



Twentieth session
Agenda item 23

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD
TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

(covering its work during 1956)

Rapporteur: Mr. K. NATWAR SINGH (India)

CHAPTER VII

BASUTOLAND, BECHUANALAND AND SWAZILAND

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* This document contains the chapter on Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. The general introductory chapter of the Special Committee will be issued subsequently under the symbol A/6000. Other chapters of the report will be issued as addenda.

I. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORIES

A. General

1. Information on Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland is contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its seventeenth,^{1/} eighteenth^{2/} and nineteenth^{3/} sessions. Supplementary information on recent political developments concerning the Territories and on economic, social and educational conditions is set out below.

Political developments

2. South Africa has long occupied a dominant position in the political and economic life of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, and of recent years, has sought to strengthen its hold over them, a matter over which the General Assembly and the Special Committee have expressed deep concern.

3. As noted in the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session, covering its work during 1964 (A/5800/Add.5, chapter VIII), Mr. Hendrik F. Verwoerd, Prime Minister of South Africa, suggested to the three Territories in 1963 that they would advance more rapidly if his country should replace the United Kingdom as their guardian and guide towards independence and prosperity within the framework of a South African commonwealth. This plan, designed to turn the Territories into "Bantu homelands", was rejected by the United Kingdom and the African nationalist political parties. However, it was received with varying degrees of enthusiasm by certain elements in the Territories, notably among the European settlers (mostly South Africans) and by the commercial interests in Swaziland.

4. Two months later, after denying that South Africa was interfering in their affairs, as had been suggested by certain African nationalist leaders, Mr. Verwoerd stated that South Africa was prepared to live in good neighbourliness and friendship with these Territories and that its declared policy was non-interference in the internal affairs of any other State.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 25 (A/5238), chapter V.

2/ Ibid., Eighteenth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (A/5446/Rev.1), chapter IX.

3/ Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its Nineteenth Session covering its work during 1964 (A/5800/Add.5), chapter VIII.