

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON behalf of the people of South West Africa, I would like hereby to register our strong suspicion about the movements of some of the members of the Good Offices Committee of the United Nations which recently interviewed the Union Government on the question of South West Africa.

It was surprising that the Committee should have been insulated of all South West opinion; that any interview with the Press should have been barred whilst they were in South West Africa.

This to us is a source of insecurity and despair. Even if granted that the Committee had been appointed solely for consultation with the Union Government and that their visit to South West Africa was purely on a tourist basis, their mysterious movements in the Territory could not but give rise to suspicion.

They were reported to have travelled in the Prime Minister's aircraft and in the company of an official of the Department of External Affairs who, with the Chief Native Commissioner of S.W.A., carefully guided them not to see any of our slums or to interview any of the African leaders. They were shown the more impressive side of our living conditions, such as the newly-built hospital at Keetmanshoop and the site for the new location there, as well as the Game Reserves in the northern part of the Territory.

Our fate being as it does in the hands of the United Nations, it is fitting that at this vital hour we send a note of warning to the United Nations not to be goaded by political expediency into any "solution" repugnant to the principles on which the mandate system was founded.

We need not remind the United Nations of its international responsibility with regard to the people of South West Africa.

We should finally exhort the United Nations Organization to recognize the fundamental principle on which we base our appeal, that of right and justice, and to act only on strong moral principles rather than on mere political technicalities. To us the future of South West Africa is much more than mere technical legalities. No finality should be reached over our heads. We must be consulted.

*blosea kundakro*

*South West Africa*  
July, 1958.

*Paramount Chief of the Herero People*