

United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SEVENTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



**FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1412th
MEETING**

Thursday, 6 December 1962,
at 11 a.m.

NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Guillermo FLORES AVENDAÑO
(Guatemala).

AGENDA ITEMS 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 AND 55

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations: reports of the Secretary-General and of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/5078 and Add.1-19, A/5079 and Add.1-6, A/5080 and Add.1-19, A/5081 and Add.1-5, A/5120, A/5215) (continued):

- (a) Political and constitutional information on Non-Self-Governing Territories;
- (b) Information on educational, economic and social advancement;
- (c) General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information

Dissemination of information on the United Nations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5244 and Add.1) (continued)

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5242 and Add.1) (continued)

Preparation and training of indigenous civil and technical cadres in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5122, A/5125, A/5215, A/5235) (continued)

Racial discrimination in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5215, A/5249 and Add.1) (continued)

Election to fill vacancies in the membership of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (continued)

HEARING OF PETITIONERS (continued)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. J. M. Koli-sang and Mr. K. S. Chakela, representatives of the Basutoland Congress Party, took places at the Committee table.

1. Mr. Nathaniel EASTMAN (Liberia) said that according to the summary of information relating to African and adjacent Territories (A/5078) Basutoland's adverse balance of trade was offset by remittances from the Basutos working in the mines and industries and on the farms in South Africa. Further reports had been received that thousands of Basutos had been uprooted and sent to the mines in South Africa and that their labour was one of the principal sources of the Territory's revenue.

2. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) replied that it was true that there was an adverse balance of trade each year, partly, in his view, because the country had no industry. It was not true, however, that the main source of the Territory's revenue was the export of labour to South Africa; more revenue was obtained from the export of wool and mohair and of produce. His party maintained that the wool and mohair industries were not sufficiently developed; the world's best mohair came from Basutoland and if those two industries were developed the Territory would be less dependent on South Africa.

3. The statement that people were being uprooted and sent to South Africa was true in the sense that people went to the Republic not because they wished to but because they had no alternative. Under United Kingdom administration not enough had been done to enable the people to earn a living in their own country.

4. Mr. Nathaniel EASTMAN (Liberia) asked whether there had been any improvement in the land situation and whether the United Kingdom Government had done anything to return to the traditional system of land tenure.

5. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) said that the people did not wish the system of land tenure to be changed. The land had not been returned to the people. The Basutos had tried many times to negotiate with the administering Power for the return of the land that had been entrusted to it for protection, but had met with no response.

6. Mr. Nathaniel EASTMAN (Liberia) asked whether a farmer could mortgage his land.

7. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) replied that it was impossible to mortgage land in Basutoland.

8. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) asked whether any of the political parties in the Territory, apart from the Basutoland Congress Party, were indigenous parties or whether they belonged to the white settlers.

9. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) said that it was difficult to give an exact reply to that question. The executive bodies of the parties he had listed in his statement at the previous meeting consisted of indigenous inhabitants, but there were reports that the Basutoland National Party had been formed as the result of pressure from white civil servants in the Territory.

10. In reply to a further question by Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana), Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) said that there was no purely white political party in Basutoland.

11. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) said that if the figures given by the petitioner were correct, the Congress Party held a majority of seats in the Legislative Council. He asked whether, if that were so, the party was represented in the Executive Council and in what proportion.

12. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) thought some misunderstanding had arisen. The Basutoland Congress Party did not form a majority in the Legislative Council. As the leader of his party had informed the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, established under General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI), the Legislative Council was a diarchy, in which rule was shared between the High Commissioner and the people. There were forty elected members and forty nominated members, and the Basutoland Congress Party formed a majority of the elected members. The party was not represented in the Executive Council. The Council consisted of eight members, four of whom were British officials and four Basutos. One of the latter was a nominee of the Paramount Chief and could not be regarded as a representative of the people. Another had been elected to the Executive Council by the Legislative Council, to which he had been nominated by the Paramount Chief. Thus only two members of the Executive Council could be said to represent popular opinion.

13. Of the forty non-elected members of the Legislative Council, twenty-two were chiefs and ex-officio members, fourteen were nominated by the Paramount Chief and four were British officials. Hence the Legislative Council did not reflect the popular will.

14. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) asked whether the Basutoland Congress Party had ever been offered a seat in the Executive Council.

15. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) replied in the negative. Even if such an offer were made, his party could not agree to serve on such a basis. It would only agree if the majority of the elected members of the Legislative Council were to be asked to form an Executive Council.

16. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) asked whether there was co-operation between the Basutoland Congress Party and the nominated members or the other political parties represented in the Legislative Council.

17. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) said that his party was always ready to co-operate with the other parties or with the nominated members with regard to issues it considered important. For example, in 1960, when the treasurer of the party had introduced a motion in the Legislative Council for the abolition of discrimination, his party had negotiated with the other political parties and the nominated members and the motion had been adopted by 59 votes to about 20 votes. On the other hand, owing to the influence of the administering Power the chiefs and the members of the other parties often opposed the Basutoland Congress Party.

18. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) recalled that the petitioner had said that in 1960 his party had tried to introduce a motion in the Legislative Council for the establishment of responsible government but that another motion put forward by the Executive Council had been adopted instead. He asked whether any further attempt had been made to introduce a similar motion in the Legislative Council.

19. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) replied in the negative; under Standing Orders such a motion could not be reintroduced.

20. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) observed that in his statement the petitioner had said that the Chairman of the Constitutional Commission was a resident of the Republic of South Africa. He asked whether the person in question was a citizen of Basutoland.

21. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) replied that the Chairman of the Commission, who was also the President of the Legislative Council, was Colonel Walter Stanford, a citizen of the Republic of South Africa and a member of the Progressive Party. He had been a member of the South African Parliament until the Government of the Republic had decided to abolish what they called Native representatives in the Parliament. Colonel Stanford had resigned from the Liberal Party and joined the Progressive Party because he did not agree with the Liberal Party's programme with regard to the franchise.

22. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) said that it seemed strange that a South African citizen could be Chairman of the Constitutional Commission and President of the Legislative Council of Basutoland.

23. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) explained that according to the Order in Council the President of the Legislative Council was to be the Resident Commissioner or a person appointed by him. The Order in Council had further provided that after two sessions the Legislative Council could appoint its own President. When, however, the Resident Commissioner had found that his work in the Legislative Council was bringing him into conflict with people both in the Council and outside it, he had decided to withdraw from that office and he had then been replaced by Colonel Stanford.

24. With regard to the question of a South African being a member of the Legislative Council, he pointed out that when South Africa had been declared a Republic a standstill agreement had been concluded between the South African Government and the United Kingdom Government. As a consequence of that agreement, at the end of May 1962 certain arrangements had been entered into by the South African Government and the United Kingdom Government, one of which was that people from the Republic of South Africa could remain in Basutoland up to 1965 and retain South African nationality but that if they wished to remain in Basutoland after that time they would have to acquire British citizenship. That was why there were still a number of South Africans in the Basutoland civil service. That state of affairs greatly alarmed his party.

25. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) asked whether Colonel Stanford had been appointed President of the Legislative Council when still in the Republic of South Africa or whether he had been resident in Basutoland at the time.

26. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) explained that Colonel Stanford was not a resident of Basutoland. When appointed he had been living in the Republic of South Africa and he had been invited to come to the Territory to take office.

27. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) observed that in accordance with the usual Commonwealth practice, if the Order in Council establishing the Legislative Council and the Constitutional Commission allowed for the delegation of the duties of the Resident Commissioner, they should go to one of the senior civil servants in the Territory. He hoped that the United Kingdom delegation would provide the Committee with some information on how Colonel Stanford had come to be appointed and whether a more suitable person could not have been found in Basutoland. In view of the well-known practice of apartheid in South Africa, to appoint someone from that country who, as the petitioner had stated, had resigned from his party because it was calling for universal adult suffrage would be tantamount to encouraging similar practices in Basutoland.

28. He asked the petitioner who were the British members of the Executive Council and what portfolios they had.

29. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) said that the Resident Commissioner acted as Chairman and the other British members were the Government Secretary, who in virtue of his office was the secretary of the Resident Commissioner, the Finance Secretary and the Legal Secretary or Assistant Attorney-General.

30. Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia) asked the petitioner whether there were any grounds for thinking that the United Kingdom would favour the annexation of Basutoland by South Africa.

31. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) recalled that in his statement at the previous meeting he had drawn attention to a passage in a 1961 report on the structure of the public services in Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland to the effect that staff would have to be recruited from South Africa for some time to come. That passage reflected the administering Power's policy of bringing white civil servants from the Republic of South Africa into

Basutoland. South African civil servants wielded a great deal of influence in the Administration. For instance, the present Director of the Department of Agriculture, the Director of the Department of Public Works and the Legal Secretary were all South Africans. The employment of large numbers of South Africans in senior posts was the result of the United Kingdom's deliberate policy of preparing the way for the gradual incorporation of Basutoland into South Africa in a manner which would pass unnoticed by the people.

32. Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia) asked the petitioner whether the United Kingdom was taking any steps to train Basuto cadres to replace expatriate civil servants.

33. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) said that a Training Committee had been established at the beginning of 1962 and was now training Africans for junior posts in the civil service; none were trained for higher posts. In point of fact there already were Basutos who had knowledge of administration and other related subjects and who could take over senior posts immediately without the need for further training.

34. Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia) asked the petitioner whether the African chiefs in Basutoland had been divested of their power, as had happened in Swaziland, and whether the Basutoland Congress Party had any sympathizers among the chiefs.

35. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) replied that, as his party's leader had told the Special Committee established under General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI), the administering Power had reduced the powers of the Basuto chiefs in 1938, when a proclamation had been issued turning the chiefs into civil servants. The powers of the chiefs had been reduced in other ways as well. For example, a myth had been invented that some chiefs had been implicated in ritual murders. In 1949 two important chiefs had been convicted of complicity in such murders, on purely circumstantial evidence, and executed. At that time a report had appeared in the South African newspaper The Friend indicating that the removal of the two chiefs in question would allow the Administration to proceed with the changes it had desired. From that article the Basuto people had gained the impression that the two chiefs had been executed for political reasons.

36. The chiefs in Basutoland could be divided into two groups: most of them were reactionary, but there were a small number of progressive chiefs, some of whom were members of the Basutoland Congress Party. In fact, the deputy leader of the party was a chief.

37. Mr. BRYKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the petitioner whether in the two years which had elapsed since the adoption of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)) there had been any changes in Basutoland which could be interpreted as improving Basutoland's prospects of attaining independence or whether, on the contrary, the threat of the incorporation of Basutoland into South Africa, in one form or another, had grown.

38. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) replied that there had been no improvement in the situation. Basutoland was still threatened with incorpora-

tion in South Africa. In his statement at the previous meeting, he had given a detailed picture of the economic situation to show that the administering Powers had seriously undermined Basutoland's economic basis for independence. The intrigues which had occurred over the question of diamonds and the fact that for three years the Government had failed to supervise the activities of Colonel J. Scott, who had been prospecting for diamonds and who, on his own admission, had been able to collect one million carats a month, clearly indicated that the administering Power was not seriously concerned with the welfare and interests of the people. That was one reason why he was appearing before the Committee. His party would like the Executive Council to take into account the people's views concerning the all-important diamond industry.

39. The intimidation to which the members of the Basutoland Congress Party had been subjected before the Constitutional Commission showed the seriousness of the situation. The activities of the chiefs who were collecting lists of school children to support their claims to a large following handicapped Basutoland's progress to independence. Basutoland was now labouring under difficulties similar to those which he had outlined in the historical part of his statement. The people of Basutoland had suffered tremendously under United Kingdom administration. It was only the tolerance and patience of the Basutoland Congress Party leaders that had prevented outbreaks of violence but even so there had been a spontaneous outbreak in 1961. Basutoland's evolution towards independence was being undermined in subtle ways.

40. Mr. BRYKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the petitioner whether there had been any military penetration of Basutoland by South Africa, similar to the penetration in the economic and civil service fields to which reference had been made. In particular he asked him whether the United Kingdom had entered into any agreements with South Africa to allow South African police or military units to enter Basutoland.

41. Mr. KOLISANG (Basutoland Congress Party) said that during the riots a number of people had reported having seen a lorry full of soldiers who had come from South Africa and who were hidden in the vicinity of the police training centre. According to those reports, the soldiers had been sent to suppress the revolution which had been said to be taking place. Upon inquiry, his party had been told that no soldiers had come from South Africa.

42. As he had indicated in his statement, the Basutos had always demanded the establishment of a Basuto army to protect the Territory from invasion. In June 1962 the Legislative Council had unanimously approved a motion calling for the creation of a Basuto army. The Government Secretary, who was the Leader of the House, had said that he would report the matter to the United Kingdom Government but had observed that he doubted whether the latter would take any action. The Basutoland Congress Party found cause for alarm in that statement. Again, The Round Table, a publication appearing in the United Kingdom, had indicated that for a long time the United Kingdom Government had based its plans for the maintenance of internal security in Basutoland on the assumption that it would use the South African defence forces should that prove necessary. Since the only threat to Basutoland came from South Africa, it was illogical

of the protecting Power to want to use the South African defence forces for the protection of Basutoland. He hoped that the Committee would be able to obtain a thorough explanation of the situation from the United Kingdom.

43. Mr. BRYKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed admiration for the knowledge, courage and nobility with which the petitioners had defended the cause of their people. Their statements and replies showed that the Basuto people did not stand in need of any training for independence, but that the United Kingdom needed to be trained to grant independence.

44. He proposed that the comprehensive statements made by the petitioners at the previous meeting should be circulated.

45. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, if there was no objection, the statements should be circulated in the usual manner.

It was so decided.

Mr. Kolisang and Mr. Chakela, representatives of the Basutoland Congress Party, withdrew.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Atanasio Ndong, Mr. Bonifacio Ondo, Mr. Jesús Oyono and Mr. Raymond Stanguino, representatives of the Mouvement national de libération de la Guinée équatoriale, took places at the Committee table.

46. Mr. NDONG (Mouvement national de libération de la Guinée équatoriale) explained that he would make his statement in French, not because he could not speak Spanish but because he wished to show the Committee that culture was not the prerogative of any particular nation.

47. After giving a brief account of the geographical situation, area and size of population of Equatorial Guinea and the islands under Spanish domination, he said that the Spanish and the Portuguese had first reached the area in the latter half of the fifteenth century. The Portuguese had finally ceded all their claims to Spain by the Treaty of Pardo, concluded in 1778. Spain had since claimed that that Treaty had given it sovereignty over the coast of Africa between Cape Formoso and Cape López. In 1842 Spain had sent an expedition which had taken formal possession of Fernando Pó and the other islands and had landed near the mouth of the Río Muni. The commander of the expedition, following talks with the local chiefs of the Benga and Fang groups, had concluded an agreement with them whereby Spain had been granted trading rights in the area bounded by the Río Benito and Cape Santa Clara. The chiefs who had signed that agreement had not ceded any territory or abandoned any national sovereignty to Spain. It followed that in claiming that the treaty in question enabled it to occupy the country Spain was guilty of fraud.

48. The next Spanish expedition, which had been dispatched in 1845, had been accompanied by the Consul Guillemard de Aragón, who had been entrusted with the task of informing the French authorities in Gabon of the limits of Spanish sovereignty on the continent. The Consul had ratified the act whereby all the Benga people and the inhabitants of Corisco and of the two Elobey Islands had been declared to owe allegiance to Spain, but the French authorities had refused to recognize Spain's unilateral decision.

49. It had not been until 27 June 1900 that the people of Equatorial Guinea had experienced their greatest misfortune in the signing of a treaty between France and Spain, under the terms of which France had recognized Spanish sovereignty over the territory in exchange for a portion of the Spanish Sahara. The parties which had negotiated that agreement had overlooked the fact that the territories they had exchanged had been inhabited by human beings whose will had not been expressed. Had Equatorial Guinea been colonized by a more liberal Power, it would have become independent by now.

50. Despite the long period of Spanish domination, the people of Equatorial Guinea had preserved their traditions, their language, and their marriage, ownership, succession and other customs.

51. Spanish occupation had been less onerous under the monarchy and in the days of the Republic than during the past twenty-six years of General Franco's dictatorship. On 30 July 1959, in an attempt to mislead world public opinion, General Franco had enacted legislation theoretically transforming the colony of Guinea into a Spanish province. Under the provisions of that Act, the ordinary legislation applicable in metropolitan Spain had been extended to Equatorial Guinea, which had received the right of representation in the Cortes and other bodies on the same footing as other Spanish provinces. Various services had been established on the pattern of those existing in metropolitan Spain. The Act had also determined the powers and duties of the Governor-General, the Provincial Governor and the municipal councils.

52. The so-called reform had not, however, misled either world public opinion or the people of Guinea. The powers of the Governor-General, who was appointed in Madrid and was not subject to supervision by a democratically elected local assembly, had remained absolute. The same dictatorial system was applied at the municipal level. Elections were rigged and any liberal Guineans appointed to junior municipal posts were compelled to submit to the Administration or flee abroad.

53. In the economic field Guineans had no hope of being able to open or manage even a small commercial enterprise. Trade was in the hands of big companies and Spanish businessmen, who controlled prices. The wages paid to workers were extremely low. Spanish officials were paid much higher salaries than Guinean officials of the same grade. The trade-union rights of workers were ignored and they were deprived of the right of assembly or of making their grievances known. There was no social security system; workers received no free medical care and no pay when they were sick. Since the Guineans had begun to express a desire for independence, Spanish employers had shown even less concern for their sick workers than before.

54. In the educational field, Spain did not grant scholarships to Guinean students for higher education; such students could obtain places in Spanish universities but their families had to pay for their tuition and travel to Spain. Fortunately, many free countries in various parts of the world had provided study facilities for students from Guinea.

55. A reform separating the judiciary from the executive had been announced but had not been put into effect. The Administration could arrest and

imprison without trial any person who was considered suspect or who expressed a desire for independence. Those who were imprisoned endured appalling conditions and had little chance of finding employment after their release. It should be added that the clergy exercised considerable control over the Administration.

56. The indigenous people were divided into three categories: those who were emancipated and enjoyed full rights, those who enjoyed limited emancipation, and the mass of the people, who were in effect slaves. The emancipated Guineans were given identity cards enabling them to move freely from one district to another, whereas the ordinary peasant or worker could not move about without a pass. That was strange treatment for inhabitants who, according to General Franco, were regarded as Spanish citizens.

57. The inhabitants of Equatorial Guinea had repeatedly appealed to the Madrid Government to relax the severity of the régime. In 1951 a group of tribal chiefs had protested to the Spanish Head of State regarding certain measures. One of those chiefs, escaping the death penalty thanks to his great age, had been placed under house arrest; a second had fled to Gabon to avoid hanging, while a third had been drowned during a similar attempt to flee. Seven Guineans had been executed for taking part in a traditional dance. Several students at the school of Fernando Póo had been imprisoned for presenting a petition in defence of basic human rights. A Guinean leader had been murdered by the Spanish police upon refusing to sign an agreement which he had considered to be against the interests of the people, and more than twenty-four Guineans who had protested against that crime had been deported to Fernando Póo. Many other Guineans had been beaten and tortured by the fascist police, all of whom were Spaniards. Franco's Government had strengthened its defence forces in the Territory, thus admitting the opposition of the people to the régime, and the Territorial guard, which was composed of Guinean soldiers, had been disarmed.

58. An additional weapon used by Spain against the population was alcohol. Whereas neighbouring African countries taxed alcoholic drinks in order to protect the population from alcoholism, the Spaniards sold liquor to the Guineans at excessively low prices, although basic foodstuffs were highly priced. The results was a decrease in the birth-rate, an increased death-rate and a high incidence of tuberculosis.

59. He placed his hopes for the liberation of his country in the United Nations. As long ago as June 1960, the Executive Committee of the Mouvement national de libération de la Guinée équatoriale had sent a petition to the United Nations Secretary-General requesting negotiations with a view to that country's independence. The Director of the Division of Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories had acknowledged receipt of that letter in September 1961. Numerous letters had been addressed by his movement to the Spanish authorities, all to no avail. He therefore asked that a United Nations committee should visit the Territory to examine conditions there in the light of the Charter; it should also interview Guinean refugees in the independent African countries. On the basis of such an investigation, the United Nations could invite Spain to comply with its obligations under the United Nations Charter.

60. Mr. Nathaniel EASTMAN (Liberia) proposed that the text of the petitioner's statement should be circulated in the usual manner.

It was so decided.

61. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) recalled that at the 1177th plenary meeting of the General Assembly the Spanish representative had affirmed that Spain was in favour of genuine self-determination and would not oppose a change in the status of its so-called overseas provinces if at some future date a majority of the inhabitants desired such a change.

62. He asked for information regarding the strength of the organization which the petitioner represented.

63. Mr. NDONG (Mouvement national de libération de la Guinée équatoriale) said that his movement had nation-wide support and represented the aspirations of the Guineans for complete independence.

64. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) said that it was clear to him that the people of the Territories under Spanish rule wanted self-determination. As Spain had declared that it was in favour of genuine self-determination, it seemed that the United Nations should try to convince it that the people wanted self-determination. He wondered how the petitioner would suggest that that might be done.

65. Mr. NDONG (Mouvement national de libération de la Guinée équatoriale) read out a letter which his movement had addressed earlier in the year to the Governor-General of Rio Muni and Fernando Póo, stressing the demands of the people for immediate independence. The United Nations could help by calling for talks between Spain and the representatives of Equatorial Guinea to negotiate the future relationship between the two countries.

66. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) said that the statement of the Spanish delegation to which he had referred seemed to imply that Spain would grant independence if the people expressed the desire for it in a plebiscite. He wondered whether the petitioner's organization would agree to general elections or a plebiscite to decide the wishes of the people.

67. Mr. NDONG (Mouvement national de libération de la Guinée équatoriale) said that his movement would be confident of success in a free, democratic election, provided that the United Nations supervised the conduct of the election and the preparations for it.

68. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) said that, in the statement to which he had referred, the Spanish representative had said that Spain's attitude was based on the fact that the Spanish Territories could not survive

by themselves and might fall a prey to communism. He would like to hear the petitioner's comments on that point.

69. Mr. NDONG (Mouvement national de libération de la Guinée équatoriale) said that Spain's claim that the Guineans were not ready to govern themselves was a reflection on its administration of the Territory. In fact, the Guineans had the necessary cadres to manage their own affairs.

70. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana) said that, in his view, the aim of the Spanish and Portuguese in speaking of the danger of communism was to confuse the issue and to enlist the support of the Western Powers for their policies.

71. Mr. Nathaniel EASTMAN (Liberia) asked what Spain's response had been to the request of the Guinean people for self-determination.

72. Mr. NDONG (Mouvement national de libération de la Guinée équatoriale) said that Spain had replied by oppression. The Government had spies all over the country and anyone who expressed political opinions or spoke of independence was persecuted.

73. Mr. Nathaniel EASTMAN (Liberia) asked whether the petitioner considered that Equatorial Guinea would be viable as a separate State, or whether it would consider association with another State.

74. Mr. NDONG (Mouvement national de libération de la Guinée équatoriale) said that Africans everywhere were in favour of African unity. At the same time, he was confident that the Africans would always respect the individuality even of the smallest African State. Equatorial Guinea might be small but it was relatively rich in resources, particularly in minerals.

75. Mr. Nathaniel EASTMAN (Liberia) noted that Spain did not allow political activities in the Territory.

76. He asked whether the petitioner could give some information regarding the organization which he represented.

77. Mr. NDONG (Mouvement national de libération de la Guinée équatoriale) explained that he had sought asylum in Gabon in 1951 and, together with other Guineans whom he had met there, had formed a group known as the Mutualidad Guinense. After Gabon's accession to independence, he had founded the Mouvement national de libération de la Guinée équatoriale, with the official consent of the Gabon Government. The movement had no central office yet but it was considering the establishment of one.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.