



Friday, 8 February 1957,
 at 3.20 p.m.

New York

CONTENTS

Requests for hearings (<i>continued</i>)	Page 393
Agenda item 13:	
Report of the Trusteeship Council (<i>continued</i>)	
General debate (<i>continued</i>)	393

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

Requests for hearings (*continued*)

1. The CHAIRMAN read out a letter from the Chairman of the Association des étudiants camerounais requesting a hearing concerning conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under French administration. He suggested that, if there were no objections, the hearing should be granted.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 13

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

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

2. Mr SINH (India) thought that the extraordinarily large number of petitions received from the Cameroons under French administration during the past year was indicative of a serious political situation in the Territory, where no major reforms had been introduced since the conclusion of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1946. It had been generally understood that as a consequence of the disorders of May 1955 the Administering Authority intended to institute reforms and general development programmes with a view to restoring normal political activity. He wondered what steps had been taken in that direction and what results had been achieved, for it appeared that political activity was still far from normal.

3. As the future of the Cameroons under British administration appeared to be closely linked to that of Nigeria, his delegation was interested to know when the proposed conference on Nigerian independence would take place.

4. With regard to Tanganyika, he hoped the Administering Authority would implement as soon as possible the recommendations in the Trusteeship Council's report (A/3170) concerning elections to the Legislative Council and other representative bodies (p. 38) and concerning increased African representation (p. 36).

5. In Ruanda-Urundi the first steps appeared to have been taken towards the establishment of representative bodies at various levels and he hoped that the introduction of adult suffrage and the granting of increased powers to those bodies would follow. The Administering Authority should also endeavour to improve

the strained relations between Ruanda and Urundi, which was a major obstacle to political development, and should promote their joint evolution towards the ultimate objectives of trusteeship.

6. As far as Somaliland under Italian administration was concerned, his delegation welcomed the reforms introduced as an indication that the goal of independence would be attained by 1960, but it regretted the delay in the completion of the report by the Mission sent to the Territory by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development¹, which it had hoped to discuss at the current session.

7. The reports of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific, 1956,² included many interesting recommendations. A notable development in that part of the world was the political progress planned by the Administering Authority for Western Samoa. He was glad to see that the Administering Authority for New Guinea was addressing itself with vigour to its formidable problems in that Territory; his delegation would like, however, to sound a note of caution with regard to the alienation of land to European settlers in the Territory, a process which in other parts of the world had engendered great bitterness.

8. With regard to the various committees of the Trusteeship Council, he hoped that the work of the Sub-Committee on the Questionnaire, which had been proceeding at a very slow pace, would be completed before the next session of the General Assembly, for if the results achieved were not commensurate with the time expended it might be necessary to consider the abolition of the Committee. His delegation was disturbed also by the lack of progress achieved by the Committee on Rural Economic Development of the Trust Territories, to which a task of major importance had been entrusted. The Administering Authorities represented on that Committee seemed to see dangers where none existed. The Committee was apparently beginning at last to achieve something but if it had not made some appreciable progress before the next session of the General Assembly it would be necessary to re-examine its terms of reference with a view to making them more limited and precise. It might even be necessary for the General Assembly itself to set up a committee to study land policies and practices in view of the great importance of that question for the welfare of the rural populations in the African Trust Territories. The Committee on Administrative Unions should confine its attention to the practical operation of those unions and he hoped the Administering Authorities would furnish all the required data, for it was often difficult to examine the matter owing to the closeness of the relationships established. He hoped the General Assembly would give careful consideration to the minority views expressed by his delegation in the

¹ Subsequently circulated as document T/1296.

² T/1255, T/1256, T/1260, T/1261.

report of that Committee (T/L.716), especially with regard to Ruanda-Urundi and Tanganyika.

9. The contributions made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and by the World Health Organization to the work of the Trusteeship Council had been of great value and their collaboration in the future would be welcomed. While he realized that because of constitutional considerations the participation of the International Labour Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations had of necessity been limited, he hoped that they would give the Council whatever assistance they could.

10. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said that it was not true that relations between Ruanda and Urundi were strained, for while the peoples of the two *pays* (countries) were conscious of their separate backgrounds they were on terms of cordial understanding with each other.

11. Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) said that the Indian representative had given the impression that some of the Administering Authorities were apprehensive of the results which the work of the Committee on Rural Economic Development might bring about. He wished to make it clear that his own Government

had no such fears. It did, however, view the work of the Committee with some dismay in that the task it had undertaken was one of enormous scope and complexity, as indicated in a report on land problems in Tanganyika recently published by the United Kingdom Government itself. He did not want it to be thought that the difficulties of that Committee resulted from lack of co-operation on the part of his Government, which had provided it with a large quantity of information.

12. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) wondered what progress the Secretariat had made in preparing the study, requested by his delegation at the 567th meeting, of all plebiscites which had taken place under international control since the establishment of international organizations as such.

13. The CHAIRMAN replied that the study was almost completed.

14. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) proposed that the study should be circulated as an official document.*

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.

* Subsequently circulated as document A/C.4/351.