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COMMITTEE ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA

THE REHOBOTH COMMUNITY OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA

(Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Committee
on South West Africa)

Second addendum

1. Supplementary information relating to the Rehoboth Community has been received since the issuance of document A/AC.73/L.6/Add.1 and is accordingly submitted to the Committee on South West Africa.
2. In document A/AC.73/L.6/Add.1 reference was made to a clause in the General Law Amendment Bill, introduced in the Union House of Assembly in February 1955, a clause which would provide that any Act of the Union Parliament or proclamation by the Governor-General applied in South West Africa would likewise apply in the Rehoboth Gebiet unless otherwise stipulated in the Act or proclamation.
3. Since the issuance of document A/AC.73/L.6/Add.1, the General Law Amendment Bill has been acted upon by the Union Parliament, and information is now available to indicate that the above-mentioned clause regarding legislation for the Rehoboth Community was not enacted.
4. At the time of the second reading of the General Law Amendment Bill in the Union House of Assembly on 2 June 1955 the Minister of Justice made the following statement:

... Another provision that also falls away is one in Clause 14 in connexion with South West Africa. It concerns the Rehoboth area. There was a technical difficulty in connexion with our relations with South West Africa and this provision is now being deleted. (Hansard, 1955, vol. 17, col. 6904).

5. During the Committee stage of the consideration of the Bill by the House of Assembly, on 13 June 1955, this clause was put and negatived (Hansard, 1955, vol.19, col. 7671), and the omission of this clause was agreed to by the House at the time of the third reading of the Bill (Hansard, 1955, vol. 19, col. 7678).

Accordingly an amended version of the Bill, which inter alia did not contain this clause, was sent to the Senate (A.B. 33A - 1955, Senate Debates, 1955, vol. 14, col. 4048).

6. The General Law Amendment Act, 1955, therefore contains no such clause regarding legislation for the Rehoboth Community (SWAG, 1955, No. 1923, pages 2-19).
