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24 July 1961

Minute of Meeting with M. Z. Sabry,
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of U.A.R.
(sent to D.H. by O. Protitch)

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TO: *The Secretary-General*

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U.S.S.R.

DATE:

1 August 1961

FROM:

Protitel

COMMITTEE ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA ON MISSION

Minute of Meeting with Mr. H. Z. Sabry, Deputy Minister for
Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Republic, Cairo, 24 July 1961

Mr. Sabry informed the Committee that the United Arab Republic was well aware of what was happening in South West Africa. However, events there, insofar as his Government was concerned, had in the past been over shadowed by the situation in South Africa itself.

He recalled that he had represented the United Arab Republic at the Second Conference of African States held at Addis Ababa in June 1960, when the decision had been taken to refer the South West Africa question to the International Court of Justice. He had not been in favour of such action at the time, because judicial action of that nature was likely to drag on. He now considered it necessary to remove South Africa from any authority over South West Africa without further delay and to end the action pending before the International Court. The Territory should be declared independent. Any delay meant a continuation of the killing of Africans, and a continuation of other oppressive measures, including forced and migrant labour with their attendant evils.

South Africa was like an ostrich. It was adamant in its pursuit of apartheid and ignored the reactions of the rest of the world and its own growing isolation. Strong measures would obviously have to be taken to dislodge it from South West Africa. He did not like to suggest that military measures should be taken, but, in the view of his Government the United Nations should call for sanctions against South Africa. A group of States, including the United Arab Republic, had taken the initiative in that direction, but other Members of the United Nations still maintained trade and other relations with South Africa. South Africa should not be allowed to continue defying the United Nations. If the United Nations allowed its resolutions to be ignored, the peoples of Africa and of the world would lose respect for the organization.

Regarding the Committee's mission to visit South West Africa, Mr. Sabry felt that the Committee had done all it could to enter the Territory. It had been stopped by force from entering South West Africa and could not be expected to crash through a military barrier. He recalled in that connexion the

Secretary-General's statement to the effect that United Nations arms were to be used for defensive purposes, not for attack. In the circumstances, the Committee could do no more than it had done. He also noted that the United Kingdom had reversed its decision to allow the Committee into Bechuanaland, and was continuing to render economic assistance to South Africa despite South Africa's withdrawal from the Commonwealth and the continued association of Afro-Asian States in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Sabry considered that the Committee had sufficient information on which to base its proposals to the General Assembly under General Assembly resolution 1568 (XV). Moreover, the Committee could base its proposals on General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Assembly's declaration on the granting of independence to colonial peoples and territories.