



CONTENTS

Agenda item 13:	
Report of the Trusteeship Council (<i>continued</i>)	
General debate (<i>continued</i>)	411

Chairman: Mr. Enrique de MARCHENA
 (Dominican Republic).

AGENDA ITEM 13

**Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/3170, A/
 C.4/350, A/C.4/L.472) (*continued*)**

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. SPASOWSKI (Poland) said that the discussion was significant, as it concerned the future of some 25 million human beings. The Trusteeship System represented an advance over the Mandates System, for the Charter clearly stated that its purpose was to ensure the development of the Trust Territories towards self-government. He was glad that the latter question had been dealt with in the report of the Trusteeship Council (A/3170), as that was evidence that the Council was taking steps to see that the provisions of Chapter XII of the Charter were given fuller effect. As the debate had shown, the problem was one of increasing urgency. On 6 March Togoland under British administration was to become independent, and in many Territories national consciousness was maturing rapidly.

2. That did not mean, however, that the Administering Authorities were taking all the proper steps. There was great tension, for example, in the Cameroons under French administration. The inhabitants were taking an increasing interest in public affairs but their activity had met with repression on the part of the Administering Authority. The United Nations had received more than 40,000 petitions from that Territory. The French representative had said that the large number of petitions was evidence of the Administering Authority's democratic attitude, but he did not share that view. On the contrary, he regretted that the Administering Authority had not permitted petitioners to appear before the United Nations in accordance with their right under Article 87 of the Charter.

3. In Tanganyika, the Administering Authority itself admitted that political life was stagnant. The Societies Ordinance gave officials the right to refuse social organizations the registration required by law, while an amendment to the penal code provided a penalty of twelve months' imprisonment for anyone making a spoken or written statement likely to arouse discontent or promote feelings of ill-will.

4. In Ruanda-Urundi, the Council of the Vice-Government-General included only five Africans in its

membership of twenty-two, and one of the three representatives of the indigenous population was a European.

5. It was completely understandable that the majority of representatives favoured the establishment of time-tables for the attainment of independence by the Territories. His delegation had long ago called attention to the need for accelerating the advancement of those Territories and, at the third session, had submitted a draft resolution (A/C.4/152/Rev.1) which, as amended, had become General Assembly resolution 226 (III). Since that time the Assembly had adopted resolutions 558 (VI), 752 (VIII), 858 (IX) and 946 (X), inviting the Administering Authorities to establish time-limits for the attainment of independence. It was most regrettable that the Administering Authorities were not carrying out those recommendations, on the pretext that to do so would upset the political stability of the Territories. His delegation believed, on the contrary, that implementation of the recommendations would hasten the advancement of inhabitants. Mr. Nyerere, a petitioner from Tanganyika who had been heard by the Committee at its 579th and 582nd meetings, had referred to the great unrest of the population in the face of the unclear perspective for the further development of Tanganyika. The advantage of establishing a time-limit could be seen clearly in the example of Somaliland under Italian administration where, despite various difficulties, the situation was progressing normally. He noted with satisfaction the steps taken by New Zealand to prepare for the emancipation of Western Samoa. The Committee's primary concern should be the political advancement of the Territories. Accordingly, Poland would support any step to establish time-limits for the attainment of independence or self-government by the Trust Territories.

6. Mr. QUIROS (El Salvador) noted that Togoland under British administration would soon be united with an independent Gold Coast, that an important step towards self-government had been made in Togoland under French administration, that Somaliland under Italian administration would be independent in the very near future, and that New Zealand had achieved praiseworthy results in Western Samoa—all of which proved that at least in those Territories the objectives of the Trusteeship System would soon be attained. With regard to the other Territories, he would merely review the progress made in the political sphere.

7. He noted with satisfaction that in Tanganyika the Executive and Legislative Councils had been reorganized and enlarged, but he deplored the system of equal and separate representation for the three races, as it was hardly fair on the African element, which comprised the great majority of the population. He therefore supported the recommendation on that subject adopted by the Trusteeship Council (A/3170, p. 36). As the Administering Authority's report referred to in the report of the Trusteeship Council dated from

1954, he would welcome any further information from the United Kingdom representative on measures taken by the Administering Authority since that date to establish universal suffrage for the election of members of the central and local administrations.

8. In Ruanda-Urundi the Administering Authority stressed economic development, and the Territory had made virtually no political progress. His delegation considered that those two aspects must be kept closely linked, and that if possible greater importance should be attached to the latter. The Administering Authority had taken steps to increase the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the Council of the Vice-Government-General, but progress was too slow and the inhabitants would still have to wait a long time before attaining self-government.

9. It was in the Territories under British administration that there had been the greatest political advancement; the Cameroons already enjoyed a degree of self-government, particularly in the South, and the conference to be held in London to revise the 1954 Constitution would undoubtedly result in favourable developments for the whole Territory. For the time being he would not consider the situation in the Cameroons under French administration; he hoped that France would provide the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly with detailed information regarding the new statute to be granted to that Territory.

10. With regard to the Territories in the Pacific, his delegation considered that the results achieved in Western Samoa, which was already socially and culturally advanced, should not be judged by the same standard as those achieved in Nauru and, particularly, in New Guinea. In Nauru the problem was primarily economic and social. It was encouraging to note that the Administering Authority had accepted without reservation the general principles set forth in the report on the Territory (T/1256) by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific, 1956, with regard to the future resettlement of the population. In New Guinea, Australia had the most difficult task because of major geographical and demographic complications. It could even be said that the Administering Authority was still at the stage of conquest or peaceful penetration. It would be unfair to Australia to expect New Guinea's rate of political advancement to be the same as that of the other Trust Territories, but Australia should take into account all the positive factors mentioned by the Visiting Mission in its report on New Guinea (T/1260, para. 179), particularly the goodwill of the inhabitants. Australia should increase its efforts to lead the Territory toward self-government as soon as possible.

11. In conclusion, he expressed satisfaction at the work of the Trusteeship Council and the efforts of the Administering Authorities. In view of the differences between the various Territories with regard to their situation and type of administration, political development obviously could not be the same in all, but his delegation hoped that the objectives of the Trusteeship System could soon be attained in all the Territories.

12. Mr. MATHUR (Nepal) welcomed the establishment of the new State of Ghana and expressed the hope that the reforms in Togoland under French administration would make way for the attainment of self-government by that Territory. He commended New Zealand for its administration of Western Samoa

and expressed the hope that a satisfactory solution would be found to the question of the domestic status of the inhabitants.

13. In Tanganyika, encouraging progress had been made, but he hoped that the Administering Authority would transmit the records of the East African Industrial Council to the Trusteeship Council in accordance with the latter's request (A/3170, p. 40). He was particularly glad to note the development of the co-operative movement in the Territory.

14. In Ruanda-Urundi, the Administering Authority should amend the organic legislation of 21 August 1925, in accordance with the wishes of the Trusteeship Council. It should also take steps to establish closer ties between the two parts of the Territory and to broaden the basis of representation of the indigenous inhabitants.

15. He hoped that the question of the frontier between Somaliland under Italian administration and Ethiopia would be settled in the near future.

16. With regard to the Territory of Nauru, he drew attention to the importance of the question of the future of the Nauruans.

17. Generally speaking, the inhabitants of the Trust Territories had not yet attained a sufficiently high level of education to enable them to assume the responsibility of public affairs. Accordingly, efforts in that direction should be increased, compulsory primary education should be made the general rule, and higher education should be encouraged by the granting of fellowships. He noted that racial segregation was still the rule in certain Territories and expressed the hope that that situation would improve.

18. The present debate had a twofold purpose: to assess the progress accomplished and to determine to what extent the Administering Authorities had discharged their responsibilities. He realized that it took time to develop education and the various sectors of the economy. The United Nations should have confidence in the Administering Authorities, but it was also its responsibility to supervise their policy and, where necessary, to express friendly and constructive criticism. It was in that same spirit that the Committee should hear the petitioners.

19. Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) noted that, as in past years, the Committee had been unable to hold to its programme of work and to complete its consideration of the report of the Trusteeship Council within the time anticipated by the Secretariat. The Committee was faced not with an ordinary item but with a survey of the situation in several Territories. While rule 13 of the General Assembly rules of procedure provided that the provisional agenda of the regular session must include the report of the Trusteeship Council, paragraph (d) of that rule provided that the Assembly could consider all items "proposed by the other principal organs of the United Nations". The Trusteeship Council was one of those principal organs. He was bringing the point to the attention of the Secretariat and of the members of the Trusteeship Council because he believed that so important an item merited careful study and could be presented in the same way as the item relating to the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was divided into several parts.

20. Mr. GRILLO (Italy) did not wish to take part in the general debate, having already stated his point

of view at the meetings of the Trusteeship Council. He reserved the right to make a statement at the end of the discussion on any question concerning Somaliland under Italian administration. However, he wished to make certain observations regarding the draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/L.472, since if it was withdrawn he would be unable to reply to the arguments which had been advanced in its support.

21. He had already had occasion to express the opinion that while it might serve a useful purpose to fix time-limits in the economic, social and cultural fields, and the Administering Authorities had in fact frequently adopted such measures, the task was much more difficult in the political field because of conditions

which varied from Territory to Territory. He also noted that the draft resolution recommended a time-limit of three to five years for the attainment of independence by New Guinea. The members of the Committee might be interested to know that, according to news reports in the *New York Times* of 22 and 23 August 1956, twenty-eight indigenous inhabitants had been killed in inter-tribal clashes in remote areas cut off from the outside world, where there were still cannibals and head-hunters.

22. Mr. TAZHIBAEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation did not propose to withdraw the draft resolution it had presented.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.