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President: Mr. Rafik ASHA (Syria).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Belgium, Burma, China, France, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Italy, New Zealand, Syria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

Opening of the nineteenth session

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the nineteenth session of the Trusteeship Council.
2. He congratulated the delegations of Haiti and India on their countries' re-election to the Council for another term of three years and welcomed the new representatives of Australia, Burma, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom.
3. He paid a warm tribute to Sir Alan Burns, who had represented the United Kingdom on the Council for ten years. He felt sure that the Council would wish him to convey to Sir Alan the expression of its friendship and its gratitude for all he had done.
4. The recent emergence of Ghana as an independent State had an important bearing on the operation of the International Trusteeship System. The General Assembly's decision (resolution 1044 (XI)) to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement for Togoland under British administration was of particular importance not only because it involved the people of that Territory but because it set a precedent which would influence the future of all the other Trust Territories. The question of the future of Togoland under British administration had been thoroughly examined by the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council in the light of the freely expressed wishes and the interests of the populations concerned. The speed with which the Security Council and the General Assembly had acted in admitting Ghana to the United Nations was unprecedented and most gratifying to the Trusteeship Council. He extended to the people and Government of Ghana, on behalf of the Trusteeship Council, sincere greetings and best wishes for success.
5. Sir Leslie MUNRO (New Zealand) associated himself with the President's reference to Sir Alan Burns. Sir Alan was a great colonial administrator and had played an important part in the advancement of Ghana to the stage at which it could achieve an independent status in the Commonwealth of Nations. His name

would be remembered as long as the Trusteeship Council existed.

6. Mr. LALL (India) thanked the President for his words of welcome.
7. Ghana's achievement of independence was a notable achievement which had a direct bearing on the work and atmosphere of the Council. He wished to take the opportunity to congratulate the people and Government of Ghana, as also the United Kingdom for its enlightened policy. The events in Ghana symbolized much for the whole continent of Africa, and the Government and peoples of India looked forward to a quickened realization of the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of that continent. They looked to the Trusteeship Council to play its part in accelerating the pace of development in the Trust Territories, particularly in Africa.
8. He associated his delegation with the remarks that had been made concerning Sir Alan Burns.
9. Mr. MCGREGOR (United States of America) associated his delegation, too, with the tributes paid to Sir Alan Burns.
10. Mr. HOOD (Australia) endorsed the President's remarks concerning the admission of Ghana to membership of the United Nations. His delegation hoped and believed that the admission of that new Member would prove to be a justification of the Trusteeship System.
11. He also endorsed the remarks that had been made concerning Sir Alan Burns.
12. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) thanked the President for his words of welcome to Haiti on its re-election to the Trusteeship Council. His delegation interpreted its re-election as approval of the attitude it had always adopted in the discussion of problems concerning the Trust Territories. The position his delegation had taken during the examination of the future of Togoland under the British administration had given clear evidence of its impartiality and its earnest desire to see all the Trust Territories achieve independence as soon as was practicable. It had been glad to vote, at the General Assembly's 668th plenary meeting, in favour of the draft resolution concerning the admission of Ghana as a new Member of the United Nations, presented by seven Commonwealth Powers (A/3569).
13. He endorsed the remarks made by the President and other speakers with regard to Sir Alan Burns.
14. Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala) congratulated the delegations of India and Haiti on their countries' re-election to the Trusteeship Council.
15. He expressed his Government's satisfaction at Ghana's achievement of independence and offered its good wishes to the new State and to the Administering Authority which had made that achievement possible.
16. He joined in the tributes that had been paid to Sir Alan Burns.
17. Mr. BARGUES (France), U PE KIN (Burma), Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) and Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) associated their delegations with the remarks that had

been made with regard to Ghana's achievement of independence and with the tributes paid to Sir Alan Burns.

18. Mr. KIANG (China) and Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy) also paid tribute to Sir Alan Burns.

19. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) associated his delegation with the good wishes expressed to the new State of Ghana and the hope that the progress made in Togoland under British administration would be an inspiration to other Trust Territories, especially those in Africa.

20. Mr. BOURDILLON (United Kingdom) thanked the President and other members of the Council for what they had said concerning Sir Alan Burns. He would be glad to convey to Sir Alan the Council's expressions of appreciation.

Adoption of the agenda (T/1297/Rev.1)

[Agenda item 1]

21. Mr. MCGREGOR (United States of America) proposed that an additional item should be included in the agenda.

22. As many representatives on the Council were aware, criticisms had been raised in the Fourth Committee regarding the unsatisfactory situation with regard to petitions. It was widely felt that the present procedure was no longer adequate. The United States delegation therefore thought that the Council should give some attention during the current session to a possible revision of that procedure.

23. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) said that his delegation had raised that point in the Fourth Committee.¹ Serious difficulties had arisen owing to the ever increasing number of petitions. He had been informed that since 8 February 1957, when he had raised the point in the Fourth Committee, a great many more petitions had been received. He hoped that the Council would adopt the United States representative's proposal. The Haitian delegation had no precise suggestion to make on the subject for the time being, but felt that if the question were to be examined by a small

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Session, Fourth Committee, 628th meeting.*

group of members of the Council some valuable ideas might be forthcoming. He hoped that that could be done during the current session.

24. The PRESIDENT said that if there was no objection the proposed new item would be added to the provisional agenda (T/1297/Rev.1).

It was so decided.

25. Mr. BARGUES (France) recalled that at the Council's 751st meeting, held during the sixth special session, it had been suggested that a special representative for Togoland under French administration might attend the nineteenth session, to assist the Council in its examination of the situation in that Territory. He had transmitted that request to his Government, which had consulted the local authorities. He had now been informed by the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Togoland that it would be unable to send a special representative owing to the quantity of work confronting it at that time, when it had not only to set up a new political and administrative structure in the Territory, but also to prepare for the visit of the United Nations Commission established under General Assembly resolution 1046 (XI), which was to arrive shortly.

26. The French delegation would do its best to reply to any question put to it concerning the situation in Togoland under French administration.

The provisional agenda (T/1297/Rev.1), as amended, was adopted.

27. Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala) assumed that the Secretariat would prepare the necessary working papers with regard to items 10 to 14 of the agenda, which referred to General Assembly resolutions, and asked whether it would be possible for the Secretariat to make a summary of the views expressed in the Fourth Committee with regard to the report of the Trusteeship Council covering the period from 23 July 1955 to 14 August 1956 (item 13 of the agenda).

28. The PRESIDENT assured the representative of Guatemala that the Secretariat would give serious consideration to his request and would reply at a later meeting.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.