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ISSUE ON THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

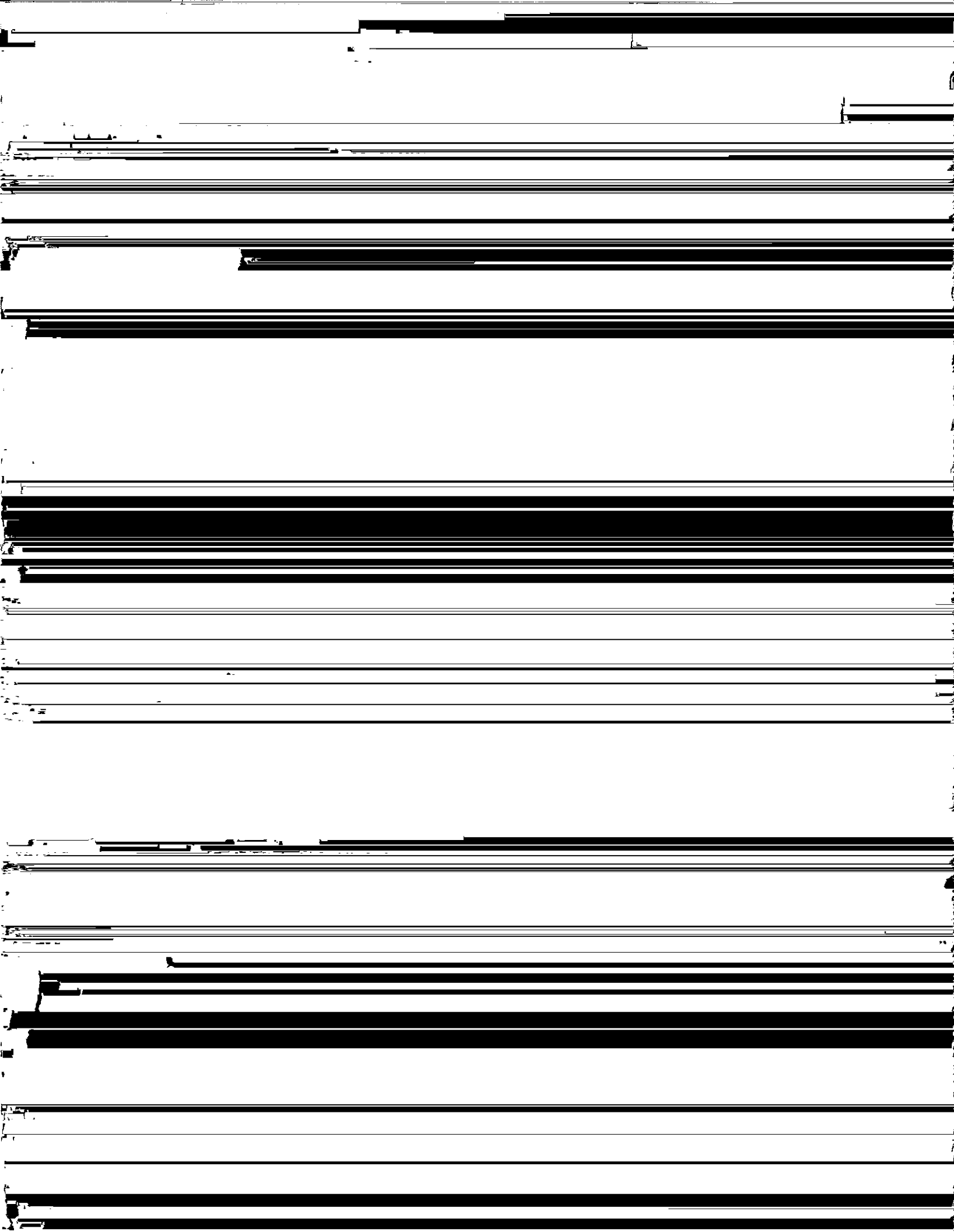
I. INTRODUCTION

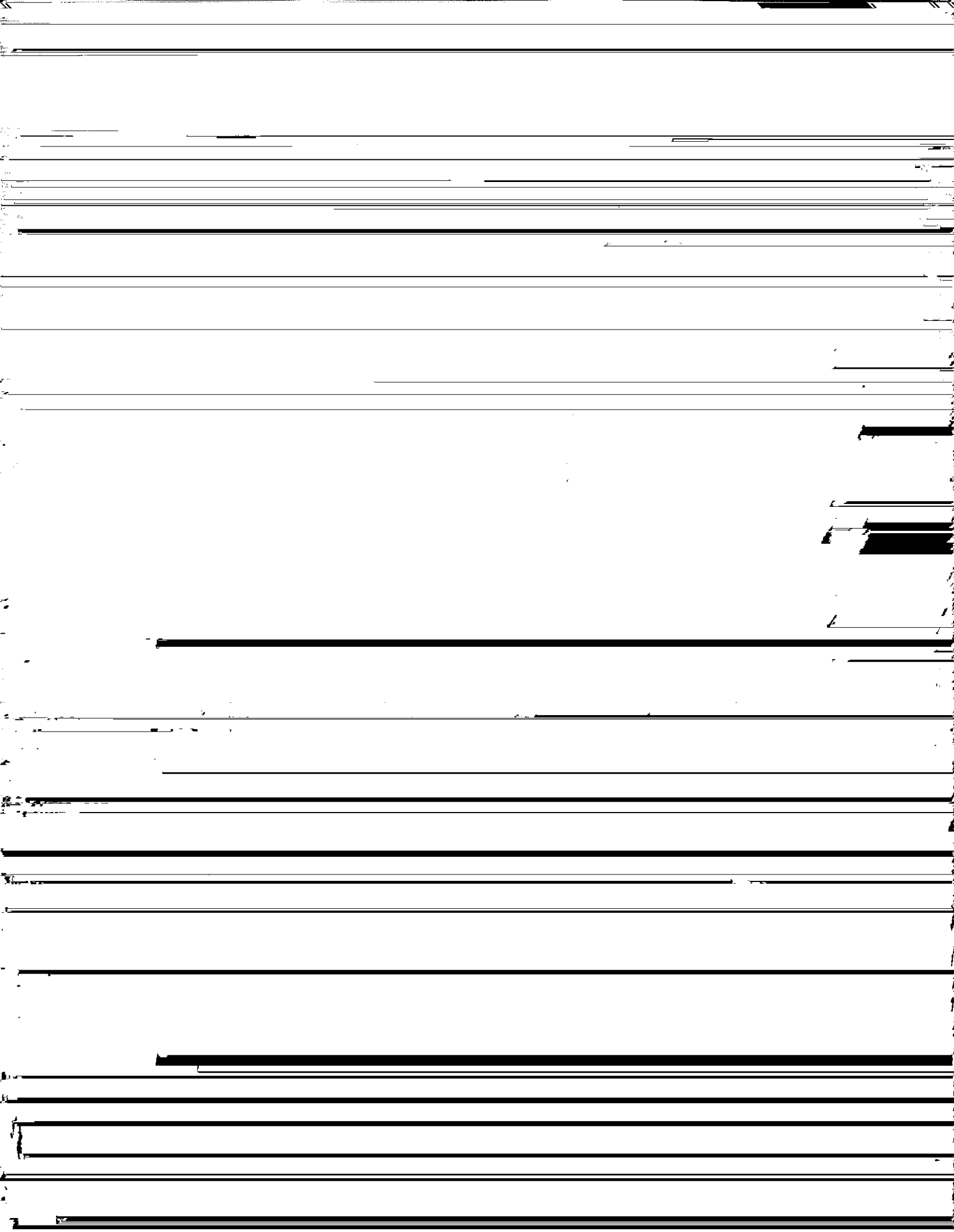
On 7 July 1978 the Solomon Islands will accede to independence. The present monograph, published to coincide with this event, aims at giving a general picture of the new country as well as of its evolution to independence.

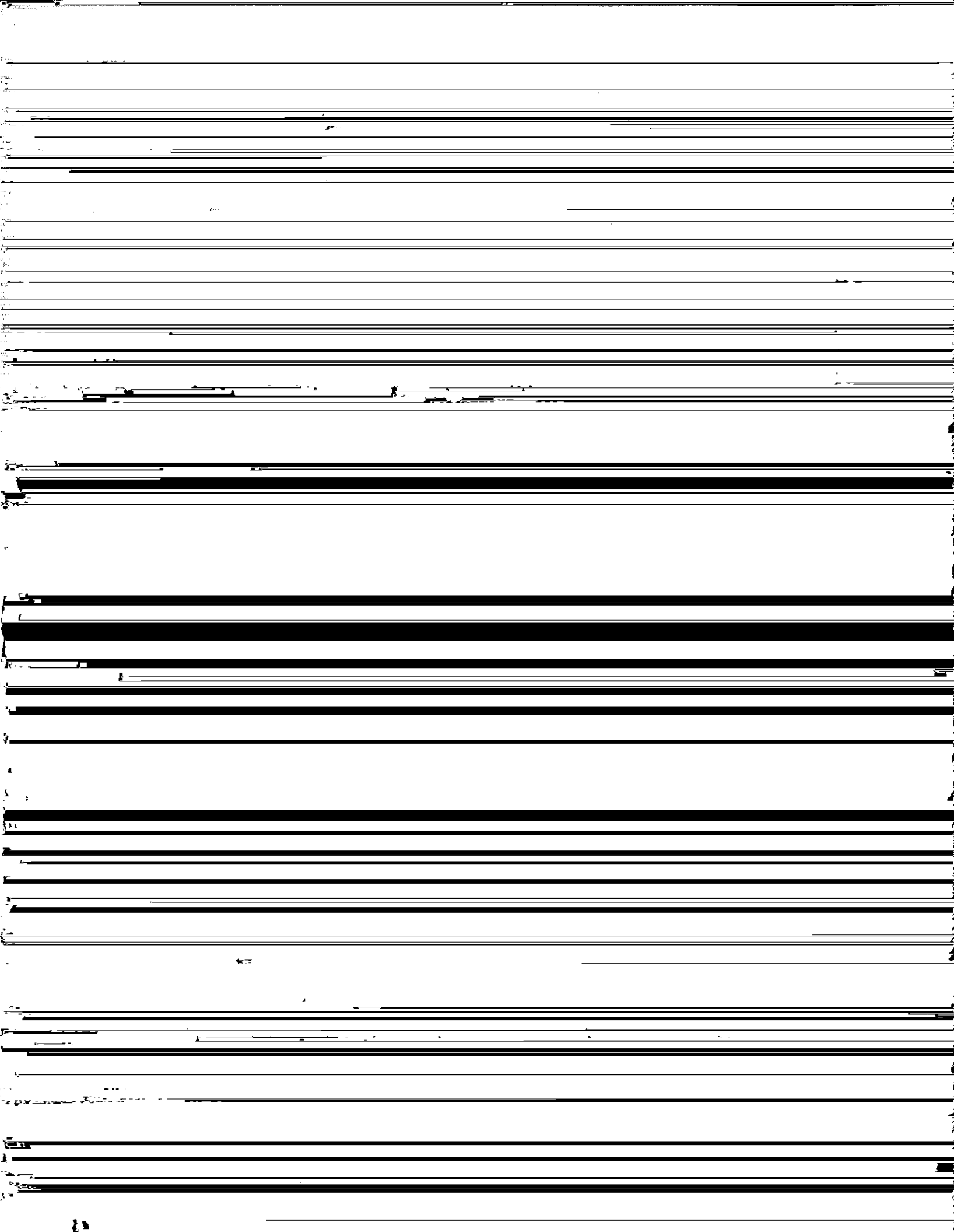
II. BASIC INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORY

the Isles of Solomon. The expedition reached Santa Isabel and explored some of the islands lying to the south-east but the archipelago disappointed the

Pressure from missionary groups now established in the Solomons and from







the Governor, acting after consultation with the elected members of the Assembly. 22/

Under the 1974 Constitution, the British Governor still retained sole responsibility for defence, foreign affairs, internal security, the police and the public service. 23/ Though on other matters he was to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers he retained the power under certain circumstances without consulting the Council or against its advice.



while the Deputy Governor was excluded from membership of the Council 32/ which was to consist only of the Chief Minister, eight other Ministers and the Attorney-General (a public service post).

The legislative power is vested in a single chamber legislature to be known as the National Parliament of Solomon Islands. The normal life of the National Parliament is four years unless Parliament itself resolves by an absolute majority vote to request the Governor-General to dissolve it before the conclusion of its normal term. 38/ The number of members of Parliament may vary from 30 to 50 elected in single member constituencies by universal adult suffrage. A citizen must be 18 years of age or over to be qualified to vote. The National Parliament is presided over by a Speaker elected by the members of Parliament. To be elected the Speaker need not be a member of Parliament and if he is his seat must be declared vacant and a by-election take place.

The Constitution provides that the existing Legislative Assembly shall become the National Parliament on the day of independence and will continue in existence until June 1980 unless dissolved before in accordance with the

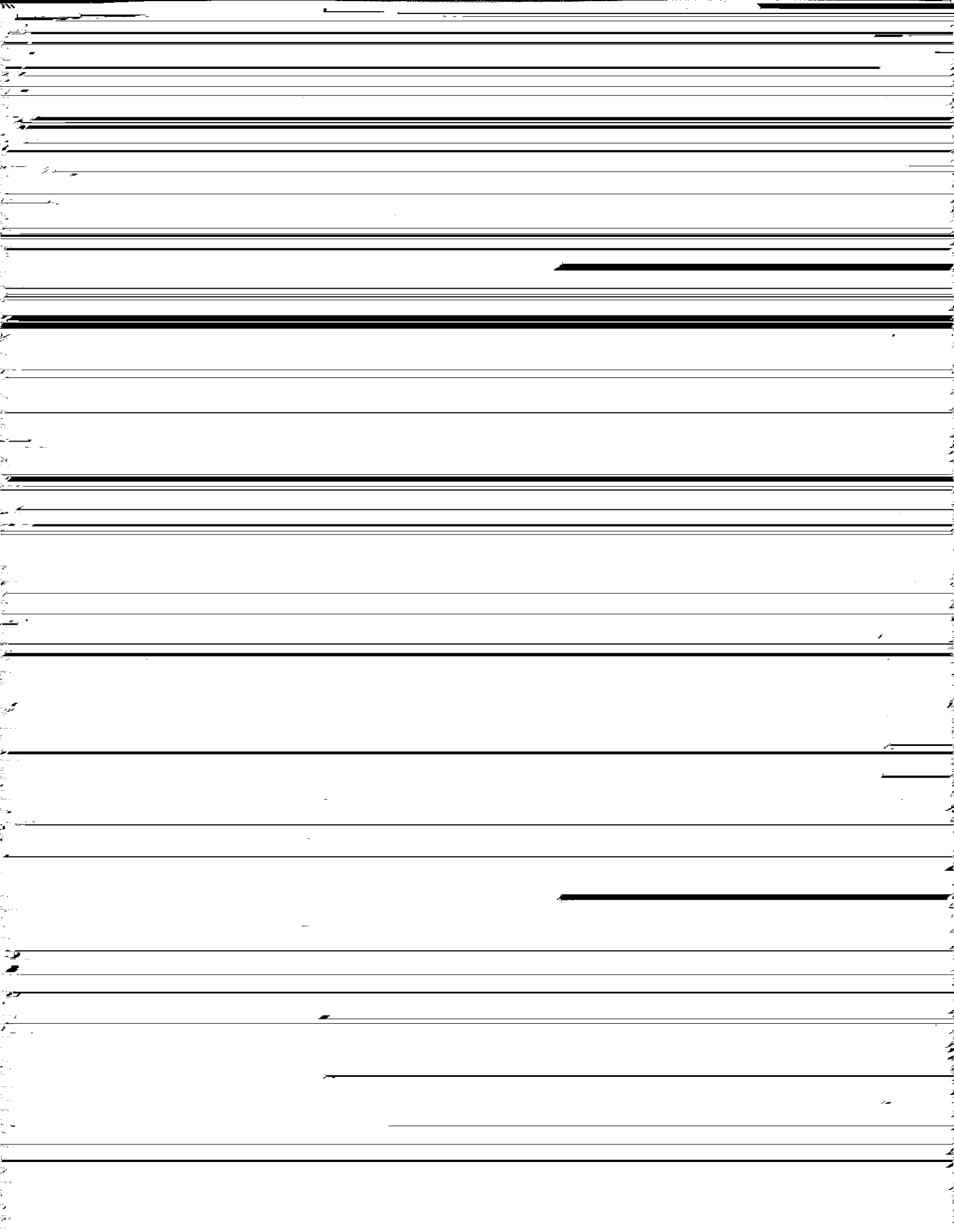
The Constitution provides for the office of Ombudsman whose functions are to investigate complaints against public officers, ministries and other public authorities, of unfair, discriminatory or unlawful action. It also provides for the establishment of independent Public Service, Judicial Service and Police Service Commissions and of the Offices of Public Solicitor and Auditor-General.

Regarding land, provision is made in the Constitution for the conversion of freehold or perpetual estates held by the Government into leasehold.

Most candidates in the three general elections held in 1970, 1973 and 1976 stood as independents, though some successful candidates have either formed new political parties or joined existing ones. So far the elections have produced a large turnover of members of the Legislature. Of the 17 elected members of the 1970 Governing Council, only 6 were returned in 1973. Of the 38 members elected in 1976 only 14 had belonged to the previous Assembly.

Mamaloni of the newly emerged People's Progress Party (PPP) was elected the

Territory's first Chief Minister. His chief opponent was Mr. Benedict Kinika of the United Solomon Islands Party (USIP) formed after the 1973 elections. Mr. Mamaloni proceeded to include members of the Opposition party into his first government. In the second government formed by Mr. Mamaloni in December 1975, USIP held five seats, the PPP two and the eighth seat was held by an independent. The PPP and USIP differed on the timing of independence, the



The establishment of co-operatives has proved an important mechanism to facilitate marketing and credit in the islands. The total number of co-operative societies in the Solomons was 213 by the end of 1975 with a membership in excess of 12,000 persons. On the basis of five persons per family more than 60,000 people in the Territory were directly or indirectly affected by the co-operative movement.

VII. ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS

A. Consideration by the Special Committee on Decolonization

The Solomon Islands was originally included in the 1946 list of Non-Self-

The General Assembly considered the question of the Solomon Islands in the context of its annual discussion of the report of the Special Committee on Decolonization. Beginning in 1965 and up to 1974 the Assembly adopted a



ANNEX I

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 32/25

The General Assembly

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