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South West Africa; Good Offices Committee: The UN has made a new attempt to cope with the question of the Territory of South West Africa. This problem arose out of the South African refusal twelve years ago to have the then mandated Territory placed under the UN trusteeship system as all other former League mandates were. It has been exacerbated since by the South African defiance of UN resolutions and of an International Court opinion as to its duties and responsibilities toward the Territory and by the recent walk-outs of Union delegates from every Assembly session at which the problem has been discussed.

The Fourth (Trusteeship) Committee meetings on South West Africa started out this year in the same pattern as previous years, with statements by most of the delegates denouncing and deploring the conduct of the Union. The Reverend Michael Scott, representing the Herero and other tribes (the South African government has forbidden tribesmen to appear before the UN), called the attention of the Committee to new examples of misrule by the Union, emphasizing the continuing uncompensated appropriation of farm land from the Africans, compelling them to move to less and less fertile desert lands or to enter the ranks of underpaid and exploited laborers in the mines and white farming areas. He repeated his plea of last spring for UN members which had been members of the League of Nations at the time of its dissolution to ask the International Court for a determination as to South African compliance with the UN Charter's trusteeship requirements under the provisions for compulsory jurisdiction in article VII of the Mandate Agreement and article 37 of the Statute establishing the International Court. Scott's statement was supplemented by Mburumba Getzen, a South West African student in the United States.

Although the Liberian delegate also suggested invocation of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court, the Committee merely passed resolutions again urging the Union government to place the Territory under trusteeship and requesting the Committee on South West Africa to make recommendations for the next session as to acts concerning which a reference might be made to the Court for the mandate agreement, the Covenant of the League, and the UN Charter.

Finally on October 8 Thanat Khoman of Thailand, speaking not as a delegate but as chairman of the Committee, introduced a proposal to establish a good offices committee composed of a representative of the United Kingdom, the United States, and a third member chosen by the President of the Assembly, to discuss with the South African government "a basis for an agreement which would continue to accord to the territory an international status." The Thailand delegate let it be understood that this draft was acceptable to the South Africans, and the United Kingdom delegate stated that this acceptance was conditional on making no amendments to the text. Many delegates were, however, distressed by the failure to refer at all to the UN Charter and to past Assembly resolutions; and a number of amendments were proposed which, as finally approved, would safeguard the prestige of the UN, primarily by directing the committee to report on its activities to the 13th session of the General Assembly for the Assembly's examination and decision in accordance with the UN Charter. The amended resolution was finally passed by a vote of 52-10 with 17 abstentions. The countries which supported the resolution demonstrated their faith in the Committee chairman, who has a record of friendship for non-self-governing peoples, as well as their belief that the United States, which has a big economic stake in South Africa, and the United Kingdom, which does not want to drive South Africa out of the Commonwealth but which nevertheless has a record of liberating six of her former colonies in the last decade, would not offer their services in vain. The vote against the

resolution represented the belief that the past years of scolding and cajoling had been in vain and that the appointment of a good offices committee merely gave the Union another year to consolidate its unlawful position -- though the "noes" offered no alternative of their own to curb the Union. The abstaining delegates were unwilling to jeopardize any possibility of a solution despite their frustration and doubts. The General Assembly's plenary session adopted the resolution proposed by the Fourth Committee by approximately the same vote.

The ACOA has recommended to the American Ambassador to the UN, Henry Cabot Lodge, that the United States appoint to the good offices committee one of the following: Senator John Sherman Cooper, Senator Hubert Humphrey, Representative Frances Bolton, or Governor Theodore McKeldin.

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories; Transmission of Information: The Fourth Committee's discussion of the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, relating primarily to economic conditions in such territories, has stirred up a whole hornets' nest of stinging issues.

First is the recurring problem of transmission of information. Since article 73 of the UN Charter does not define non-self-governing territories, the UN has no official method by which it can determine the existence of such areas except by inquiring of each of its members on admission whether it has any such dependencies under its jurisdiction. To the dismay of the anti-colonialists, Portugal denies that it has any colonies -- its African "provinces" (Angola and Mozambique) being as fully self-governing as its metropolitan provinces, according to the Portuguese government. The French similarly hold Algeria to be an integral part of France, and the Spanish allege the same legal status for their tiny African colonies. Emboldened by the refusal of these countries to submit any information on the conditions in their "provinces," the other colonial powers appear to be becoming less cooperative also. This year the Belgian Government, despite its earlier admission that the Belgian Congo does come within the provisions of article 73, refused to submit economic information on the Congo for 1955 to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories as requested. After considerable criticism in the Fourth Committee, the Belgian delegate ungraciously agreed to transmit certain official publications which contained much of the desired information as soon as they were printed for regular governmental purposes on the understanding that they were, in the words of article 73(e), for "information purposes" only and not for discussion.

The American position on this issue is the same as last year, and ACOA continues to disapprove it: that the transmission of information on non-self-governing territories is a matter of internal concern only and that the UN should exert moral suasion only in this matter and not attempt to extend its jurisdiction so as to protect all dependent peoples however they are described by their governments.

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories; Voting Procedure: In the last session of the General Assembly the Fourth Committee voted by a small majority to establish an ad hoc committee to consider the application of the Charter provisions on non-self-governing territories to newly admitted members (it was no secret that they were thinking particularly of Portugal). When the resolution reached the plenary session of the Assembly, it was defeated by a tie vote, the chair ruling that this was an important question for which a 2/3 vote was required for passage.

Mindful of that defeat, for which the American delegates' lobbying was largely blamed, members of the Fourth Committee this year took up the problem of General Assembly voting procedure on questions relating to non-self-governing territories: article 18(2) of the UN Charter provides that decisions on "important questions" shall be by a 2/3 vote; a list of questions which must be included in this

category is given, and it does not include non-self-governing territories. Article 18(3) states that decisions on "other" questions, including the determination of additional categories of "important questions," shall be decided by a simple majority. A resolution was introduced by Costa Rica, Greece, Iraq, Mexico, Morocco, and Yugoslavia asking for an advisory opinion from the International Court as to the voting majority required in the General Assembly on questions relating to non-self-governing territories. Amended to provide for submission of the question to the Sixth (Legal) Committee, instead of to the International Court, the resolution was passed by the Fourth Committee in a clear rebuke to the colonial powers.

Non-Self-Governing Territories; Relation to European Economic Community: During the discussion of the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories by the Fourth Committee, delegates of several anti-colonial powers raised serious questions as to the effect of the proposed European Economic Community, with its common market, on its members' African colonies, since many of such territories are expected to be "associated with" the Community. Fear was expressed that the Community might delay or prevent African industrialization in order to gain a larger market for European manufactured goods, might exploit the areas' natural resources at the expense of the native peoples, for European benefit, and might suppress native independence movements in order to prevent loss of control over valuable resources. The European powers denied any such intentions, claimed that all actions would be taken within the framework of the United Nations Charter, and argued furthermore that it was premature to discuss the effect of a treaty which had not yet been ratified, let alone put into effect. The debate eventually boiled down to the question whether the UN ought to be concerned with the possible effects of the Community of African dependencies before the Community becomes an established fact or whether the Community should demonstrate its effects on the non-self-governing territories before the problem was discussed. The first viewpoint was eventually adopted as the Committee passed by a vote of 51-13, with 8 abstentions, a 19-power resolution calling on the Secretary General to prepare a report for the next session of the General Assembly on how the European Economic Community would affect the non-self-governing territories of its members. The United States voted against this resolution after supporting a Canadian resolution, withdrawn before a vote, which would merely have summarized the Fourth Committee's debate on the question in the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

Economic Commission for Africa Proposed: On October 24 the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee passed by an overwhelming vote a proposal to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the establishment of an Economic Commission for Africa. The UN has already established regional economic commissions for Europe, Asia and the Far East, and Latin America. The function of such commissions is to study the economic problems of the area and to suggest ways and means of advancing the economic and social development of the area, based on such study. It is generally admitted that the first great requirement for progress in Africa is adequate knowledge of the Continent so that plans may be intelligently made and carried out.

The United States supported this resolution.

UN Technical Assistance Program; Africa to Get Increased Assistance: The Second Committee began a discussion of the UN technical assistance program on October 24. This program covers the fields of economic development, social welfare, and public administration in areas which are under the United Nations generally, rather than under one of its specialized agencies, such as FAO (food and agriculture) or WHO (health). In general, UN technical assistance extends to industrialization, power, transport, geology and mining, general fiscal and economic policy, housing, welfare techniques, and public administration generally. The report of the Director General of the Technical Assistance Administration indicated that in 1958 the Administration hoped to give

additional aid to countries which have been minor recipients in the past: in particular the African countries and the newly independent countries. The assistance which can be given is limited by the amount of money available for the work.

SUNFED Proposed Again: Eleven nations have joined in the Second Committee to propose again the establishment of a Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED) to assist underdeveloped countries by financing, by means of loans or grants, projects designed to accelerate their integrated economic development which cannot be financed by other means. The United States has consistently opposed this proposal in previous years on the grounds that it was unwilling to finance foreign development, however worthy, until general conditions of peace make it possible for this country to reduce its expenditures for armaments. ACOA disapproves this position as setting the wrong values first: conditions of peace are more likely to exist if the economic development of underdeveloped countries is proceeding at a satisfactory pace so that the natural desire for better living is a foreseeable reality under democratic methods of procedure. The future of this resolution is still open although there is no indication that the United States, as a major potential contributor, has changed its position.

Other Issues Currently Pending: Two other questions vitally affecting Africa are currently under discussion: the question of South African racial policy (apartheid), now before the Special Political Committee (to be followed by the related question of South African treatment of persons of Indian descent); and the future of the French Togoland Trust Territory, being studied in the Fourth Committee. These items will be reported in the next issue of this Bulletin.