

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/3084
12 December 1955

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Tenth session
Agenda item 20

TREATMENT OF PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN THE UNION
OF SOUTH AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of the Ad Hoc Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Charles T. O. KING (Liberia)

1. In a report (A/3001) submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 816 (IX) of 4 November 1954, the Secretary-General stated that the Permanent Representative of India, on 26 April and 2 May 1955, had forwarded for his information copies of a number of telegrams exchanged between the Government of India and the Government of the Union of South Africa, from which it appeared that the attempts undertaken by the Governments concerned, namely, those of India, Pakistan and the Union of South Africa, to initiate new direct negotiations had broken down. On 28 June, the Secretary-General informed the Permanent Representatives of the three countries that he had consequently, in conformity with paragraph 4 of the resolution, designated Ambassador Luis de Faro, Jr., of Brazil, to attempt to facilitate contacts between the parties and assist them in settling the dispute. Ambassador de Faro had approached the parties concerned through informal conversations with their Permanent Representatives. However, while the Governments of India and Pakistan had offered to extend full co-operation to Ambassador de Faro, the Government of the Union of South Africa, in a letter dated 6 July, had stated that it regretfully had to decline to collaborate with the Ambassador because it felt that such co-operation might prejudice its juridical position. On 15 September, Ambassador de Faro had informed the Secretary-General that, in view of the attitude of the Government of the Union of South Africa, there was, in his view, nothing further that he could do to facilitate negotiations.

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2. At the request of the Permanent Delegation of the Union of South Africa, the Secretary-General, on 14 November 1955, circulated the text of the letter dated 6 July from the Union Government, together with copies of the telegrams exchanged between the parties (A/3001/Add.1).

3. At its 530th plenary meeting on 30 September 1955, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the question of the treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa, and referred it to the Ad Hoc Political Committee for consideration and report.

4. The Ad Hoc Political Committee considered the question at its 33rd and 34th meetings held on 8 and 9 December.

5. At the 34th meeting, a draft resolution (A/AC.80/L.10), sponsored by Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras and Yugoslavia, was introduced. It provided that the General Assembly should note that the negotiations envisaged in resolution 816 (IX) had not been pursued, urge the parties concerned to pursue negotiations with a view to bringing about a settlement of the question, and request them to report jointly or separately to the General Assembly at its next session.

6. At the suggestion of the representative of Denmark, the co-sponsors of the joint draft resolution agreed to modify the final paragraph to read: "Invites the parties to report as appropriate, jointly or separately, to the General Assembly at its next session". The representatives of India and Pakistan likewise stated that this suggestion was agreeable to them.

7. At the same meeting the draft resolution, as modified, was adopted by a roll-call vote of 43 to none with 8 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Colombia, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. The Ad Hoc Political Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

TREATMENT OF PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN THE
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/3001) submitted pursuant to its resolution 816 (IX) of 4 November 1954,

1. Notes that the negotiations envisaged in the above resolution have not been pursued;
2. Urges the parties concerned to pursue negotiations with a view to bringing about a settlement of the question of the treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa;
3. Invites the parties to report as appropriate, jointly or separately, to the General Assembly at its next regular session.
