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1352 (XIV). The future of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration: organization of the plebiscite in the southern part of the Territory

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1350 (XIII) of 13 March 1959 concerning the future of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration, which expressed the hope that all concerned in the Territory would endeavour to reach agreement before the opening of the fourteenth session of the General Assembly on the alternatives to be put in the plebiscite in the Southern Cameroons and the qualifications for voting in it,

Noting the statements made by the representative of the Administering Authority, by the Premier of the Southern Cameroons and by the Leader of the Opposition in the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly to the effect that no agreement was reached before the fourteenth session of the General Assembly as to the alternatives to be put in the plebiscite and the qualifications for voting in it, and that a postponement of the plebiscite in the Southern Cameroons to a later date would help to establish more favourable conditions for ascertaining the freely expressed wishes of the population,

Noting the opinions expressed during the debate on this question at the fourteenth session of the General Assembly,¹

Noting the statements made by the Premier of the Southern Cameroons and by the Leader of the Opposition in the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly at the 898th meeting of the Fourth Committee on 7 October 1959,

1. *Decides* that the arrangements for the plebiscite referred to in General Assembly resolution 1350 (XIII) shall begin on 30 September 1960, and that the plebiscite shall be concluded not later than March 1961;

2. *Recommends* that the two questions to be put at the plebiscite should be:

“(a) Do you wish to achieve independence by joining the independent Federation of Nigeria?”

“(b) Do you wish to achieve independence by joining the independent Republic of the Cameroons?”;

3. *Recommends* that only persons born in the Southern Cameroons or one of whose parents was born in the Southern Cameroons should vote in the plebiscite;

4. *Recommends* that the Administering Authority, in consultation with the Government of the Southern Cameroons, take steps to implement the separation of the administration of the Southern Cameroons from that of the Federation of Nigeria not later than 1 October 1960.

*829th plenary meeting,
16 October 1959.*

1356 (XIV). Petitions and communications relating to South West Africa

The General Assembly,

Having accepted the advisory opinion of 11 July 1950 of the International Court of Justice on the question of South West Africa,²

Having authorized the Committee on South West Africa, by resolution 749 A (VIII) of 28 November 1953, to examine petitions in accordance with the Mandates procedure of the League of Nations,

Having received a report³ from the Committee dealing with petitions and related communications from Chief Samuel Witbooi, Chief Hosea Kutako, the Reverend Michael Scott, Mr. Jariretundu Kozonguizi, the Reverend Markus Kooper, Mr. J. Dausab and others in the Hoachanas Native Reserve, Chief P. Keharanyo, Mr. Jacobus Beukes, Messrs. J. G. A. Diergaardt, J. H. Mall, P. Diergaardt and others in the Rehoboth Community, Messrs. Toivo Ja-Toivo and F. Isaacs, Mr. Neville Rubin, and Mr. Hans Beukes,

Noting that these petitions and communications raise questions concerning various aspects of the administration of the Territory of South West Africa and of

² *International status of South West Africa, Advisory Opinion: I.C.J. Reports 1950, p. 128.*

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/4191), part I, section III.*

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourteenth Session, Fourth Committee, 885th to 899th and 901st to 903rd meetings.*

conditions in the Territory upon which the Committee has presented a report,⁴

Decides to draw the attention of the petitioners to the report and observations of the Committee on South West Africa regarding conditions in the Territory, submitted to the General Assembly at its fourteenth session, and to the action taken by the Assembly on this report.

838th plenary meeting,
17 November 1959.

1357 (XIV). The Hoachanas Native Reserve

The General Assembly,

Having authorized the Committee on South West Africa, by resolution 749 A (VIII) of 28 November 1953, to examine petitions as far as possible in accordance with the Mandates procedure of the League of Nations,

Having received the report⁵ from the Committee dealing, *inter alia*, with its examination of petitions concerning developments in the Hoachanas Native Reserve,

Considering that the original inhabitants of the Territory have an inherent right to continued and unmolested residence on their own land,

Noting that inhabitants of the Hoachanas Native Reserve, survivors of the Red Nation, or Rooinasie Namas, have an inherent right of ownership and possession of their ancestral land at Hoachanas, where they claim an area of 50,000 hectares as recognized by agreement with the German Government, and that former Governor Theodor Leutwein, recording the history of his governorship of German South West Africa from 1894 to 1905, stated: "The next reserve was in Hoachanas, headquarters of the Red Nation. There, in 1902, a total of 50,000 hectares was declared the inalienable property of the tribe",⁶

Noting further that the Government of the Union of South Africa reported to the League of Nations in 1923 that it had confirmed the rights of "Natives" on land occupied by them under treaties or agreements with the former German administration,

Noting that the residents of the Hoachanas Native Reserve were ordered by the Government of the Union of South Africa to vacate Hoachanas by 31 December 1956, that the majority refused to leave their traditional land and move, as directed by the Government, to land found by a government commission to be inferior to that of Hoachanas, and that the Administrator of South West Africa consequently obtained a court order in July 1958 for the eviction of one of the Nama residents, the Reverend Markus Kooper, Minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Church,

Recalling that the Committee on South West Africa, in its report to the General Assembly at the thirteenth session,⁷ urged the Union of South Africa to take all steps necessary to ensure that the people of Hoachanas retained their traditional homeland and to investigate their claim to surrounding land,

Recalling further that the General Assembly, by resolution 1245 (XIII) of 30 October 1958, approved the

report of the Committee on South West Africa and thereby endorsed the Committee's decision regarding Hoachanas,

Noting with concern that the Government of the Union of South Africa disregarded this decision, and caused the Reverend Markus Kooper and his family to be forcibly removed from Hoachanas on 29 January 1959 to a site approximately 150 miles away, thereby depriving his congregation of their minister, that several residents of the reserve were allegedly injured during the removal, and that the other inhabitants of the reserve were informed by Government officials of their impending removal by force,

Considering with regret that it is the policy of the Mandatory Power to remove the "Native" inhabitants from their lands which they have held as their own in order to make room for "European" settlers, in violation of fundamental human rights and the sacred trust assumed by the Government of the Union of South Africa over the Mandated Territory,

Considering the removal of the inhabitants of Hoachanas for a purpose not in conformity with the Mandate or the Charter of the United Nations to be contrary to the obligation undertaken by the Mandatory Power to promote to the utmost the material and moral well-being and the social progress of the "Native" inhabitants of the Territory,

1. *Urges* the Government of the Union of South Africa to desist from carrying out the removal of other residents of the Hoachanas Native Reserve and to arrange for the return of the Reverend Markus Kooper and his family to that reserve;

2. *Requests* the Government of the Union of South Africa to investigate the claims of the Rooinasie Namas to the original area of Hoachanas, of which only 14,254 hectares are now occupied by them, and to take such further steps as may be necessary, in consultation with the territorial Administration and the people concerned, to ensure the recognition and protection of the full rights of the people of Hoachanas and the promotion of their general welfare;

3. *Requests* the Government of the Union of South Africa to inform the United Nations on the measures taken to implement the present resolution.

838th plenary meeting,
17 November 1959.

1358 (XIV). Withdrawal of a passport from Mr. Hans Johannes Beukes

The General Assembly,

Having accepted the advisory opinion of 11 July 1950 of the International Court of Justice on the question of South West Africa,²

Having authorized the Committee on South West Africa, by resolution 749 A (VIII) of 28 November 1953, to examine petitions in accordance with the Mandates procedure of the League of Nations,

Having received a report³ from the Committee dealing with petitions from Mr. Hans Johannes Beukes, a South West African student, and from Mr. Neville Rubin, President of the National Union of South African Students,

² *Ibid.*, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/4191), part I, section III; part II, section III, para. 80, and section VI, paras. 226 and 227; see also annexes XXIX to XXXII.

⁴ *Ibid.*, part II.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 12 (A/4191).

⁶ Theodor Leutwein, *Elf Jahre Gouverneur in Deutsch-Südwestafrika*, Berlin, 1907, p. 272.

⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirteenth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/3906 and Add.1)*, para. 119.