

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

NINTH SESSION
Official Records



**FOURTH COMMITTEE, 434th
MEETING**

**Monday, 15 November 1954,
at 3.10 p.m.**

New York

C O N T E N T S

	<i>Page</i>
Agenda item 32:	
Cessation of the transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter: report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (<i>continued</i>)	
(b) Other communications (<i>continued</i>).....	243
Agenda item 34:	
Question of South West Africa: report of the Committee on South West Africa (<i>concluded</i>).....	243
Agenda item 13:	
Report of the Trusteeship Council.....	243

Chairman: Mr. Rafik ASHA (Syria).

AGENDA ITEM 32

Cessation of the transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter: report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2729) (*continued*):
(b) Other communications (A/C.4/L.356, A/C.4/L.359) (*continued*)

1. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) explained his delegation's vote at the previous meeting against draft resolution A/C.4/L.356, as amended, which was quite unacceptable. Apart from its implications concerning the policies of the Administering Members in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the resolution would have the effect of promoting United Nations intervention in the political development of the Territories at a crucial stage in their political advancement. It had no warrant of legality in the Charter and so radically did it depart from the provisions of Chapter XI that it could not be considered a mere interpretation of that chapter. Furthermore, it was regrettable that the Committee on Information should be diverted from its main task of examining information on the functional fields. The General Assembly's experience in the cases of Puerto Rico and Greenland had not pointed to the necessity or desirability of perfecting procedures on the cessation of information. Hence, the word "necessity" in the fourth paragraph of the preamble was too dogmatic. Operative paragraph 1 referred to the right of self-determination, a right on which his delegation's reservations were well known. The first Yugoslav amendment (A/C.4/L.359), which had now become operative paragraph 2, sought to confer a wide mandate on the United Nations without placing any limitation on the time at which it was to be exercised. It was unfortunate that the majority of the Committee had not displayed that spirit of co-operation without which it would

not be possible to reach solutions in the interests of the indigenous inhabitants. He fully reserved his delegation's position on the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 34

Question of South West Africa: report of the Committee on South West Africa (A/C.4/L.355) (*concluded*)

2. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) pointed out that the statement attributed to the New Zealand representative in paragraph 7 of the Committee's draft report (A/C.4/L.355) did not correctly reflect what he had stated. The reference to New Zealand should be deleted.

3. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia), speaking as Rapporteur, apologized for incorrectly including a reference to the New Zealand representative in paragraph 7. The reference would be deleted.

AGENDA ITEM 13

Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2680, A/C.4/277)

GENERAL DEBATE

4. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Observer of Italy to the United Nations had asked to participate without a vote in the Committee's discussion of the Trusteeship Council's report (A/2680). That was in accordance with the Committee's established practice and unless there were any objections, he would invite the Italian Observer to take a seat at the Committee table.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Roberti, Alternate Observer of Italy to the United Nations, took a seat at the Committee table.

5. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador), speaking as President of the Trusteeship Council, introduced the Council's eighth annual report to the General Assembly (A/2680). The report covered the period from 22 July 1953 to 16 July 1954 during which the Trusteeship Council had held its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions, and a total of seventy-nine plenary meetings.

6. The report was the longest which the Trusteeship Council had ever submitted to the General Assembly, mainly owing to the constant increase in the Council's activities; new problems were always arising and a growing number of petitions were being submitted. On the other hand, the Council's previous report (A/2427) had been particularly short because in 1953 the Council had held only one session and, owing to the redistribution of its work, it had not examined the annual reports on six Trust Territories. In 1954 the discussion on those six Territories had therefore been more than usually lengthy.

7. The report was divided into three parts. Parts I and II on the organization and activities of the Coun-

cil and conditions in the Trust Territories respectively were in keeping with previous reports. Part III on the attainment by the Trust Territories of the objective of self-government or independence had been added in compliance with General Assembly resolution 752 (VIII).

8. Three aspects of the Council's work were particularly worthy of attention. First, at the fourteenth session of the Council, a number of representatives had voiced concern that no progress had been made in seeking a solution to the problem of the frontier between Somaliland under Italian administration and Ethiopia. By eleven votes to none with one abstention the Council had adopted resolution 1000 (XIV) drawing the General Assembly's attention to its conclusion that the delimitation of the frontier was a matter of the utmost urgency in view both of the approach of the date of the grant of independence to the Territory and of the continuing political, economic and social difficulties in the area of the present provisional frontier, and seeking certain information from the Governments of Italy and Ethiopia and the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration. The Secretary-General had been requested in the light of the information thus obtained to report to the ninth session of the General Assembly on the progress made in the negotiations undertaken in accordance with General Assembly resolution 392 (V) and on the situation in the area of the provisional frontier. The Secretary-General's report was contained in document A/C.4/277.

9. Secondly, the members of the Council had unanimously agreed that everything possible should be done to establish a solid economic foundation for the future State of Somaliland. The Council had learnt with pleasure that the Administering Authority had prepared a general economic development plan and, in its resolution 1001 (XIV), it had invited the General Assembly to instruct the Secretary-General to consider, in consultation with the Italian Government and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, whether the financing of the economic development plan for the Territory might be assisted either by the Bank or by other means to be applied by the United Nations. That resolution was of the utmost importance since only six years remained before Somaliland under Italian administration would obtain its independence.

10. Thirdly, the Council had considered its reports to the General Assembly in the light of Assembly resolution 789 (VIII) inviting all organs of the United Nations to scrutinize their documentation and to try to reduce the volume and improve the quality. In that connexion the Secretary-General had suggested (T/1120) that the Council might submit a comprehensive report on each Trust Territory only every third year, coinciding with its examination of the visiting mission's report on the same Territory; in the intervening years it might submit a shorter report giving only an account of the developments and progress made during the year under review but including sufficient background material to enable the Assembly to appreciate the significance of important developments and the Council's conclusions and recommendations. The Council had approved those proposals and had recommended that the Assembly in turn should endorse them.

11. At its sixth and seventh sessions the General Assembly had invited the Trusteeship Council to examine the possibility of associating the indigenous inhabitants more closely in its work. That question had been discussed at length at the Council's fourteenth session but unfortunately no agreement had been reached. A Syrian draft resolution on the subject (T/L.458) had failed to win approval in two successive tie votes.

12. General Assembly resolution 752 (VIII) requested the Trusteeship Council to include in its next and succeeding reports a section on the attainment by the Trust Territories of the objective of self-government or independence, together with its conclusions and recommendations thereon. That subject had been discussed at length at the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions. A separate section on the subject was included in the Council's report but no conclusions or recommendations appeared because none had been adopted. Towards the end of the fourteenth session the Indian representative had submitted a number of conclusions and recommendations (T/L.500). Other representatives had felt that in view of their complexity and importance insufficient time remained to give them due consideration. The Council had therefore decided that the formulation of conclusions and recommendations should be postponed until the fifteenth session and that it would include them in its subsequent reports.

13. Mr. ROBERTI (Alternate Observer of Italy to the United Nations) noted that three separate documents were attached to the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the frontier between Ethiopia and the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration (A/C.4/277). The first was the memorandum of the Government of Italy on the negotiations between Italy and Ethiopia, which gave a faithful record of the conversations which had been proceeding in Addis Ababa between Italian and Ethiopian officials on the problem of the delimitation of the frontier. As the Administering Authority of the Territory, Italy was fully aware of the importance of an early solution of the matter. The people of Somaliland were rightly anxious that the frontier of their country should be clearly defined and the Italian Government felt that an early settlement would bring about a sense of greater stability in a sensitive area of the Territory.

14. In connexion with the second document attached to the Secretary-General's report, the letter dated 8 November 1954 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia addressed to the Secretary-General, he quoted paragraph 1 (b) of General Assembly resolution 392 (V) of 15 December 1950, to the effect that the portion of the boundaries of the Trust Territory of Somaliland with British Somaliland and with Ethiopia not already delimited by international agreement, should be delimited by bilateral negotiations between the United Kingdom Government and the Administering Authority, and between the Ethiopian Government and the Administering Authority. The Committee would be able to judge whether the main contention made in the letter of the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia could be reconciled with the letter and spirit of that resolution. It was also mistaken to affirm that the provisional line drawn by the United Kingdom as the occupying Power at the time had been accepted by the Trusteeship Council at its sixth session, in 1950. With regard to the situation prevailing in the area of the provisional borderline, touched upon in the last

paragraph of the letter, he drew the Committee's attention to the report of the Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration, which was based upon a personal visit to the area made by the Egyptian member of the Council, and which was reproduced in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.4/277).

15. In conclusion, he emphasized once more that the Italian Government was acting in the matter solely in its capacity as Administering Authority and in conformity with the mandate assigned to it by the United Nations. It did not consider that the problem in any way affected the relations between Italy and Ethiopia.

16. Mr. DE HOLTE CASTELLO (Colombia) said that when his delegation had submitted to the Trusteeship Council its report on the activities of the Advisory Council for Somaliland, which had been circulated as document T/1116, he had had occasion to refer to three points of great importance.

17. First, the importance of General Assembly resolution 755 (VIII) and the General Assembly's desire closely to follow the progress achieved in Somaliland under Italian administration had not escaped the Advisory Council; in fact its request to the Administering Authority for information had been specifically based on that resolution. The Advisory Council had not, however, been able, for want of time, to examine a great number of problems which had been brought to its attention by the Administering Authority. He felt that the Advisory Council would do well to wait until the Administering Authority had proceeded further with its plans, since its recommendations would be more valuable when it had conferred with the Administering Authority about the problems referred to in General Assembly resolution 755 (VIII). He doubted whether the Advisory Council would be in a position to implement paragraph 4 of that resolution before 1955. The Advisory Council had taken note of the General Assembly's view of the role it should play in preparing Somaliland for complete independence.

18. Secondly, with regard to the question of economic development, the Administering Authority had submitted a plan for the consideration of the Advisory Council and of the General Assembly. The Advisory Council had not, however, had time to come to any decision on that subject. He would not go into the question further since it had been fully dealt with by the representative of El Salvador.

19. Thirdly, with regard to the frontier between Ethiopia and Somaliland under Italian administration, he did not feel able to pronounce on the question

whether the incidents occurring in the frontier zones were due to the fact that the frontier was only provisional or to the fact that it deprived certain nomad tribes of access to wells, but there was no doubt that such incidents were of very frequent occurrence. As his delegation had stated before the Trusteeship Council, it was to be feared that if the peoples of those zones could not be released from the uncertainty in which they lived, they might refuse to listen to the advice of the Administering Authority and the Advisory Council and thereby endanger international peace and security. The members of the political parties in Somaliland had asked the speaker to inform the Fourth Committee of their anxiety about the frontier problem and their hope that the current session of the General Assembly would take a final decision in the matter. He suggested that if the two parties could not reach agreement within a reasonable time, the United Nations should appoint a mediator. By a resolution of 25 October 1954 the Advisory Council had adopted a report by the Egyptian representative concerning a visit he had made to the frontier region, and had decided to transmit it to the Secretary-General. The Advisory Council would continue to collect and submit to the Secretary-General all available information on the subject.

20. The Colombian delegation did not wish for the time being to refer to any of the other Territories dealt with in the Trusteeship Council's report, but reserved the right to do so later.

21. Ato YIFRU (Ethiopia) said that in view of his Government's reservations with regard to the question of the administration of the former Italian Somaliland, he would confine his remarks to the specific question of the implementation of the recommendations made with regard to the frontier in General Assembly resolution 392 (V).

22. It was clear from document A/C.4/277 that the Ethiopian Government felt that that resolution was premature as far as the south-eastern frontier of Ethiopia was concerned, since that frontier had not been agreed by the Administering Authority. The Ethiopian Government was ready and willing to proceed to the delimitation of the frontier as approved by the Trusteeship Council, and as soon as the Administering Authority indicated its agreement, steps could be taken to come to an understanding on the technical details and the appropriate procedure to be followed.

23. He reserved the right to speak again if necessary at a later stage in the debate.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.