



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
RESTRICTED

A/CN.2/R.105
7 October 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS
Sixteenth session, 15 October 1957
New York

ASSESSMENT OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The following communication has been addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the acting permanent representative of the Union of South Africa to the United Nations and is submitted to the Committee on Contributions for consideration:

27 September 1957

The acting permanent representative of the Union of South Africa to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to Note FI 313/1/(1) of 7 August 1957, advising, in compliance with the arrangement made at the eighth session of the General Assembly, that the next session of the Committee on Contributions is scheduled to open in New York on 15 October 1957, and inviting Member Governments to supply supplementary data relevant to the work of the Committee.

It will be recalled that on 5 July 1955, the deputy permanent representative transmitted to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee on Contributions at its 1955 session, the views of the Government of the Union of South Africa on their percentage contribution. These views were reiterated by the permanent representative in his note of 12 March 1956. It was pointed out that on the basis of the directives issued to the Committee on Contributions by the General Assembly the Union of South Africa was greatly overassessed. Detailed arguments and figures were submitted to substantiate this conclusion which was further borne out by a comparison with the assessments of a cross-section of the membership of the United Nations.

57-27403

/...

In analyzing the terms of reference of the Committee on Contributions, it was stated that the Union Government agreed with the Committee's own view that the two criteria relating to temporary dislocation of national economies arising out of the war and to the ability of members to secure foreign currency were outdated and should for all practical purposes be ignored. To the extent, however, that the Committee still makes adjustments in regard to members which have especial difficulty in obtaining foreign currency such adjustments should result in only a slight increase in the assessments of the remaining members who are not subject to fixed percentages.

As stated in the Fifth Committee at the eleventh session of the General Assembly, the Union Government decided not to press at that session for a reduction of its percentage contribution as it realized that the Committee on Contributions had, in determining the scale of assessments for 1957, been limited to the determination of the rates of assessment of new Members and the consequent adjustment of the existing scale on a purely arithmetical basis, without reassessing the individual rates of Member States. However, the South African representative in the Fifth Committee expressed his Government's confidence that the Committee on Contributions would take its viewpoint into account at the preparation of the next scale of assessments.

In the circumstances it would be appreciated if the Secretary-General would inform the Committee on Contributions that the South African Government adheres to the view that it is greatly overassessed. The following figures relating to the most recent scale of assessments adopted at the eleventh session of the General Assembly in respect of seventy-six Member States are submitted to substantiate this claim:

Total average national income all Member States, 1952-1954, adjusted on the basis of the low <u>per capita</u> income formula, approximately	\$600,000 million
Average national income of South Africa, adjusted as above, approximately	2,300 million
South Africa's percentage of the total	0.38%
Add share of adjustment in respect of floor and ceiling principles to be borne by South Africa	<u>0.12%</u>
	0.50%
	/...

On the basis of this calculation, therefore, South Africa's assessment should be 0.50 per cent. The percentage assessed by the Committee on Contributions was 0.71 per cent, an increase of 42 per cent.

It is also desired to point out that notwithstanding the fact that the Union of South Africa should benefit from the low per capita income formula, its assessment greatly exceeds even the percentage of its national income expressed in relation to the total national income of all Member States prior to adjustment for low per capita income, as the following table would indicate:

Unadjusted average national income 1952-1954

Union of South Africa, approximately	\$ 3,600 million
Total all Member States, approximately	\$700,000 million
South Africa's percentage of total	0.52%

A comparison of the assessment of the Union of South Africa with those of some of the other Member States bears out the conclusion that the Union of South Africa is greatly overassessed. The countries shown in the table below have been chosen as representing a fair cross-section for purposes of comparison and range from low per capita income to high per capita income countries.

<u>Name of Country</u>	<u>Per capita income</u>	<u>1952-1954 average national income</u>		<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Proportionate assessment for South Africa</u>
		<u>gross</u>	<u>adjusted</u>		
		<u>(millions)</u>			
Argentina	400	7,210	5,047	1.17%	0.53%
Australia	927	7,807	7,522	1.65%	0.50%
Belgium	704	6,013	5,123	1.27%	0.57%
Brazil	149	8,180	4,700	1.09%	0.53%
Cuba	289	1,793	1,156	0.27%	0.54%
Denmark	762	3,253	2,866	0.66%	0.53%
India	59	21,333	11,296	2.97%	0.63%
Norway	761	2,458	2,165	0.49%	0.52%
Pakistan	67	5,433	2,899	0.55%	0.44%
Philippines	147	3,035	1,620	0.41%	0.58%
Turkey	222	4,733	2,892	0.63%	0.50%
South Africa	288	3,563	2,295		actual assessment 0.71%

/...

The final column indicates what the percentage of South Africa would have been if assessed at the same ratio to adjust national income as the countries concerned.

In the circumstances the Union Government must press for a readjustment to the percentage assessment of South Africa and request that the matter be reconsidered by the Contributions Committee at its forthcoming session."
