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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION
ESTABLISHED UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1699 (XVI)

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held in the Parliament Building, Dar es Salaam,
on Wednesday, 16 May 1962

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Hearing of petitioners from the Mozambique African National Union (MANU)

Note: In accordance with the decision taken at the 67th meeting, this summary record is based on notes prepared by the Committee secretariat.

PRESENT:

Chairman:

Mr. ACHKAR

(Guinea)

Members:

Mr. GRINBERG

Bulgaria

Mr. WIJEGONAWARDENA

Ceylon

Mr. VENEGAS

Colombia

Mr. MOUSHOUTAS

Cyprus

Mr. GONZALEZ-CALVO

Guatemala

Mr. OLISEMEKA

Nigeria

Secretariat:

Mr. KUNST

Secretary of the
Committee

HEARING OF PETITIONERS FROM THE MOZAMBIQUE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION (MANU)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Mnole, President of MANU, Mr. Millinga, Mr. Viegas and Mr. Lala took places at the Committee table.

Mr. MILLINGA read out a statement.^{1/}

Mr. MOUSHOUTAS (Cyprus) asked whether any reforms had really taken place and what their effects had been.

Mr. VIEGAS replied that Africans were still discriminated against and received no financial support. They could not afford to live in European style and enjoy other social amenities.

Mr. MOUSHOUTAS (Cyprus) asked what were the goals of the MANU.

Mr. MILLINGA replied that his party had tried several times to address the Portuguese Government and had also tried to discuss the question of independence with the Portuguese Consulate. The party had finally decided to send petitions to the United Nations in the hope that it would help MANU to achieve a better understanding with Portugal and to work out a programme for independence. MANU was determined to see that everything was achieved constitutionally. It looked to the United Nations to protect human rights and was ready to discuss the problems with Portugal and with other leaders.

In reply to a question from Mr. OLISEMEKA (Nigeria) about the colour bar, Mr. VIEGAS said that Africans still had to produce their identity cards before being admitted to facilities open to Europeans. Europeans were not required to show any papers.

Mr. OLISEMEKA (Nigeria) said he understood that in practice the colour bar still remained.

In reply to a question from the CHAIRMAN, Mr. VIEGAS gave the Committee information about the secret police organization known as PIDE. Through a system of paid informers PIDE maintained a constant watch over Africans turning on their

radios, reading magazines or even just talking. Any African listening to a foreign radio station, reading a foreign magazine or criticizing the Portuguese Government was arrested. No political activities were permitted except government-run clubs. Only labour organizations organized by the Government existed. All such organizations were infiltrated by FIDE members, who were of all races. Letters were censored, especially those from Tanganyika, Southern Rhodesia, etc. Mr. Viegas and other African leaders had been imprisoned and brutally tortured. Mr. Viegas had been released from jail only on condition that he would work for FIDE but he had left that organization because he had been unable to fabricate information as he had been required.

In reply to a question from Mr. WIJEGONAWARDENA (Ceylon), Mr. VIEGAS said that the Africans in Mozambique had received no information about the United Nations.

Mr. GONZALEZ-CALVO (Guatemala) asked whether the MANU party was working in co-operation with others and whether its programme was similar to those of the other parties.

Mr. MMOLE replied that he hoped all groups were working for the independence of Mozambique. However, UDENAMO was not working with MANU.

In reply to further questions from Mr. GONZALEZ-CALVO (Guatemala), Mr. MMOLE said that there were some 300,000 refugees from Mozambique in East Africa and there were also people from that territory living in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. He did not think that the total number of Mozambicans living outside the territory amounted to a million.

In reply to a question from the CHAIRMAN, Mr. MILLINGA said that there were now only two political parties, both of which stood for independence.

In reply to a question from Mr. MOUSHOUTAS (Cyprus), Mr. MILLINGA said that all the people of Mozambique stood behind the MANU party. If the party were allowed to operate inside Mozambique it would no doubt have the support of the people. It was impossible to state the exact number of members because it was forced to operate underground.

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In reply to questions from Mr. GRINBERG (Bulgaria), Mr. VIEGAS said that the three categories of inhabitants remained the same as before. To become an assimilado, a person must have elementary education in Portuguese and satisfy various other conditions. About 8 per cent of the Africans in Mozambique had elementary education in Portuguese. Of those about 25,000 were assimilados. Some Africans were not able to become assimilados because they did not have enough money. There had been some increase in the number of assimilados after the so-called reforms.

Mr. GRINBERG (Bulgaria) asked whether the people believed that the reforms announced by Portugal would bring about any improvements.

Mr. MILLINGA replied that, in spite of the so-called reforms, the colour bar still existed in an indirect form. The MANU party was not interested in the reforms but in obtaining the independence of Mozambique, which was the people's birthright. The Africans of Mozambique were not prepared to share their country with Portugal. They were prepared to provide for the white man under the rule of an African Government. They did not believe that the majority should be governed by the minority. Africans wanted full and unqualified democracy and were prepared to work with all who would co-operate with an African Government. It could not accept any reforms which did not lead to the establishment of an African government and full independence for Mozambique. Under the present system, in order to receive assimilation papers a person had to declare that he was no longer African. In his view, foreigners should accept to become Africans; he did not see why Africans should have to become Portuguese.

His party hoped that the United Nations would not be bluffed by Portugal's declaration that it had introduced reforms. He also hoped that the aspirations of his people would receive the careful attention of the United Nations. Portugal had barred the Committee from Mozambique and the other territories for fear that it might discover the real situation. If Portugal was sincere in the introduction of reforms it could very well allow the Committee to see the results for itself.

In reply to questions from Mr. GRINBERG (Bulgaria), Mr. MILLINGA said his party hoped that the Special Committee would use the facts it had obtained to help Mozambique gain independence; that the United Nations would persuade

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Portugal to change its attitude and to sit down at a round-table conference in order to discuss a programme for independence; that Portugal would agree to constitutional changes before the end of 1962; and that within 1962 the United Nations would be able to persuade Portugal to allow political parties to operate in Mozambique so that the people would be ready for independence at the end of 1963.

Mr. MOUSHOUTAS (Cyprus) asked what the attitude of MANU would be towards those Portuguese who chose to stay after Mozambique became independent.

Mr. MILLINGA replied that his party did not believe in revenge. It believed that every human being was entitled to the same rights and would not deny those rights to anyone. If the Portuguese who remained agreed to be governed by Africans and wished to be loyal to the new State, they would not be driven away. If they chose to leave, they would be allowed to do so.

In reply to questions from the CHAIRMAN, Mr. MILLINGA said that he knew about General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the establishment of the Committee of Seventeen. However, the adoption of resolutions was not enough; what was needed was their implementation. Nothing had been done to publicize General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) in Mozambique. The so-called reforms were just a bluff. Some people wanted integration but they were only dupes. They amounted probably to not more than 1 per cent of the population. Many assimilados retained their status only in order to get more pay.

The CHAIRMAN asked whether the people of Mozambique knew that many African countries had achieved independence in the last few years.

Mr. MILLINGA, Mr. VIEGAS and Mr. LALA replied that the people did know. For instance, one man had been shot dead because he was celebrating on Tanganyika's independence day. There was no official news of any liberation movements or political parties. But news was spread by the underground movement and by people returning from abroad. The people did not know that Uganda was becoming independent.

In reply to questions from Mr. MOUSHOUTAS (Cyprus), Mr. LALA said that people who had not committed crimes were not usually sent for forced labour, but people who did not pay taxes were. On the whole, forced labour continued the same as before.