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Statement by Ambassador Hector P. Garcia, United States Representative in the Special Committee on the situation with regard to the implementation of the declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (Committee of 24), concerning the United States view of the Committee's work, December 5, 1967.

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Chapter One of the Committee's report to the General Assembly includes a review of our work and some remarks about our future activities. The discussion of this item appears to afford an appropriate occasion to reflect on some trends in the Committee's approach to its work, and my Delegation would like to record some general observations.

Mr. Chairman, the years since the United Nations founding have witnessed the free exercise of the right of self-determination in one former non-self-governing colony after another, a dramatic feature of post-war decades which persists up to this day. During the past year this Committee has heard reports of continuing progress in a number of dependent areas. There remain, however, some stubborn problem areas where little or no progress can be cited. I refer here, of course, to the remaining dependent areas of Southern Africa.

The latter areas provide some of the most challenging and significant problems facing the United Nations, involving as they do concepts which are basic to the United Nations Charter such as the recognition of man's basic dignity and worth, and the legitimacy of his struggle for equal rights and social progress. The reaffirmation of these ideals comes in the Charter's opening paragraphs, indicative of the importance attached to them by the United Nations founders. Despite this priority, repeated efforts and scores of resolutions and reports have failed to bring these problems of Southern Africa perceptibly nearer to solution.

There is of course a temptation to argue that the role of the United Nations in these problems, in all practicality, must be

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