



Seventh session
Agenda item 38

QUESTION OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA

Addendum to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on South
West Africa

1. Following upon the release of its report to the General Assembly (A/2261), the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on South West Africa received a letter, dated 1 December 1952, from the representative of the Union of South Africa, which contained the views of the Government of the Union of South Africa on certain aspects of the Committee's report.
2. At its 35th meeting, on 10 December 1952, the Committee considered the communication and decided that, in addition to circulating the communication to the Members of the General Assembly, it should make its own observations thereon.
3. The communication from the representative of the Union of South Africa is as follows:

"I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Union of South Africa have now had an opportunity to consider the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on South West Africa concerning our recent negotiations and I have been directed to inform you that the Union Government greatly regret the fact that these negotiations were broken off before the possibility of an agreement had been fully explored.

"Since the report might leave a wrong impression of what transpired, I would recall that at the 29th meeting you outlined on behalf of the Committee a statement of principles which any solution of the question of South West Africa should satisfy in order to be acceptable to the United Nations.

"At the meeting, we sought and obtained partial clarification of the statement of principles. We again asked at that meeting for an indication of

the Committee's views concerning the merits of the Union Government's proposals and, in the event of the Committee finding that the proposals as submitted were not acceptable in their entirety, requested the Committee to indicate what modifications, in its view, should be introduced in order that they might satisfy both the United Nations and South Africa's basic requirements.

"Some members of the Committee indicated that, in order to be able to express a considered view on the merits of our proposal or to make suggestions for modification of that proposal in order to render it acceptable, they would wish to formulate certain questions to be put to the Union Government, and that pending the Union Government's reply an interim report might be submitted to the Assembly.

"We ourselves expressed the hope that it would be possible to continue negotiations on the basis of the replies to be furnished by the Union Government to the questions which it was proposed to submit to them and finalize the discussions before the end of the current session of the Assembly.

"We were under the firm impression when we left that meeting that the above course had been decided upon.

"At its following private meeting the Committee decided not to proceed with the negotiations but to submit a final report to the Assembly.

"The Union Government desire me to place on record the foregoing facts, to state that up to the present they have not received from the Committee an expression of view on the merits of the Union's proposal, or any indication as to how that proposal could be rendered acceptable to the United Nations, taking into account South Africa's essential requirements on the one hand and the points of agreement already reached as outlined in paragraph 23 of the Committee's report.

"As you are aware, the South African delegation at no time suggested suspension of negotiations and I am therefore desired to state that the decision to discontinue the discussions was not taken with the concurrence of the South African delegation. The Union Government believe that further exploration of the points of agreement and disagreement outlined in paragraph 23 of the report might have led to a narrowing of the differences still existing.

"As the Committee's report has already been circulated I shall be grateful if this letter could be similarly circulated as an Assembly document.

(Signed) G.P. JOOSTE

Ambassador
and Permanent Representative"

4. The Chairman of the Committee sent the following reply, dated 10 December 1952, to the representative of the Union of South Africa:

"The Ad Hoc Committee on South West Africa, at its 35th meeting on 10 December 1952, has considered the communication of the Government of the Union of South Africa, dated 1 December 1952, concerning the negotiations which have been carried on regarding South West Africa, and refers particularly to the view of the Union Government that by making a report to the General Assembly these negotiations were 'broken off before the possibility of an agreement had been fully explored'.

"The Ad Hoc Committee, for its part, has at no time regarded the negotiations as 'broken off'. On the contrary, in its report to the General Assembly - a report which it was obliged to make during the present session in order to acquaint the Assembly with the stage which had so far been reached in the negotiations - the Ad Hoc Committee explicitly stated in paragraph 25 that it 'holds itself ready to make further efforts during the present session should the General Assembly request it to do so'.

"The Ad Hoc Committee welcomes the intimation of the Union Government that further exploration of the points of agreement and disagreement outlined in paragraphs 23 and 24 of the report might lead to a narrowing of the differences still existing, and sincerely hopes that when the discussions are continued in the General Assembly these remaining differences can be narrowed down to a complete agreement.

"As to the views of the Ad Hoc Committee on the merits of the Union Government's proposal, the Committee considers that the observations in paragraph 20 of the report and the summary of points of agreement and points of difference, outlined in paragraphs 23 and 24, constitute a clear statement of its views. If members of the Committee did not pose further questions regarding

the proposal it was because they felt that no further clarification was needed for purposes of making its report to the General Assembly, as is stated in paragraph 21 of the report.

"The Committee hopes that your letter and this reply, together with the Committee's report, will facilitate the Assembly's consideration of this question.

(Signed) THANAT KHOMAN

Chairman,
Ad Hoc Committee on
South West Africa."

5. Also at its 35th meeting, on 10 December 1952, the Committee examined a communication sent by cable on 8 December by Chief Hosea Kutako and decided that it should be appended to the present report (Annex).

11 December 1952.

ANNEX

Windhoek, 8 December 1952

Secretary-General,
United Nations,
New York.

STRONGLY OBJECT TO APPOINTMENT OF BRITAIN FRANCE AND USA AS PROPOSED BY UNION
GOVERNMENT. WE ACCEPT UN SUPERVISION. SEND IMPARTIAL COMMISSION TO
SOUTH WEST AFRICA HOSEA KUTAKO.
