

II.

The Parliamentary Secretary,
For Commonwealth Relations,
c/o Government Buildings,
Windhoek S.W.A.

Aminuis Reserve,
South West Africa.
August 7th, 1947.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Herero people I must respectfully take the opportunity of your presence in this country to address to you as representing the British Government an appeal which we have already made to the Mandatory Power for the return of our lands in South West Africa, and for the return from exile in Bechuanaland of our Paramount Chief Frederick Maherero together with the Herero people at present living in Bechuanaland.

We would also like to ask for your advice in connection with our application for permission to send representatives to place our case before the representatives of the other nations of the world. So long as the League of Nations existed we retained the right to petition the League, and, as has been pointed out (Wright page 461) the Native inhabitants of South West Africa did not become Union Nationals when the Union assumed the Mandate of South West Africa.

Under present circumstances we are at a loss to know whose wards we are now. The League of Nations has ceased to exist, and the Union Government has not accepted the recommendations of the United Nations Organisation.

Also we must beg to call your attention to the fact that despite the assurance of the representatives of the Union Government that our case would be fully represented by the Union Government's spokesmen at the United Nations' Assembly we do not feel confident that this was adequately done. It is our opinion that the Union Government by reason of its treatment of the African people, both in the Union and in South West Africa, has now forfeited all moral right and claim to continue exercising the Mandate over South West Africa and we would ask for your support of our application to send representatives overseas to state our case.

Also, through you, we would respectfully ask for the support of the British Government in our appeal for the return of our lands and for the return of our Paramount Chief and people now in exile in Bechuanaland. Documents relevant to these appeals will be forwarded to you in due course.

My people have confidence in the sense of justice of the British people and Government, and it is our prayer to God that His Truth and Justice may be served in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Signed. Hosea Kutako

Headman. Aminuis Reserve.
S.W.A.

Witnesses:

F. Kandjau
C. Levy Katjitae.

III.

Ref. No. B.5.
TK/KM

9th August, 1947.

His Excellency,
Sir Evelyn Baring, K.C.M.G.,
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

My Friend,

HERERO AFFAIRS

It has always been the wish of the Herero Peoples in South West Africa to get me back as the Chief of all the Herero Tribes. Recently I have received a direct request from my people in South West Africa to go and settle there.

After consultation with my people in the Bechuanaland Protectorate principally in the Bamangwato and Natawana countries, we have decided to return to our native land.

Our difficulties however are that:-

- (i) We do not know whether the Union Government is prepared to let us return to South West Africa.
- (ii) We do not know how much land the Union Government, in charge by reason of the Mandate will, be prepared to return to us for the purposes of lands and the grazing of our cattle.
- (iii) We humbly request the United Kingdom Government to ascertain for us whether the Union Government is willing to rehabilitate us, what land the Union Government is prepared to give back to us and whether the Union Government is willing to give us full tribal control of the area assigned to us and unite us with our fellow tribesmen presently in South West Africa.

With greetings,

Your friend,

(On behalf of the Herero people living
in the Bamangwato and Batawana Countries)
- Bechuanaland Protectorate -

Signed:

FREDERICK MAHARERU.

IV.

His Excellency,
Sir Evelyn Baring, K.C.M.G.,
High Commissioner,
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

My Friend,

On the strength of the statement contained in Your Excellency's letter addressed to me dated 20th November 1946, Reference No 11/46 viz. "The United Kingdom Government are however prepared, if those concerned so wish to communicate their representations to the Union Authorities", I am enclosing a formal request, which speaks for itself, from Chief Frederick Samuel Maherero arising from representations which have recently been made to him by his people in South West Africa.

In/.....

In view of the fact that these people have sought refuge with us for about thirty years, it is our duty to inform the Imperial Government that we, as the Bamangwato People, are quite willing that the Herero and their property which they have acquired in our territory be given every facility to go to South West Africa.

At least 10,000 head of big stock will be involved in this move, but we consider it advisable for the Government to ascertain the correct figures of stock and population through their responsible Officers.

With greetings,

Your friend,

(Sgd.) TSHEKEDI KHAMA.

10th August, 1947.

V.

To the Paramount Chief,
Frederick Mahereru
P. O. MAHALPYE.
Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Aminuis Reserve,
Windhoek, S.W.A.
Aug. 7th 1947.

My Dear Chief,

I am very glad to take this opportunity of sending you affectionate and loyal greetings on behalf of the Herero people in South West Africa, and to say how much we welcome the renewed efforts which are being made to bring about your return to South West Africa, and the return of the lands belonging to us, and the people now in exile with you in Bechuanaland.

It has always been the boast of the Union Government that its policy is to permit the growth and development of the Native people "along their own lines". Yet there is the persistent refusal to return our lands to us, while our people remain divided and scattered in reserves which are for the most part unproductive and unhealthy. This must be said also of the new lands which were offered to us in extension of the present Reserves.

The division of our people has resulted in the break down of our tribal organisation and has resulted, as it was intended to result, in making us the dependents of the white people on the farms and in the towns rather than in asking our own contribution to civilisation in our own way.

I am glad also to take the opportunity of sending you various records of meetings and discussions which have taken place here recently with the friend whom you had sent to us.

In these records you will find some description of our present condition and our future hopes, as well as the reasons why we so enthusiastically support you in the appeal which you propose to make to the High Commissioner, Sir Evelyn Baring.

We heartily endorse the draft letter to Sir Evelyn Baring which has been read to us, and for our own part we are making a supporting appeal to Mr. Bottomley as representative of the British Government, and to the United Nations Organisation.

We pray that justice may be done, for your continued help, and, together with your people, a safe return to our own Land.

May we, through you, convey our very sincere gratitude and greetings to Chief Tshekedi.

Yours sincerely,

Signed. Hosea Kutako.

Witnesses:

F. Kandjau
C. Levy Katjitae.

VI.

P. O. MAHALAPYE,
Bechuanaland.
Aug. 15th, 1947.

Chief Hosea Kutako,
Aminuis Reserve,
SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

Sir,

I want to thank you very much for your letter, for the greetings of my people and the verbal message which you sent.

The Herero people in exile in Bechuanaland, men, women, and children all want to return to South West Africa. But I think I should make it clear that if we do return we do not want to return to lands which are unproductive and unhealthy and are separated from one another.

All the Hereros in Bechuanaland, as well as those in the Union whom we have been able to contact are wanting to return to South West Africa, and it is our prayer to God that it will prove possible to find our way back and that our tribal organisation may be re-established in one area. Those who come to Mafeking from the Union to see me are asking me when I shall be able to return as they also want to come with me.

Those areas however which are occupied by the Herero people now and have been offered to them are separated from one another and according to the descriptions I have heard from time to time are unproductive and mostly lands where animals do not thrive.

The feelings which you have expressed in your letter agree with the feelings of our people here. We do not want to leave Bechuanaland on account of any grievances, but because we want to be reunited with our own people and to live our life as one people having our tribal organisation re-established in one area so that our people may live under the same conditions as those people which are under the protection of the British Government in Bechuanaland.

Finally I should like to say that Chief Tshekedi and the people of the Bamangwato are agreeable to our taking our cattle with us, numbering some ten thousand, if and when we are able to go, and also to inform you that we have accordingly now made representations for our return to South West Africa through the proper channels.

On my own behalf and on behalf of my people here I should like you to convey our thanks for their expressions of loyalty and affection to our people in South West Africa.

Yours sincerely,

Frederick Samuel Makarero

Witness:

Germans Kaposambo.

FOURTH COMMITTEE

COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
RELATING TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA

Note by the Secretary-General

The following communication relating to South West Africa is reproduced in accordance with the request of the Fourth Committee at its thirty-second meeting on 26 September 1947:

FROM JOHANNESBURG (SOUTH AFRICA)
SENT 18 SEPT 47 1300 (JOHANNESBURG)
RECD 18 SEPT 47 1220 EDT
WDGE 105

(THE FOLLOWING CABLE IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE DAILY CABLE BOOKS)

SECRETARY GENERAL

HAVE BEEN ASKED CONVEY COMMUNICATIONS TO YOU FROM SOUTH WEST AFRICA FOR FORTHCOMING DEBATE. AMERICAN VISA FIRST APPLIED FOR THREE WEEKS AGO NOT YET GRANTED. COUNCIL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS NATAL AND ASIATIC RIGHTS TRANSVAAL ALSO ASKED ME REPRESENT THEM IN CASE MATTER BEING DELAYED AS SUGGESTED BY CONSUL ON ACCOUNT MY DECLARED INTENTION SPEAK AND WRITE IN AMERICA OFFERED GIVE UNDERTAKING NOT TO DO SO. THIS NEGATIVED BY CONSUL BUT STILL AWAIT VISA. HAS MY COMMUNICATION RE SWA AND ENCLOSURE BEEN RECEIVED. APPRECIATE CABLED REPLY

REVEREND MICHAEL SCOTT BOX 8312 JOHANNESBURG

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