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SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ITEM PROPOSED BY INDIA

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

Letter dated 16 August 1957 from the Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General

~~New York, 16 August 1957~~

I have the honour to invite your attention to paragraph 5 of resolution 1015 (XI) adopted by the General Assembly at its 648th plenary meeting on 30 January 1957, which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

.....

5. Invites the parties to report as appropriate,
jointly or separately, to the General Assembly."

2. As the Government of India desires to submit its report to the General Assembly at its twelfth session, I have been instructed to request you to include the following item in the supplementary list of items for the agenda for that session:

"Treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union
of South Africa: report of the Government of India
(resolution 1015 (XI) of 30 January 1957)."

3. An explanatory memorandum relating to the above item in terms of rule 20 of the rules of procedure is attached.

(Signed) Arthur S. LALL

Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations

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Meanwhile, the position of persons of Indian origin in South Africa compared with that of settlers of European origin, has continued to deteriorate. Persons of Indian origin continue to be uprooted from their homes and are forbidden to reside in those areas where they have been living and earning their livelihood for many decades. These persons also continue to be denied elementary political and social rights.

In compliance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1015 (XI), the Government of India propose to report to the General Assembly at its twelfth session and have accordingly asked for the inscription of this item. The Government of India feel certain that it will be the wish of the General Assembly to take further steps to implement its resolutions on this subject and to promote a peaceful and just solution of this problem.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 8 July 1957 from the Permanent Representative
of India, addressed to the Acting Permanent Representative
of the Union of South Africa

8 July 1957

I have the honour to invite reference to paragraph 3 of the resolution entitled "Treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa" adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its 648th plenary meeting on 30 January 1957.

The Government of India desire to inform the Government of the Union of South Africa that they desire to act in accordance with paragraph 3 of the aforesaid resolution and in conformity with the statement made by the Indian delegation in the Special Political Committee in respect of it. They therefore desire and are prepared to enter into and pursue negotiations with the Government of the Union of South Africa in accordance with the aforesaid resolution. The Government of India further desire to state their view that such negotiations will in no way prejudice the position adopted by any of the parties concerned in respect of the issue of "domestic jurisdiction" under article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Government of India suggest that such negotiations may conveniently be held between the representatives of the Governments of the parties concerned at New York. They would, however, be willing to consider any alternative venue that the Government of the Union of South Africa would desire to suggest. They also seek the views of the Government of the Union of South Africa in regard to a suitable time for such negotiations to begin.

The Government of India earnestly trust that the Government of the Union of South Africa will welcome the initiative now taken and accede to the request made in pursuance of the decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Please accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Arthur S. LALL

Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations
