

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



0303487  
Distr.  
GENERAL

S/8600  
27 May 1968

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 27 MAY 1968 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR  
SOUTH WEST AFRICA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On behalf of the United Nations Council for South West Africa, I have the honour to refer to paragraph 49 of the report of the Council to the General Assembly dated 4 May 1968 (A/7088) in which it drew the attention of the General Assembly to the introduction by the South African Government of a bill in Parliament entitled "The development of self-government for native nations of South West Africa".

In the light of further developments in this matter, the United Nations Council for South West Africa at its 22nd meeting on 22 May 1968 adopted a declaration on this question.

In accordance with the provisions of section V of General Assembly resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967, I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of this declaration and request that it be distributed as a document of the General Assembly at its current session.<sup>1/</sup>

(Signed) Anton VRATUSA  
President  
United Nations Council  
for South West Africa

<sup>1/</sup> Also issued under the symbol A/7101.

DECLARATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL  
FOR SOUTH WEST AFRICA

1. The United Nations Council for South West Africa has remained seriously concerned about the actions of the South African Government in defiance of the direct responsibility of the United Nations for the Territory of South West Africa, such as those specifically designed to bring about the dismemberment of the Territory.
2. In a telegram (S/8548) dispatched from Lusaka on 13 April 1968, the President of the United Nations Council for South West Africa drew the attention of the President of the Security Council to the introduction in the South African Parliament of a bill entitled "The development of self-government for native nations in South West Africa bill" and pointed out that by this bill the Government of South Africa seeks to implement its policy of establishing so-called separate homelands in South West Africa. The Council has kept the General Assembly informed of this development in its report (A/7088).
3. This action is being taken by the South African Government in implementation of the recommendations of the Odendaal Commission. The purpose of South Africa in implementing these plans is to divide the Territory into small entities with a view to their annexation and to ensure its continued control over the Territory. The South African Government has already undertaken certain steps in anticipation of the enactment of the bill. To this end, it has taken steps to remove large sections of the indigenous inhabitants of South West Africa from their original locations despite their resolute opposition and resistance to these moves. In the event of the adoption of this bill it is envisaged that 59,000 Damaras and 24,000 Hereros would be uprooted from their present areas of residence to be relocated elsewhere in the Territory.
4. On 16 May 1968, the bill was approved in third reading by the House of Assembly and it is now before the Senate of the South African Parliament. The Government of South Africa is taking precipitate measures to secure its enactment in the past few days.
5. The United Nations Council for South West Africa, under its terms of reference as set out in General Assembly resolution 2248 (S-V), must draw the attention of

the General Assembly and the Security Council to the fact that this action is in blatant violation of paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 2145 (XXI) of 27 October 1966 by which the Government of South Africa was called upon to refrain and desist from any action, constitutional, administrative, political or otherwise, which would in any manner whatsoever alter or tend to alter the international status of South West Africa.

6. The Council would further wish to point out that this action has been taken in defiance of the authority of the United Nations. It may in this connexion be recalled that the General Assembly by its resolution 2145 (XXI) revoked the mandate of South Africa over South West Africa, placed the Territory under direct United Nations responsibility and denied South Africa any further right to administer the Territory.

7. The Council wishes to place on record its grave concern at this illegal action calculated to destroy the unity of the people and the territorial integrity of the Territory of South West Africa. The Council is convinced that this illegal action would seriously aggravate the threat to international peace and security in the area. The Council accordingly considers that concerted international action by the United Nations and the international community as a whole should be taken urgently to prevent the Government of South Africa from proceeding with its plan to dismember the Territory of South West Africa and to ensure the withdrawal of South Africa from the Territory which is under the direct responsibility of the United Nations. The Council is of the view that, to this end, all Member States should refrain forthwith from actions which would in any way consolidate South Africa's illegal control over the Territory of South West Africa.

27 May 1968

-----