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President: Mr. Corneliu MANESCU (Romania).

AGENDA ITEM 64

Question of South West Africa (continued)*

1. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I call on the President of the United Nations Council for South West Africa.
2. Mr. ABDEL-WAHAB (United Arab Republic), President of the United Nations Council for South West Africa: The Council has just returned from Africa, where it went in an endeavour to fulfil its mandate. Therefore it did not have sufficient time to prepare a report on its recent activities, including the trip, for submission at the opening of the resumed session.
3. The Council intends to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly next week.^{1/} Pending the submission of that report, it has asked me to review, in general terms, the activities of the Council since last November.
4. You may recall that the General Assembly, by its resolution 2145 (XXI) of 27 October 1966, terminated the Mandate of South Africa over South West Africa and that subsequently, by its resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967, it established the United Nations Council for South West Africa to administer the Territory until independence.
5. The Council has already submitted a report on the action it has taken in implementing section IV, paragraph 2 of resolution 2248 (S-V) and on the reaction of the South African Government as reflected in a letter to the Secretary-General [A/6897] in which it expressed its unwillingness to comply with the resolutions. It considered these resolutions to be illegal and stated that it would continue to administer South West Africa notwithstanding them.
6. The South African defiance of the Assembly resolutions was further illustrated by the application of the so-called Terrorism Act and the illegal arrest, deportation from South West Africa and trial in South Africa of thirty-seven South West African nationals.
7. The Security Council considered this matter in February and March 1968 at the request of the mem-

bers of the United Nations Council for South West Africa. Two resolutions [245 (1968) and 246 (1968)] were adopted in this regard which censured the Government of South Africa for its flagrant attitude of defiance. The attitude of the South African Government to these resolutions, as reflected in its reply to the Secretary-General was completely negative.

8. Recently, the Government of South Africa, as a further act of defiance, allowed the sentencing of another South West African to imprisonment for the rest of his natural life on charges similar to those alleged to have been committed by the other defendants. The Council for South West Africa, during its stay in Africa, felt obliged to inform the Security Council of this new action. It condemned the South African Government in the strongest possible terms and expressed the hope that when considering the implementation of resolutions 245 (1968) and 246 (1968) the Security Council would be mindful of this continuing defiance of its authority. The United Nations Council for South West Africa has no doubt that the Security Council will shortly resume discussion of the matter.

9. At the same time, the Council for South West Africa informed the Security Council that the Government of South Africa had introduced a bill in Parliament which, if adopted, would empower the Government to implement its policy of establishing the so-called separate homeland in South West Africa in order to destroy the unity and territorial integrity of the country.

10. In March 1968, in implementation of resolutions 2145 (XXI), 2248 (S-V) and 2325 (XXII), the Council decided to proceed to South West Africa. The main objective of the trip was: (a) to prepare the ground for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2248 (S-V) and in particular its section IV, paragraph 3, and (b) to meet those representatives of the people of South West Africa who at present reside in Zambia and in the United Republic of Tanzania.

11. The Council left New York on 5 April and stayed in the area until 18 April. During that period it visited Lusaka and Dar es Salaam. Both before leaving New York and while in Lusaka, the Council explored all possibilities of gaining access to the Territory. To that end contacts were made with a number of airlines with a view to chartering a commercial aircraft to take the Council from Lusaka to Windhoek. Some of the companies indicated that they could not provide an aircraft, others did not respond to the Council enquiry. Two companies expressed their willingness to provide a chartered aircraft, but received messages from Windhoek stating that landing clearance would be denied. This policy was also expressed in statements

*Resumption of the debate of the 1636th meeting.

^{1/} Subsequently circulated as document A/7088 and Corr.1.

by South African officials to the effect that in no case would they allow the members of the Council to enter the Territory. Thus all efforts failed because of South Africa's continuing defiance of the authority of the United Nations.

12. In addition, the Council examined at length the possibility of entering South West Africa by land, but was advised by the Zambian authorities that for practical reasons the land trip would not be feasible at the time.

13. In the face of these difficulties, the Council approached the Government of Zambia and through its kind assistance, the United Nations received from the Zambian Airways Corporation an offer of an aircraft for charter whose conditions included operation of the aircraft under the responsibility of the Organization.

14. In view of the administrative and other issues involved in the Zambian offer, the Council by a cablegram of 11 April referred the matter to the Secretary-General with a recommendation that he give consideration that he give consideration to making all appropriate arrangements in this regard, to enable the Council to fulfil its mission to proceed to South West Africa.

15. On 16 April the Council received a communication dated 15 April from the Secretary-General, in which he informed the Council that the arrangements submitted to him for his consideration gave rise to a number of questions which he felt he should examine in consultation with the members of the Security Council and the members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. It was intimated that these consultations were bound to take some time and the Secretary-General was not in a position at that stage to give an indication of the time necessary. However, the Secretary-General assured the Council that he would do all he could to assist it in carrying out the mandate conferred upon it by the General Assembly.

16. On 18 April, the Council received a further reply, dated 17 April, from the Secretary-General stating that he had begun consultation with the members of the Security Council. He was also consulting by cablegram with the members of the Advisory Committee on Administration and Budgetary Questions. The Secretary-General stated that he would endeavour to conclude the consultation as quickly as possible and would advise as soon as he was in a position to

do so. In the light of that communication, the Council decided to return to New York and to proceed with its plan to enter the Territory as soon as the issues were resolved.

17. The Council at all times kept the Security Council informed of its activities in view of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2248 (S-V), section IV, paragraph 5, and resolution 2325 (XXII), operative paragraphs 7 and 8. It did so on 1 April before leaving for South West Africa^{2/} and again on 11 April concerning the difficulties that had arisen in connexion with its plans to proceed to Windhoek.^{3/}

18. Although its efforts to enter the Territory have been frustrated so far, the Council considers that its visit to Africa has been very useful. The Council has had the opportunity to meet and consult with leaders of the people of Namibia (South West Africa) both in Lusaka and in Dar es Salaam and to study with them a wide range of political, social and economic questions affecting them, including the question of the issuance of travel documents by the Council and other special problems of the South West African refugees.

19. Since the submission of its last report to the General Assembly [A/6897], the Council has also begun consideration of certain measures it might take in the discharge of its functions and responsibilities while outside the Territory. These include the question of travel documents for South West Africans, regarding which negotiations are proceeding with the Governments of Zambia and Tanzania, and a review of the activities, relating to South West Africa, of the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies.

20. From what I have stated it will be seen that the activities of the Council have been, of necessity, restricted, notwithstanding the determination of the Council to fulfil its mandate. Nevertheless the Council is confident that the combined efforts of the Namibian people and the United Nations will lead inevitably to the independence of South West Africa.

21. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I have no further speakers on my list for this morning. I should like to ask those representatives who wish to take part in the debate to be good enough to enter their names in the list of speakers as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

^{2/} Official Records of the Security Council, Twenty-third year, Supplement for April, May and June 1968, document S/8524.

^{3/} Ibid., document S/8345.