



Thursday, 26 September 1957,  
at 3.10 p.m.

**NEW YORK**

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**Chairman: Mr. Thanat KHOMAN (Thailand).**

**AGENDA ITEM 38**

**Question of South West Africa (continued):**

- (a) Report of the Committee on South West Africa (A/3626, A/AC.73/L.10);
- (b) Study of legal action to ensure the fulfilment of the obligations assumed by the Mandatory Power under the Mandate for South West Africa: special report of the Committee on South West Africa (A/3625)

**HEARING OF PETITIONERS (continued)**

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Reverend Michael Scott and Mr. Mburumba ua'Kerina Getzen took places at the Committee table.

1. Mr. AHMED (India) recalled that at the previous meeting the Secretariat had been asked to get in touch with Mr. Wilhelm Heyn and Dr. Joachim Seegert with a view to ascertaining whether they wished to be granted hearings by the Committee. He proposed that the Secretariat should also get in touch with Mr. Kozonguizi for the same purpose.

2. Mr. JAHANBANI (Iran) supported that proposal.

It was so decided.

3. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) suggested that it might be better to defer the questioning of the petitioners until their statements had been circulated to the members of the Committee.

4. The CHAIRMAN said he would not press representatives to begin questioning the petitioners before they were ready to do so; at the same time any representatives who wished could ask their questions immediately.

5. Ato Yawand-Wossen MANGASHA (Ethiopia), referring to a question asked by the representative of Uruguay at the previous meeting, asked Mr. Scott

whether he was able freely to enter and leave the Territory of South West Africa.

6. The Reverend Michael SCOTT said that he had repeatedly applied to the Union Government for permission to return to South West Africa in order to report to the people who had asked him to represent them before the General Assembly, but that permission had consistently been refused. No reason for that refusal had ever been given. The first occasion on which he had come to the United Nations was in 1947 when he had presented a memorandum and written petitions (A/C.4/95, A/C.4/96); after that he had been allowed to return to South West Africa and to make a report to the chiefs who had asked him to represent them. He had not, however, been allowed to enter the Territory since 1948.

7. Mr. KADRY (Iraq) asked whether Mr. Scott had experienced any difficulty in receiving information from the chiefs in South West Africa.

8. The Reverend Michael SCOTT said that as far as he knew he had received all communications addressed to him from South West Africa.

9. Mr. GOMES DE OLIVEIRA (Brazil) observed that since the indigenous inhabitants of South West Africa were not represented in the legislative organs of the Territory or of the Union of South Africa, there was no means of knowing what they thought about their situation or about their future. Hence any information concerning trends of opinion in the Territory with regard to the Union Government's policy there would be of great value to the Committee. He asked whether Mr. Scott could give any information on that subject.

10. The Reverend Michael SCOTT said that he had little to add to the opinions expressed by the chiefs in their communications to the United Nations.

11. The report of the Committee on South West Africa (A/3626) referred to the writings of a Dr. Vedder, a resident of the Territory of German origin, who had been nominated to represent its people in the South African Senate. He stressed that the views of Dr. Vedder, who was a strong supporter of apartheid, were emphatically repudiated by the chiefs and others whom Mr. Scott represented.

12. Mr. GETZEN expressed the opinion that if the existing situation in South West Africa were to continue much longer the patience of the people of the Territory would one day be exhausted, with consequences which it was impossible to foresee.

The meeting rose at 4.5 p.m.