



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/4515
28 September 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifteenth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE
AGENDA OF THE FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION: ITEM PROPOSED
BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AFRICA: A UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME FOR INDEPENDENCE
AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 28 September 1960 from the Permanent Representative
of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Government of the United States, I have the honour to request inclusion of the following additional item of an important and urgent character, under rule 15 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure, in the agenda of the fifteenth session:

"Africa: a United Nations Programme for Independence and Development."

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum is attached to this letter.

(Signed) James J. WADSWORTH
Permanent Representative of the United
States of America to the United Nations

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. In his statement before the General Assembly on 22 September 1960, the President of the United States proposed a five-point programme for assistance to the new countries of Africa. United Nations action is required, the President stated, "because the drive of self-determination and of rising human aspirations is creating a new world of independent nations of Africa, even as it is producing a new world both of ferment and of promise in all developing areas. An awakening humanity in these regions demands as never before that we make a renewed attack on poverty, illiteracy and disease."
2. The challenges of peace and orderly progress in freedom can best be met by the combined efforts of the world community operating through the United Nations. The United States has already made substantial direct contributions to the development of new countries and will continue to do so, but the efforts of any one country or group of countries are insufficient to raise all the funds, provide all the skills and assure the complete impartiality of action required by the new nations. It is imperative that the international community protect the newly emerging countries of Africa from outside pressures that threaten their independence and sovereign rights and that retard their development in all fields.
3. The new African States which have become Members of the United Nations at this session as well as the others who will be admitted later this year and in 1961 have the right to choose their own way of life and to determine for themselves the course they wish to follow. The United States believes that all Member States should pledge themselves to refrain from intervening in the internal affairs of these nations, to refrain from generating disputes between them and to desist from all actions designed to intensify or exploit present unsettled conditions in the Congo.
4. The United Nations should make it clear that it is prepared to assure the security of the new African States and to help them avoid wasteful competition in armaments through appropriate machinery, thus helping them to free their resources for more constructive purposes. As a token of willingness to co-operate

in such a programme, the United States hopes that Member States will pledge substantial resources to the international programme of assistance to the Congo organized by the Secretary-General.

5. United Nations institutions and affiliated organizations should help African countries to shape their long-term development programmes, in order to assist in their war against poverty, illiteracy and disease. The United Nations Special Fund and Expanded Technical Assistance Programme should be increased so that in combination they can reach their annual \$100,000,000 goal in 1961. The Special Fund's functions should be expanded so that it can assist countries in planning economic development. Similarly, the United Nations Operational and Executive Personnel Programme for making available trained administrators to the new countries should be placed on a permanent basis. The World Bank and International Monetary Fund should be encouraged increasingly to provide counsel and timely assistance to the new States, as they qualify for aid.

6. Inasmuch as national independence is an essential step towards the ultimate goal of individual freedom, an expanded all-out United Nations effort to assist in educational advancement should be undertaken. As part of this effort, the family of United Nations organizations in the educational field should collaborate with the new African States to assist and establish such new or expanded programmes as they might desire.

7. The Government of the United States of America believes that these and similar proposals would, if implemented vigorously, go far towards placing the independence of the new African States on the soundest possible footing. In the words of the Charter, a United Nations programme for Africa would help "to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples ..." It would also be a manifestation of "international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all ..." In serving the cause of human progress in dignity and freedom in Africa, the United Nations would be serving the highest aspirations of mankind.

8. In order to achieve the foregoing objectives, the United States is accordingly submitting an item entitled "Africa: a United Nations Programme for Independence and Development".