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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-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 9 May 1962, at 3.50 p.m.

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PRESENT:

Chairman:

later,

Members:

Mr. COULIBALY	(Mali)
Mr. JHA	(India)
Mr. PLIMSOLL	Australia
Mr. NONG KIMNY	Cambodia
Mr. GEBRE-EGZY	Ethiopia
Mr. RASGOTRA	India
Mr. IVELLA	Italy
Mr. SOW	Mali
Mr. SOLTYSIAK	Poland
Mr. RIFAI	Syria
Mr. NGAIZA	Tanganyika
Mr. Taieb SLIM	Tunisia
Mr. OBEREMKO	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. CROWE	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. BINGHAM	United States of America
Mr. VELAZQUEZ	Uruguay
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

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INVITATIONS EXTENDED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF MOROCCO AND ETHIOPIA (A/AC.109/7, 8/Rev.1 and 11) (continued) AND INVITATION EXTENDED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF TANGANYIKA DURING THE MEETING

The CHAIRMAN said that a statement on the financial implications of the invitations extended by the Governments of Morocco and Ethiopia had been circulated as document A/AC.109/8/Rev.1.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria), Rapporteur, announced that the Sub-Committee appointed to draw up a time-table and programme of work for the Committee's visit to Africa had agreed unanimously to make the following recommendations:

The Committee would meet at Tangier on 21 May, conclude its work there on 31 May and then go to Addis Ababa, where it would remain until 9 June.

The Committee would proceed with its established programme of work, but would devote most of its time to hearing petitioners from the African territories within its purview.

Those recommendations took into account both the desire of some members of the Committee to be back in New York in time for the resumed sixteenth session of the General Assembly and the fact that, if the Committee did not go to Africa in the near future, it would have difficulty in doing so later on. He hoped that the Committee would accept those recommendations.

Mr. NGAIZA (Tanganyika) extended to the Committee, on his Government's instructions, a formal invitation to hold some of its meetings at Dar es Salaam. Some of the territories which the Committee was to consider were in Tanganyika's vicinity.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider that invitation.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria) felt that the Committee should accept with gratitude the invitation from the Government of Tanganyika. However, since a decision was about to be taken on the Sub-Committee's recommendations, the Committee should first act on those recommendations and might then decide, at Tangier, how it should respond to the invitation from the Government of Tanganyika. That would obviate reconsideration of the agreement already reached.

Mr. GEBRE-EGZY (Ethiopia) welcomed the invitation extended by the Government of Tanganyika. In view of that country's geographical situation, a

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(Mr. Gebre-Egzy, Ethiopia)

visit there would be very helpful in the Committee's work. He therefore proposed that the Committee should extend its stay in Africa by six days so that it could meet at Tangier from 21 to 30 May, at Addis Ababa from 31 May to 8 June, and at Dar es Salaam from 8 to 15 June. The additional financial implications would probably not be excessive, and delegations would be back in New York in time to participate in most of the General Assembly's discussions.

He urged that a decision should be taken that day.

Mr. PLIMSOLL (Australia) thanked the Government of Tanganyika for its invitation, which presented definite advantages for the Committee's work.

In considering the Ethiopian representative's proposal it was necessary to bear in mind not only the financial implications, on which he maintained the reservations he had made earlier, but also the fact that the General Assembly would resume its session on 7 June to examine the situation in Ruanda-Urundi and possibly other questions concerning Africa. Uncertainty regarding the date of the Committee's return would probably prevent some members from going to Africa and compel them to send alternates less familiar with the subject-matter.

He thought it should still be possible to maintain the time-limit of 9 June if the Committee should decide to spend about six days in each of the three cities. The amount of work would probably remain the same, because some petitioners who would otherwise have gone, say, to Addis Ababa would go to Dar es Salaam.

Since a decision had to be taken quickly, it might be advisable to suspend the meeting for a few moments so that delegations could consult together.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that in the Sub-Committee, of which his delegation was a member, the majority had supported a proposal by the Syrian representative that the Committee should stay in Africa until 9 June, and possibly a few days longer if necessary.

His delegation welcomed the invitation extended to the Committee by the Government of Tanganyika. That country was close to many colonies whose situation was to be examined by the Committee, and a visit there would be not merely useful but essential. His delegation therefore supported the Sub-Committee's recommendations as well as the Ethiopian representative's proposal that the invitation from the Government of Tanganyika should be accepted and the Committee's stay in Africa extended by one week. A decision should be taken at the current meeting so that the practical details could be worked out.

Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America) thanked the Government of Tanganyika for its invitation. In his opinion, however, the Committee could take no decision until it knew what additional expense the journey to Dar es Salaam would involve. The reservations already expressed by his delegation regarding the journey to Africa were becoming more and more serious as the estimated costs mounted. It might be desirable for the Committee to consider visiting only two of the capitals rather than three.

Mr. SOW (Mali) said that his delegation was very grateful to the Government of Tanganyika for its invitation. However, as that invitation had just been received and the Secretariat would have to consider its financial implications, he would like time for consultation among the members of the Committee.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria) recalled the Australian suggestion that the meeting should be suspended for consultation among the members of the Committee. A decision could not be delayed. He moved the suspension of the meeting.

Mr. GEBRE-EGZY (Ethiopia) suggested that the Sub-Committee already appointed should be asked to prepare recommendations during the recess.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 4.50 p.m.

Mr. Jha (India) took the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN said that the consultations held during the recess had produced the following recommendations: firstly, that the duration of the Committee's visit to Africa should remain unchanged - in other words, that the Committee should remain in Africa from 21 May to 9 June; secondly, that the Committee should gratefully accept the invitation extended by the Government of Tanganyika; and thirdly, that the programme of meetings at Tangier, Addis Ababa and Dar es Salaam should be adjusted to the dates fixed for the Committee's stay in Africa: in other words, that the Committee should begin its meetings at Tangier on 21 May, those at Addis Ababa about 28 May, and those at Dar es Salaam about 4 June.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) supported those recommendations. His delegation warmly welcomed the invitation of the Government of Tanganyika. That country's history and geographical location made it most appropriate that the Committee should visit Dar es Salaam.

Mr. SILVA SUCRE (Venezuela) also thanked the Government of Tanganyika for its invitation and expressed his support for the recommendations which the Chairman had read to the Committee.

Mr. ILIC (Yugoslavia) welcomed the agreement reached by the Sub-Committee and thanked the Government of Tanganyika for its invitation. The Committee's visit to Dar es Salaam would certainly be extremely useful.

Mr. NONG KIMNY (Cambodia) associated himself with the thanks addressed to the Governments of Tanganyika, Ethiopia and Morocco. He was glad it had proved possible to fix a time-table under which delegations could return to New York in time to take part in the resumed session of the General Assembly.

Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America) said that, although his delegation was grateful to the Governments of Morocco, Ethiopia and Tanganyika for their invitations, it wished to place on record its strong reservations, on financial grounds, regarding the wisdom of the proposed journey. In his delegation's view, that journey did not constitute the best possible use of United Nations funds.

The CHAIRMAN took it that the recommendations which he had read out could be considered adopted.

It was so decided.

Mr. PROTITCH (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) said that the Secretariat would request the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in the estimates of expenditure set forth in document A/AC.109/8/Rev.1, subject to some slight modifications since the Committee was also to visit Dar es Salaam. The Secretariat would also make the necessary technical arrangements.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, since the Committee's stay in Africa would be very short, it was especially important that the Secretariat should arrange the widest possible publicity for the journey and indicate exactly how long the Committee would be at Tangier, Addis Ababa and Dar es Salaam, for the information of petitioners who might wish to appear before it. The Office of Public Information should take all necessary action, including arrangements for radio broadcasts on the subject. He proposed that the Acting Secretary-General should be informed of the Committee's wishes in that regard.

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The CHAIRMAN observed that, since the Committee was to hear petitioners, it would be well to announce the fact. It could be stated that the Committee would visit the countries which had invited it, would continue there its examination of the situation in various territories, and would hear petitioners from the African countries with which it was concerned.

The proposal was adopted.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) suggested that a communication should be addressed to the Government of Tanganyika conveying the Committee's grateful acceptance of its invitation.

The CHAIRMAN said that, as in the case of the first two invitations, he would write to the permanent representative of Tanganyika, who had transmitted the invitation.

The Secretariat would undertake to communicate to the permanent delegations of the countries the Committee was to visit, its programme of work in each of those countries.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN RHODESIA
(A/AC.109/L.9) (continued)

Mr. GEBRE-EGZY (Ethiopia) said that his delegation had been working on a draft resolution which it would submit the following day after consulting various representatives.

Mr. Taieb SLIM (Tunisia) reiterated his delegation's wish that the report of the Sub-Committee on Southern Rhodesia should be adopted as a report of the Committee.

With regard to the draft resolution which his delegation had submitted jointly with the delegation of Mali, he would consult the Malian representative to decide whether the proposal should be amended or withdrawn.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that, subject perhaps to reservations in some quarters, the members of the Committee seem to be in general agreement that the Sub-Committee's report should be adopted. He therefore suggested that a decision should be taken to that effect, and that other measures should be considered the following day or the day after.

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Mr. COULIBALY (Mali) confirmed that his delegation supported the adoption of the Sub-Committee's report. As to the draft resolution submitted by Mali and Tunisia, he agreed with the Tunisian representative that their two delegations needed time for consultation.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that unofficial consultations were being held among delegations regarding the submission of draft resolutions. He understood that some of those proposals provided for the approval of the report of the Sub-Committee on Southern Rhodesia. It seemed to him, therefore, that delegations should be given time to put their draft resolutions into final form. Adoption of the report of the Sub-Committee on Southern Rhodesia would present no difficulty.

Mr. GEBRE-EGZY (Ethiopia) said that he would submit a draft resolution on behalf of his delegation; if other delegations later wished to co-sponsor the proposal, they would be most welcome. His intention was that the draft resolution should be annexed to the Sub-Committee's report, which his delegation heartily approved.

Mr. SOLTYSIAK (Poland) proposed that further consideration of the question of Southern Rhodesia should be postponed to the following day.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.