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QUESTION OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA

Letter dated 29 September 1959 from the Permanent Representative
of the Union of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary of the Fourth Committee

New York, 29 September 1959

It will be recalled that at the 884th meeting of the Fourth Committee, Mr. Louw, the Leader of the South African Delegation, requested that certain articles and correspondence be circulated as official documents. I enclose herewith the three documents in question and shall be grateful if they can be circulated as official documents of the Fourth Committee.

(Signed) B.G. FOURIE

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Copy of a dispatch by the South African Press Association published in the South African newspapers regarding the visit of a group of foreign journalists to Rehoboth, the home of the Beukes family

Interviewed by a group of foreign correspondents, members of the Rehoboth Advisory Council said that if Mr. Beukes were to speak at the United Nations against the Union Government and the Administration of South West Africa, he would not be doing so on behalf of the Rehoboth community or the Advisory Council.

Hans Beukes's grandfather, Johannes Beukes, who is a member of the Advisory Council, told the journalists:

"I specifically warned him, when the Council sponsored his passport to go to Norway to study, not to allow himself to be influenced to attack the South African Government or the South West African Administration while he was abroad."

He said he wanted Hans to go overseas and qualify so that he "could return to South West Africa and serve his own people". He had also told him that if he acted like Getzen (who is also from South West Africa and who attacked the Union Government at the United Nations) it would make it difficult for other students to get passports for study purposes abroad.

The father of Hans Beukes, Herman Christoffel Beukes, who is chairman of the Rehoboth Civic Association, confirmed that Hans had no authority to speak at the United Nations on behalf of the Rehoboth Advisory Council or the Rehoboth community.

He believed that if Hans went to the United Nations, it would not be to attack South Africa or South West Africa, but to enlist the assistance of the United Nations in enabling him to return to South West Africa after completing his studies in Norway.

"If I knew where he was, I would send him a cable instructing him not to make representations at the United Nations on matters affecting our community, because this is a matter between us, the Government of South Africa and the South West Africa Administration," he said.

Extracts from a news item in the Windhoek Advertiser of 7 August 1959

BEUKES SAYS NEWS REPORT WANTED TO MAKE LIAR OUT OF SON.

"Could you please tell me where my son is", said Mr. H.C. Beukes, father of the Rehoboth-born student, Hans Beukes, when he entered the "Advertiser" office this week. Tears were forming in his eyes.

Mr. H.C. Beukes, the father of Hans, came to the "Advertiser" office as result of an article sent by a SAPA reporter to various newspapers.

Mr. Beukes said that his words had been twisted and was written, in his opinion, to make a liar out of his son if he talks overseas.

Only one fact was correct in the article, said Mr. Beukes. He had told the correspondent that if his son now talks against the Government overseas because his passport has been taken away, then he blames the Government because they should not have taken his passport awayv

Mr. Beukes said that he had not said that Hans had no authority to speak at the United Nations on behalf of the Rehoboth Community. His father had also not said so.

Copy of a letter sent to the South African Press Association by the President
of the Foreign Correspondents Association of South Africa

THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

P.O. Box 2059
PRETORIA
13th August, 1959

Mr. David Friedmann
The Editor,
SAPA
P.O. Box 7766
JOHANNESBURG

Dear Mr. Friedmann,

Thank you for your copy of extracts from the Windhoek Advertiser concerning the interview a number of Foreign Correspondents visiting South West Africa as guests of the Administration had recently with the Beukes family at Rehoboth.

During the 7 years since our Association was formed we have resisted and will continue to resist all efforts to draw us into S. Africa's politics but in the interests of accuracy you might like to know the following facts, which are corroborated by the members of our Association who were invited to South West.

We went to Rehoboth at our request hoping to meet members of the Beukes family, although nothing had been arranged by the Administration. We found Hans Beukes's grandfather by accident when we were looking for members of the Raad who would give us their point of view and while we were talking to him Hans Beukes's father came forward spontaneously to talk to us.

The two members of the Administration who had driven us to Rehoboth took no part in these conversations. Both father and grandfather answered our questions readily and volunteered further information.

Since receiving a copy of the Windhoek Advertiser we have checked our notes of those interviews with the story put out by SAPA. Our notes confirm it as an accurate report of both the Beukes statements to us, which we ourselves cables overseas.

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We should have been happy to have given them to the Windhoek Advertiser if they had approached us. No restrictions were placed on us by the Administration at any time. In fact a visit to Rehoboth had not been included in the original schedule for our visit. It was arranged by the Administration at the last minute at our request.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Margaret Lessing
President

Signed on behalf of:

Mr. Henri Schoup, United Press International
Mr. Adrian Porter, Associated Press of America
Mr. Edmund Bellairs, Agence France-Presse
Mrs. Margaret Lessing, Daily Herald, London.

P.S. The fifth member of our party, Mr. Hans kruger of the German News Agency did not accompany us.
