

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/4445/Add.1
16 September 1960
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Fifteenth session

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF
THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
ITEM PROPOSED BY MOROCCO

THE PROBLEM OF MAURITANIA

Letter dated 14 September 1960 from the Permanent Representative of
Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and on the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to send you an addition to the explanatory memorandum attached to my note of 20 August 1960 concerning the question of Mauritania.

Signed) El Mehdi Ben ABOUD
Permanent Representative
of Morocco
to the United Nations

ADDITION TO THE EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON
THE PROBLEM OF MAURITANIA

1. As the Government of Morocco sees it, the dispute is essentially of a territorial nature; that is to say, Mauritania, within the borders at present assigned it by France, has always been an integral part of national territory.
2. Moreover, ever since the proclamation of Morocco's independence on 2 March 1956, His Majesty's Government has not ceased to demand that its legitimate rights in respect of this portion of its national territory should be made effective, but, animated by a sincere desire to reach a negotiated solution, it agreed to have recourse to a mixed border commission, and France, on its part, concurred in that procedure.
3. The notes which the Government of Morocco has dispatched since then, whenever France unilaterally changed the status of Mauritania, are eloquent in this connexion. They place the Moroccan territorial claim in clear perspective and deny to the Government of France any exercise of competence in respect of Mauritanian territory.
4. For purposes of information, it is recalled that
 - (1) On 28 August 1956, in a note to the French Government, the Government of His Majesty the King "expressed the most explicit reservations against the integration of parts of its territory into the common organization of the Sahara areas under the name of Sahara Zones of the French Republic";
 - (2) On 11 November 1958, it made a strong protest against the proclamation of the so-called "Islamic Republic of Mauritania";
 - (3) On 15 December 1959, it demanded the restoration of the whole of the national territory as internationally recognized just before the Protectorate was established;
 - (4) In a Basic Memorandum to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development regarding a loan to MIFERMA, it expressly invoked the rights of Morocco in respect of Mauritania and denied to France the right to make commitments affecting the future of that territory.

5. This puts the question of Mauritania in its national context and, faced with the existing threat of a fait accompli, His Majesty's Government, conscious of its rights, found itself compelled to seize the United Nations of this problem.

(Signed) DRISS M'HAMMEDI
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Government of
His Majesty the King of
Morocco
