

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/3644
16 August 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twelfth session

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ITEM PROPOSED BY AFGHANISTAN, BURMA, CEYLON, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON, LIBYA, MOROCCO, NEPAL, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, SAUDI ARABIA, SUDAN, SYRIA, TUNISIA AND YEMEN

THE QUESTION OF WEST IRIAN (WEST NEW GUINEA)

Letter dated 16 August 1957 from the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen, addressed to the Secretary-General

New York, 16 August 1957

On instructions from our respective Governments, we have the honour to request that the following item be included in the agenda of the twelfth regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations:

"The question of West Irian (West New Guinea)".

An explanatory memorandum is enclosed in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

(Signed)

Permanent Representatives of:

Afghanistan	A Hamid AZIZ
Burma	U THANT
Ceylon	A. BASNAYAKE
Egypt	Omar LOUTFI
Ethiopia	Tesfaye GEBRE-EGZY
India	Arthur S. LALL
Indonesia	Ali SASTROAMIDJOJO
Iran	Djalal ABDOH
Iraq	Hashim JAWAD
Jordan	Thabet KHALIDI
Lebanon	Edward RIZK
Libya	Suleiman JERBI
Morocco	Mohammed EL KOHEN
Nepal	Rishikesh SHAHA
Pakistan	G. AHMED
Philippines	Octavio L. MALOLES
Saudi Arabia	Omar A. KHADRA
Sudan	Yacoub OSMAN
Syria	Jawdat MUFTI
Tunisia	Mongi SLIM
Yemen	Ahmad ZABARAH

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The question of West Irian (West New Guinea), concerning the most eastern part of the Republic of Indonesia, called West Irian, has been placed on the agenda of the past three regular sessions of the General Assembly, and has been discussed by it with concern with a view to finding a peaceful solution of this dispute between Indonesia and the Netherlands.^{1/}

It may be appropriate to recall that the eleventh General Assembly inscribed the item, "The question of West Irian (West New Guinea)," on its agenda upon the request of sixteen Member States and, after due consideration, the Political Committee of the General Assembly adopted a resolution which, in its operative part, requested:

"The President of the General Assembly to appoint a Good Offices Commission consisting of three members, with a view to assisting in negotiations between the Governments of Indonesia and the Netherlands in order that a just and peaceful solution of the question may be achieved, in conformity with the Principles and Purposes of the Charter."

That resolution of the Political Committee also requested the Good Offices Commission "to report to the General Assembly at its next regular session."

It was the belief of the majority of the Members of the United Nations that this resolution passed by the Political Committee would contribute to the peaceful solution of a question which for so many years has been the cause of friction and deteriorating relations between two Member States. However, while receiving the support of the majority at the eleventh session of the General Assembly, the resolution recommended by the Political Committee was not adopted, failing to receive the two-thirds majority vote. The absence of a specific recommendation for a peaceful approach did not contribute, in fact, to the lessening of tensions between Indonesia and the Netherlands as had been anticipated by many Members at the eleventh session of the General Assembly.

^{1/} The background of this dispute is to be found in the explanatory memoranda submitted to the ninth, tenth and eleventh regular sessions of the General Assembly (A/2694, A/2932 and A/3200).

This dispute between the two Member States of the United Nations thus continues unresolved and still demands a just and peaceful solution. Moreover, it continues to exist as a persistent deterrent to the encouragement and improvement of friendlier relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands. The removal of this deterrent would be not only in the best interest of the two Governments concerned, but also in the highest interest of strengthening international peace and co-operation, in general, and in that vital region of the world, in particular.

The fact that no solution of the dispute has, as yet, been attained and that no negotiations have taken place since the bilateral discussions of December 1955-February 1956 emphasizes again the importance of further United Nations efforts in this matter. Needless to say, the continuance of the present situation is only likely to increase the dangers inherent in the dispute.

In these circumstances, it is incumbent on the General Assembly, utilizing adequate measures and machinery, to promote a peaceful solution of this long standing political dispute. Such an endeavour on the part of the General Assembly would be consonant with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

Accordingly, it is considered necessary to bring the question of West Irian once again to the attention of the General Assembly for discussion and appropriate recommendation.
