

AFRICA-UN BULLETIN

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ASSEMBLY APPROVES BRITISH TOGOLAND PROPOSAL

On December 13th the General Assembly, following the vote of its Fourth Committee (Trusteeship) approved termination of trusteeship for British Togoland and union of the former trust territory with the soon-to-be-independent Gold Coast in the new state of Ghana. The vote was 63 to 0, with nine abstentions, primarily by Latin American countries. Although several countries expressed some reservations based on the problems raised by the representatives of minorities who opposed the integration of the Togoland area into a unitary Ghana and by French Togolese who felt that the proposed action would artificially and permanently separate the closely related peoples on both sides of the border, it was generally agreed that the proposal represented the best solution of a very complex problem and was preferable to continued trusteeship.

FRENCH TOGOLAND "HOT POTATO" PASSED TO FOURTH COMMITTEE

The French government has also asked this session of the General Assembly to end trusteeship in its part of Togoland and to approve the creation of an autonomous Togo Republic within the French Union.

As reported in the Africa-UN Bulletin of December 7th, the background of this action is as follows: At the last session of the Trusteeship Council, the French representatives had announced that France considered the Togolese sufficiently mature politically to determine their own future; the French had consequently granted universal suffrage by statute, and they requested the Council to supervise a referendum to determine whether the French Togolese wished to end their trusteeship under a new statute designed to establish a Togoland state within the French Union. By a split vote, which found the six other administering powers lined up with France against the seven non-administering powers, the Council refused to approve the French proposal. The French nevertheless held a "popular consultation" on October 28, 1956; and the report of the Referendum Administrator states that 71.51% of the voters supported the end of trusteeship.

On December 17th the Trusteeship Council, by a vote of 8-6, refused to debate the French proposal and instead referred the entire question to the Fourth Committee. The United States was the only administering power to vote for the referral, which was proposed by Guatemala. Although in most cases the end of trusteeship would seem to be a gain for the people in a trust territory, in this case it appears that the reverse is true, since it is questionable whether the French-conducted referendum in fact gave the Togolese a fair choice of alternatives or was indeed fairly and freely conducted. Certainly the vote for referral represents a preliminary but significant victory for the Togolese opponents of the French proposal since the administering powers, which usually present a solid front, represent only a fraction of the membership of the Assembly's general committees and can not exert so much pressure on the great non-administering majority as they can on the equal number of non-administering countries in the Council. The vote of the United States was based, according to its representative, on the procedural point that the Fourth Committee

already has before it for consideration materials on French Togoland in connection with the British Togoland question and therefore should logically proceed to act on the French Togoland proposal; but its position may be supposed to have won favor with the Africa-Asia group who suspect the French of using the fine phrases of end of trusteeship and popular vote to tie another colony firmly into the French Union. The vote to refer postpones the date on which the United States must be recorded on the substantive issues involved, for or against its NATO ally, France. Its veto may well hinge on events still shaping up in the Mid-East, where the Arab States tend to oppose any French or British proposal automatically.

HEARINGS ON SOUTHWEST AFRICA

The Fourth Committee has commenced new consideration of the perennial Southwest Africa question in the absence of representatives of the Union of South Africa, who have walked out of the Assembly session (except for token representation) in protest against the inclusion of the questions of apartheid and the treatment of Indians in South Africa ("domestic affairs" according to the Union) on the agenda. On December 7th the Fourth Committee decided to hear petitioners on behalf of Southwest Africans; this action was taken in accordance with the advisory opinion (June 1, 1956) of the International Court of Justice, which had held in 1950 that the former German colony of Southwest Africa, mandated to the Union of South Africa after the First World War, was properly subject to the jurisdiction of the United Nations as successor to the League of Nations.

The first petitioner was the Reverend Michael Scott, an Anglican clergyman who has been appealing to the United Nations since its earliest days on behalf of the people, particularly the Herero tribes, of Southwest Africa; he has been barred from returning to any South African territory and therefore is unable to communicate in person with the people he represents. He laid his main emphases on: (1) the land policy of the South African government, which is developed entirely in the interests of the Europeans (too little and very poor land for the non-whites; forced removal of non-whites from desirable areas: "legalized expropriation of the land and wealth of the African inhabitants"); (2) the drawing of Southwest Africa into the pattern of South Africa's industrial economy (Native Reserves more and more crowded, becoming rural slums and serving only as reservoirs of cheap or slave labor for the mining industry and European farmers; statutory and other forms of repression of labor unions); (3) the denial of any representation of Southwest African peoples in law-making (even in local governmental units) and in the administration of government; and (4) establishment of the dictatorship of a racial oligarchy.

The Reverend Scott implored the United Nations to proceed from the fruitless recommendations and appeals to conscience made by the United Nations ever since its earliest days to the application of some form of sanctions to the Union of South Africa; he also requested reconsideration of all the written petitions sent to the United Nations over the last ten years by Southwest African chiefs for the protection of their people and their lands and the dispatching of a commission to Southwest Africa to hear their views in person.

The Chairman of the Fourth Committee interrupted Mr. Scott's presentation five times on the grounds that he had gone beyond his subject and once ruled him out of order. After considerable debate the Committee decided not to print the omitted parts of his speech in the official record but to print the Chairman's rulings at the points where they were made so that interested persons would know where the omissions occurred and might seek the omitted material. One omitted part apparently referred to the current "treason" trials of some 150 people in the Union for their interracial activities and beliefs.

The second petitioner, Mburumba K. Getzen, a member of the Herero tribe, is a student at Lincoln University. In starting his presentation, he explained his

circumstances to the Committee: that he had been compelled falsely to declare himself a "Cape Mulatto" in order to get a passport; that he had been warned the United States was a Communist country because it was based on the principle of racial equality and that he should not preach any such principle on his return; and that he had been warned he would be shot on his return if while here he talked about the mistreatment of Africans.

In addition to the points raised by Mr. Scott, Mr. Getzen emphasized the Union's failure in the field of education for the Southwest Africans (education neither free nor compulsory; disgracefully low educational standards -- most schooling limited to religious instruction, elementary arithmetic, and reading in Afrikaans; prohibition on African students' going abroad if they do qualify; under the Bantu Education Act, education to be inferior). The failure of the Union in the field of health was also stressed, and he noted that again this was intensified by apartheid.

The Fourth Committee considered for several days various proposals for action on the Southwest African situation but was unable to find any satisfactory formula. It approved certain resolutions including: (1) noting that the Assembly's Committee on Southwest Africa for the third year has found unsatisfactory conditions and approving its recommendations for improvement in local governmental institutions, "native" administration, representation of indigenous persons, land settlement policy, racial restrictions in law, and educational policy; (2) repeating for the tenth time its resolution that the normal way to change the status of Southwest Africa would be to place it under a trusteeship agreement; and (3) referring the testimony of Mr. Getzen and Mr. Scott to the Committee on Southwest Africa.

TANGANYIKAN PETITIONER APPEALS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Julius Nyerere, president of the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) appealed to the Fourth Committee on December 20th to prevail upon the United Kingdom, which administers the Territory, to accept the "extremely moderate" demands he made for the peaceful and gradual development of self-government.

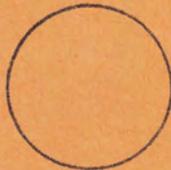
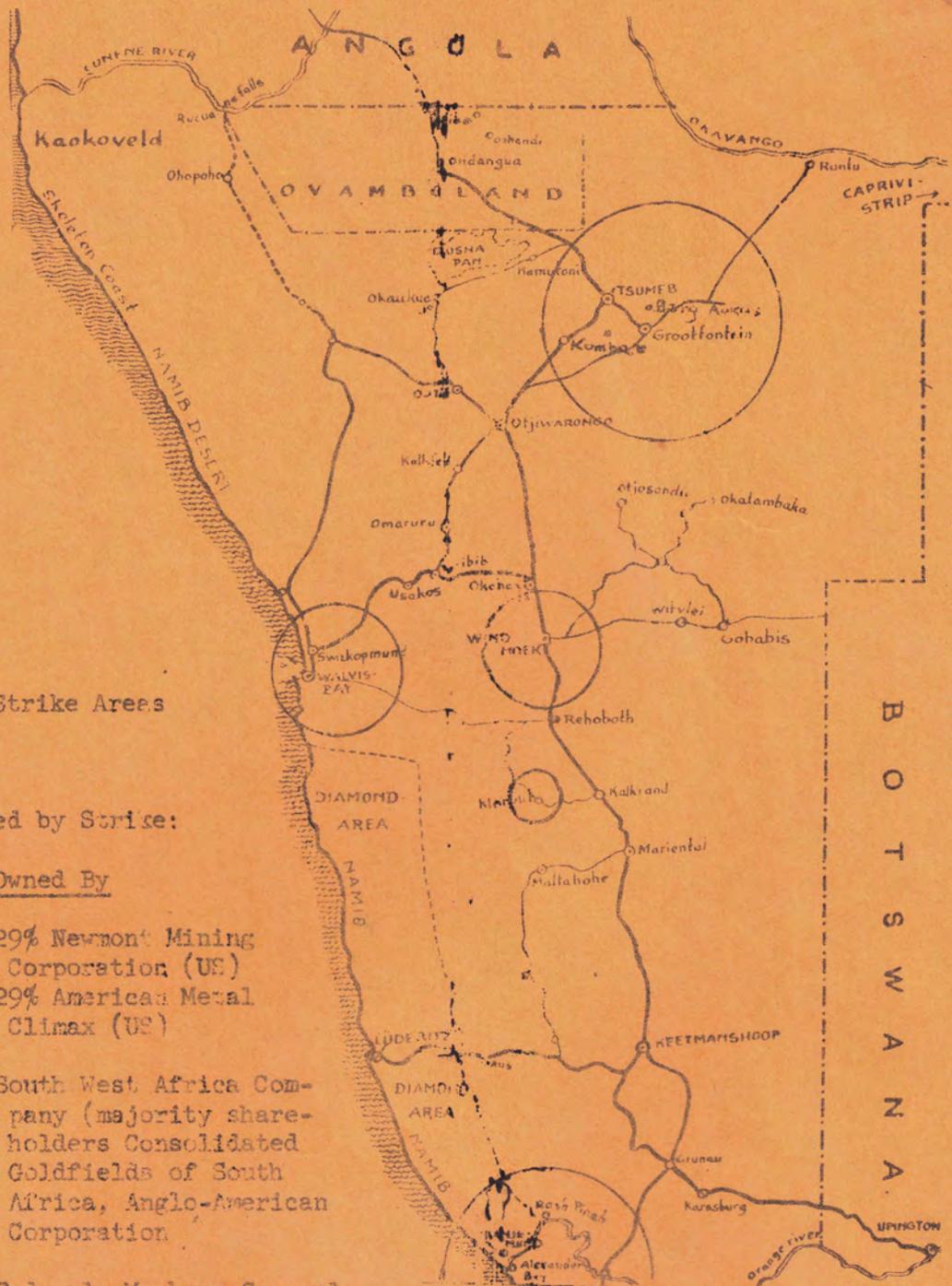
He attacked the government's policy of "multi-racialism" (equal representation for Europeans, Asians, and Africans although they number 25,000 -- 3,000 permanent settlers only, -- 70,000, and 8,000,000 respectively) and asked for equal representation for the Africans with all non-Africans as a step toward the ultimate development of Tanganyika as a democratic self-governing African state. He asked further that all representative members of the government be elected on a "common roll" under universal adult franchise.

Mr. Nyerere complained that Tanganyikan Africans were discriminated against in education, both in comparison with the white and Asian children in Tanganyika and in comparison with African children in neighboring Uganda; and he said he was seeking university scholarships abroad for Tanganyikan students. He also discussed the economic development of Tanganyika, which he claimed was being accomplished without bringing the Africans into any form or feeling of partnership and which was accompanied by increasingly rapid and brutal alienation of land to non-Africans; he felt that the price of economic development could be too high and appealed for help in preventing economic progress from hindering progress toward self-government.

PROPOSAL FOR NEW POWER FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL?

In connection with the Hungarian situation it has been suggested that the United Nations should empower the Secretary-General to have access to the territory of any member of the UN at any time. Such a power would be applicable to South Africa and its territory of Southwest Africa. The ACOA supports this proposal and hopes that it may be made a reality.

Namibia



Major Strike Areas

Main Mines Affected by Strike:

<u>Mine</u>	<u>Owned By</u>
Tsumeb & Kombat	29% Newmont Mining Corporation (US) 29% American Metal Climax (US)
Berg Aukas	South West Africa Company (majority shareholders Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa, Anglo-American Corporation)
Klein Aub	Federale Mynbou, General Mining and other South African corporations
Rosh Pina	Iron and Steel Corporation of South Africa (ISCOR - Government-owned corporation)
Consolidated Diamond Mines - at Oranjemund	De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. (South Africa)