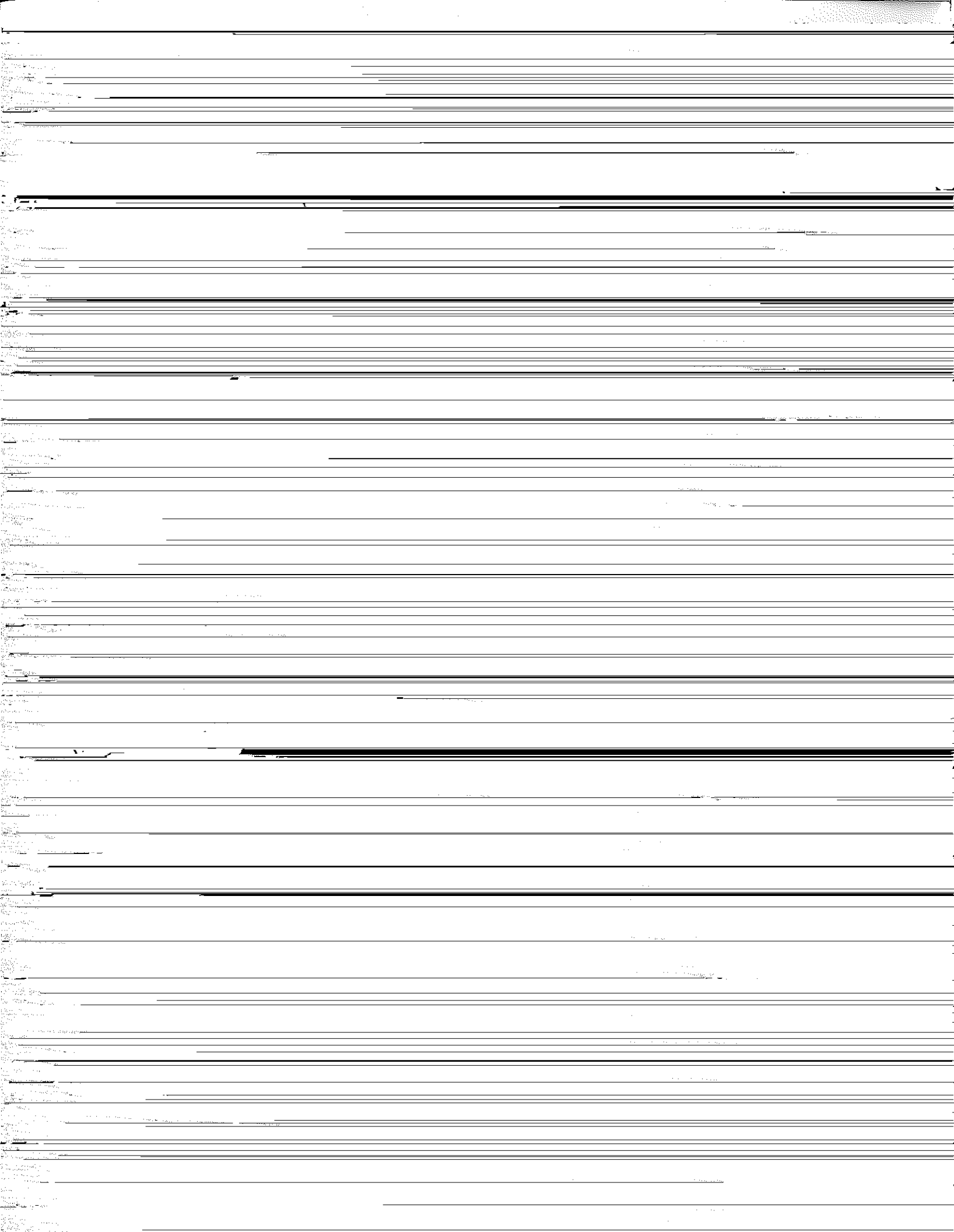
## II - ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION

The admission of sixteen newly independent African states to membership of the United Nations at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly substantially altered the composition and balance of power in the Assembly and gave added impetus to the growing demand for a speedy and unconditional end to colonialism.

At that session the General Assembly's Fourth Committee had before it

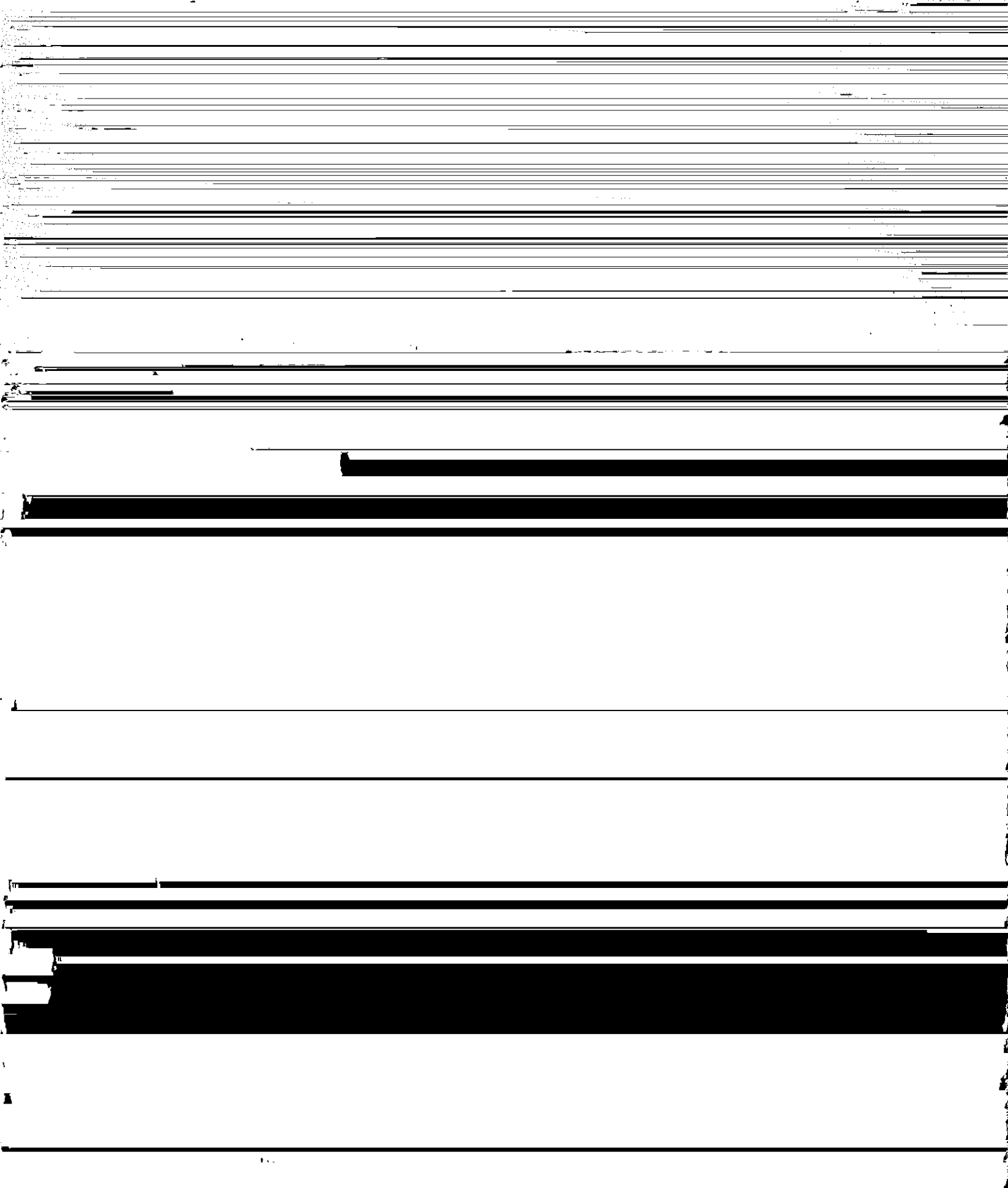
The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries

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selected by the President of the General Assembly 20/ Other ladies elected

17



B. Consultations with the Administering Powers, Visiting

The Special Committee has sent sub-committees to discuss with  
the Administering Powers questions connected with the Special

Over the years, the Special Committee has sought unremittingly to

[REDACTED]





include in its periodic visiting missions to the Trust Territory of New Guinea non-members of the Trusteeship Council in consultation with the Special Committee and the Administering Authority.<sup>41/</sup> As a result the 1971 and 1974 missions of the Trusteeship Council to New Guinea<sup>42/</sup> have included representatives of the Special Committee on Decolonization.

Since 1972 there has been a marked increase in the number of United Nations Visiting Missions indicating a reconsideration by some administering Powers, notably the United Kingdom, Australia and Portugal,<sup>43/</sup> of their previous stand regarding the value of such visits. In 1972 a Special Committee Mission visited the island of Niue in the South Pacific at the invitation of the government of New Zealand. while in 1974 United Nations

Missions visited the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the Indian Ocean at the

invitation of the Australian Government and the Gilbert and Ellice Islands in the Pacific at the British Government's invitation. In the course of 1975 the Special Committee has sent missions to the Cape Verde Islands, to Montserrat in the Caribbean and to the Spanish Sahara at the invitation of

the Governments of Portugal, the United Kingdom and Spain respectively.

Special Mission to Guinea (Bissau)



The Commission proceeded to London, Madrid, Rome and Dar es Salaam where between 14 May and 16 June 1974 it heard the testimony of experts and witnesses and

hundreds of innocent villagers had taken place in several areas of Mozambique both in 1972 and in previous years and that the responsibility for those atrocities belonged in the last resort to the Portuguese régime overthrown in April 1974. 50/

Mozambique and all the remaining territories under Portuguese administration in Africa became independent in the course of 1975.

#### C. Observation and Supervision of Elections and Plebiscites

As early as 1954 the General Assembly approved a resolution in which it recommended that in order to evaluate as fully as possible the opinion of the

Thus in the case of Aden the General Assembly repeatedly requested the  
Special Committee and with the

In 1971 the General Assembly requested the Government of the United

Kingdom to make the necessary arrangements in consultation with a United

Nations Special Mission, for the holding of a referendum in the Seychelles  
on the future status of the territory. 58/ This request was repeated in

1972 and 1973. 59/ The United Kingdom did not agree to the dispatch of such  
mission to the Seychelles.

In 1973 a United Nations Mission composed of members of the Trusteeship



D. Receipt of Petitions and Hearing of Petitioners

The receipt of petitions and the hearing of petitioners have constituted

the principal tasks of the Special Committee. It has sought to carry out its

tasks.

Under Article 87 (b) of the Charter the Massachusetts Council had been





V. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND OF  
THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF A GENERAL NATURE CONCERNING  
DECOLONIZATION

A. Recommendations for the introduction of constitutional  
and political reforms

Most resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Special Committee concerning the implementation of the Declaration to individual territories contain recommendations of a constitutional or political nature. Though some of them reflect the special characteristics or circumstances of the territories in question others are common to most of them. Generally