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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FORTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 8 May 1962, at 3.55 p.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. JHA	(India)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. RIFAI	(Syria)
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. PLIMSOLL	Australia
	Mr. NONG KIMNY	Cambodia
	Mr. GERRE-EGZY	Ethiopia
	Mr. RASGOTRA	India
	Mr. ZITO	Italy
	Mr. ANDRIAMAHARO	Madagascar
	Mr. SOLTYSIAK	Poland
	Mr. MANSOURI	Syria
	Mr. NGAIZA	Tanganyika
	Mr. Tafeb SLIM)	Tunisia
	Mr. MESTIRI)	
	Mr. OBEREMKO	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. CROWE)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and and Northern Ireland
	Mr. THOM)	
	Mr. BINGHAM	United States of America
	Mr. SILVA SUCRE	Venezuela
	Mr. ILIC	Yugoslavia
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. PROTITCH	Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Mr. CHACKO	Secretary of the Committee

INVITATIONS EXTENDED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF MOROCCO AND ETHIOPIA
(A/AC.109/7, A/AC.109/8, A/AC.109/11) (continued)

Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America) said that the Committee had not given sufficient attention to the possibility of going to Africa during the summer months. August would be preferable from his point of view. As President of the Trusteeship Council he would find it impossible to be away in June. It should be borne in mind also that the General Assembly would resume its session on 7 June.

Mr. SOLTYSIAK (Poland) could not agree that the Committee should go to Africa in August since, according to its time-table, its consideration of the situation in the African Territories should have been concluded by then. While it was true that, in practice, the Committee would be unable to conclude the study of the situation in those Territories by August, every possibility of speeding up its work should be considered. For that reason, the sooner the Committee went to Africa the better.

He supported the USSR representative's proposal that, as suggested by the Chairman the Committee should begin its work at Tangier on 22 May. He agreed that the Committee's stay in Africa should be shortened to enable the members to be back in New York when the question of Southern Rhodesia was considered by the General Assembly.

With reference to the possibility of making two visits to Africa, his delegation thought that that course would be undesirable because of the expense involved.

Mr. GEBRE-EGZY (Ethiopia) said that he did not see any difficulty in the way of the Committee's leaving about 20 May. The members of the Committee appeared to have reached agreement on that date and it should be adopted subject to any slight changes which travelling arrangements might dictate. He was certain that most members of the Committee would have no important engagements which would compel them to be back in New York before 14 June. The latter date could therefore be set as the time-limit for the Committee's stay in Africa which would thus last for two or three weeks or a little longer, but in any case not more than thirty days.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria) said that while personal convenience of representatives should be taken into consideration, it should not be divorced from the other important factors on which the Committee's decision must be based. He did not wish to minimize the difficulties experienced by certain representatives over the proposed dates, but similar problems would undoubtedly arise for other representatives if the dates were different. The Committee should therefore keep to the date which suited the majority of its members.

If the Committee went to Africa in August it would find it almost impossible to draw up its report. Moreover, it would be inadvisable for the Committee to go to Africa after it had concluded consideration of the situation in the African territories.

In the circumstances, as the Chairman had suggested, the Committee might hold its first meeting in Africa on 22 May. It could allow itself an extra week's margin in case its work made an extension of its stay necessary. If that fourth week was not needed, the members of the Committee could be back in New York without being too late to take part in the General Assembly's discussions. It was, of course, true that under that arrangement certain members of the Trusteeship Council might not be able to be present at the consideration of the situation in certain Trust Territories.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the Ethiopian and Syrian representatives' proposals which were something of a compromise between the views of the delegations which favoured a stay of five or six weeks and of those which would prefer a shorter stay. The proposals were wholly reasonable and acceptable.

Mr. PLIMSOLL (Australia) said the proposed journey was not in his view the best way of spending United Nations funds in the service of the cause of decolonization. However, if the Committee was to go to Africa, the first thing to be done was to set a terminal date for its visit. The United Nations financial authorities would not be happy if the Committee took a decision on the spot to prolong its visit. Moreover, the United Nations Secretariat might need its personnel for the resumed session of the General Assembly. The terminal date for the visit to Africa should therefore be set at 7 June, the date of the resumption

(Mr. Plimsoll, Australia)

of the session of the General Assembly. It was not a matter of personal convenience but of the effective discharge of the work of the United Nations, since the delegations taking part in the work of the Committee were among those interested in the questions to be considered at the resumed session of the General Assembly, namely that of Ruanda-Urundi and possibly that of Southern Rhodesia.

Furthermore, it was desirable to know whether the Committee would spend most of its time at Addis Ababa or at Tangier. That should depend on the questions to be discussed and the procedure followed, which, in its turn would determine the size of the personnel and facilities required. The question deserved consideration, particularly as a number of facilities would be available to the Committee at Addis Ababa. All those considerations were relevant. The Committee could not confine itself to taking a decision on principle.

Mr. NCAIZA (Tanganyika) said that if the date of 20 May was accepted, petitioners would not have time to make preparations for appearing before the Committee and raising the funds they would need for their journey. Moreover, Tangier was at some distance from the Territories with which the Committee was concerned and he did not think that the journey was intended exclusively to produce a psychological impact. Lastly, since the delegations of certain countries represented on the Committee were very small, they would find the proposed dates inconvenient from the point of view of allowing them to take part in the work of the General Assembly. The Tanganyikan delegation, for its part, would prefer the Committee to go to Africa in July or August. The Committee was more concerned with the resumed session of the General Assembly than other United Nations organs.

The CHAIRMAN said that his suggestion that the Committee should leave for Africa on 22 May and return on 12 June had been intended merely as an indication. It would be difficult for him to leave during May, but that need not constitute a major obstacle, since the Committee could go to Africa without its Chairman.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) suggested that instead of continuing to discuss the matter in open session, it would be better to set up a group of three or four

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(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

people to discuss the problem in consultation with the Under-Secretary and the representatives of Ethiopia and Morocco. The group might consist of the Chairman, the Rapporteur, the representative of Mali and one or two other representatives. It would thus be possible in the course of a day or two to draw up a tentative programme which would enable the Committee to come to a conclusion.

Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America) considered the Indian representative's proposal to be very wise. Nevertheless, even a group of the type suggested would need guidance from the Committee regarding the nature of the meetings the Committee would hold at Tangier and Addis Ababa and the programme of work. He had already raised that question at the previous meeting. He assumed that the Committee would consider only African Territories, but did not know whether it was proposed that the discussion should be limited to certain specified Territories or whether it would cover all the Territories in Africa or only those mentioned in the work programme submitted earlier by the representative of Ethiopia.

The Polish representative had expressed the view that August would not be appropriate because by that time the Committee would have concluded its discussion of most of or perhaps all the African Territories. It had never been suggested, however, that those who might want to refer to a Territory that had already been discussed would be barred from doing so during the meetings in Africa. If, for example, it was intended that the subject of Northern Rhodesia should not be considered during the Committee's stay in Africa, such a decision should be taken and announced. It seemed to his delegation impossible to arrive at a conclusion without having more information about the sort of meetings the Committee envisaged.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria) pointed out that the Committee had already decided in principle to accept the invitations of the Governments of Morocco and Ethiopia. However, in view of the difficulties experienced by a number of delegations regarding the choice of a date, further consultations appeared to be necessary. He therefore considered that the Committee should adopt the Indian representative's proposal and decide immediately to set up a sub-committee to study the matter.

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With regard to the question by the United States representative, he recalled that the Committee had already adopted the programme of work proposed by the delegation of Ethiopia. It should therefore adhere to that programme during its stay in Africa. The consideration of the questions of Southern Rhodesia and Northern Rhodesia would probably have been concluded by the time the Committee left and there would be no question of reopening them. With regard to Bechuanaland, Swaziland and the other Territories which remained to be considered, the Committee would deal with them in Africa if it had not previously concluded its work on those Territories.

The Committee's essential purpose in going to Africa was to get into closer touch with the peoples and collect more information about them. The Committee should therefore hear all the petitioners who asked for a hearing, from whatever African Territory they might come. He could see no other way in which the Committee could proceed in Africa.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regretted that, under pressure from the representatives of the colonial Powers, the Committee appeared to be about to alter a decision it had already taken. The United States representative had suggested that the Committee should go to Africa in August, which in fact amounted to proposing that it should not go at all, and the Australian representative had supported that proposal. Naturally it would suit those two delegations if the Committee gave up the idea of going to Africa, or went there at a time when it was dealing with the Pacific Territories. The purpose of those delaying tactics was perfectly clear: it was to prevent the Committee from coming to a decision.

The Committee had already decided to accept the invitations of the Governments of Morocco and Ethiopia and, in principle, to go to Africa in May. The actual date of departure remained to be decided. The Chairman had suggested 22 May and the USSR delegation, with the support of the delegation of Mali, had formally proposed the adoption of that date. The length of the Committee's stay in Africa also remained to be decided.

The USSR delegation protested against the manoeuvres of the colonialist Powers to prevent the Committee from coming to decisions on those points.

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Mr. FLIMSOLL (Australia), replying to the USSR representative, pointed out that his delegation had not supported the views expressed by the United States delegation regarding the possibility of the Committee's going to Africa in August. It had merely stressed the need to fix a date for the Committee's return which would enable the representatives to take part in the resumed sixteenth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America) pointed out to the USSR representative that the Committee had not decided to consider the Pacific Territories in August or at any other time. If the Committee wished to go to Africa in August there was nothing to prevent it from drawing up its programme accordingly. Moreover, he noted that the USSR representative had not said what kind of meetings he anticipated or what questions should be considered at those meetings.

With regard to the hearing of African petitioners, he asked the representative of Syria whether it was his understanding that the Committee would not grant hearings to petitioners from Territories whose situation had already been examined

Mr. RIFAI (Syria) replied that only petitioners from Territories which the Committee had not yet considered would be heard.

The CHAIRMAN observed that there had been a proposal that a group should be set up to study the questions of the length of the Committee's stay in Africa and the programme of work. The date of 22 May for the Committee's departure seemed to have the most support. He proposed that the group should consist of the representatives of Tanganyika, Mali, Ethiopia, the United States, the USSR and Australia and also the Chairman, the Rapporteur and the Under-Secretary. The group would submit proposals to the Committee so that a decision could be taken the following day.

It was so decided.

DISPATCH OF QUESTIONNAIRE TO ADMINISTERING POWERS

The CHAIRMAN recalled that he had informed the Committee at its thirty-first meeting that the questionnaire approved at the twenty-seventh meeting

(The Chairman)

had already been sent to the Governments of the United Kingdom and Portugal. The dates indicated for the submission of replies by the United Kingdom were 12 April 1962 for Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, 22 April 1962 for Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, 15 May for Kenya and Zanzibar and 15 June for the other Territories under United Kingdom administration. In the case of the Portuguese-administered Territories, the dates were 4 May 1962 for Mozambique and the other African Territories - except Angola, for which the date was 15 May - and 15 June for all the other Territories under Portuguese administration.

No replies to the questionnaire had yet been received from the two Governments. However, the United Kingdom had already submitted information on Northern Rhodesia (A/5078/Add.7), Nyasaland (Add.8), Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland (Add.16), Kenya (Add.19) and Zanzibar (Add.10), as part of the information supplied by it in respect of Non-Self-Governing Territories. At the thirty-first meeting the Chairman had drawn the Committee's attention to the question of addressing the questionnaire to other Administering Powers. It had been decided that the matter would be considered further at subsequent meetings.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he had already proposed that the questionnaire should be sent to all the Administering Powers. So far, however, only two had received it. The questionnaire had not been sent to Australia, the United States or France, for example. Furthermore, not a single reply had yet been received, even from those Powers which had approved in principle the sending of the questionnaire.

The information communicated by the United Kingdom not only was not a direct reply to the questionnaire, but was itself very inadequate.

The USSR delegation wished to know when the United Kingdom Government expected to reply to the questionnaire which it had received. It wished also to raise the general question of when the questionnaire should be sent to the other Administering Powers and by which dates they should be requested to reply. Such information should be presented in respect of all Non-Self-Governing Territories, since it was the Committee's task to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in all Territories - not only those of Africa. The Committee was acquiring the reputation of being an organ that kept procrastinating. Some decision should be taken on the matter.

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Mr. CROWE (United Kingdom) recalled that his Government had already supplied the United Nations with a considerable amount of information in thirty-five documents on more than forty Territories. At the twenty-seventh meeting the United Kingdom delegation had reserved the position of its Government regarding the questionnaire itself, which it had forwarded to its Government. As soon as it had received instructions it would inform the Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. FLINNS9LL (Australia) felt that it would be better for the Committee to send the questionnaire to the Powers concerned as and when it was decided to consider the Territories for which they were responsible. That would make it possible to obtain up-to-date information. It would also make it possible to postpone for as long as possible the political discussions which were bound to arise over the question as to whether any particular Territory was or was not a Non-Self-Governing Territory. The question was not an urgent one, since the Committee already had enough Territories to study to keep it busy for some time ahead.

The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee was confronted with two separate issues. First, there was the question of obtaining replies to the questionnaires which had already been sent out. In that connexion, a letter of reminder in the usual form might be sent to the Powers concerned.

Secondly, there was the question of deciding whether the questionnaire should be sent only to the Powers administering Territories in Africa - in which case, apart from the United Kingdom and Portugal, it would have to be sent to Spain, France and doubtless South Africa - or whether it should be sent to all Administering Powers. That was a matter for the Committee to decide, since no decision on the matter had yet been taken.

He recalled that there were two proposals before the Committee, one from the USSR that the questionnaire should be sent to all Administering Powers, and one from Australia that it should be sent only to those Powers responsible for Territories which the Committee had decided to study.

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Mr. GERRE-EGZY (Ethiopia) considered that the question mentioned by the representative of Australia regarding what was to be understood by "Non-Self-Governing Territories" was a very real one, particularly in respect to certain Territories in the Pacific. He therefore proposed that the Committee should content itself for the present with sending a letter of reminder to the Powers which had already received the questionnaire and should not send it to other Powers until it had exhausted the list of Territories currently under consideration and had prepared a new work programme. He hoped that the USSR delegation would not insist on the questionnaire being sent immediately to all the other Administering Powers, on the understanding that it would be sent to them in due course. In that way the Committee would avoid raising prematurely difficulties of a theoretical nature.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he did not expect too much from the Administering Powers' replies to the questionnaire. It was strange, however, that the colonialist Powers, after criticizing the Secretariat as they had done, for having prepared working papers on certain territories, and after insisting on the establishment of a Sub-Committee on the Questionnaire, should now refrain from replying to the questionnaire drafted by that Sub-Committee and approved unanimously by the Special Committee. It was essential that the Secretariat should prepare working papers on Nyasaland, Bechuanaland, Basutoland, Swaziland and the other Territories being studied in order to supplement the very inadequate information supplied by the Administering Power.

The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat had standing instructions to prepare such papers and would continue to do so until further notice. He asked the USSR representative if he insisted on his proposal that the questionnaire be sent to all Administering Powers immediately.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the limited results to be expected from the questionnaire took away much of the importance of the question. Furthermore, it was a matter of the organization of the Committee's work, which could be left in the hands of the Chairman. However, it should be emphasized that the Committee would examine all Non-Self-Governing Territories, not merely those in Africa. The representative of Ethiopia, who had proposed the current work programme, had envisaged taking up the Pacific Territories after the African territories.

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Mr. GEBRE-EGZY (Ethiopia) confirmed the USSR representative's interpretation. The Committee would doubtless be able to take up the Pacific Territories during the current year and would then be able to draw up a new programme of work.

The CHAIRMAN confirmed that the Committee's terms of reference covered all Non-Self-Governing Territories.

He noted that all members of the Committee had agreed that the Committee should send the questionnaire to the Administering Powers of the Territories concerned as and when it was decided to study those Territories. The date for the submission of replies would in each case be fixed by the Chairman in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee.

He proposed to send a letter of reminder to the Powers which had already received the questionnaire.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.