



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Fifth Special Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Wednesday, 14 December 1955,
at 3.20 p.m.

NEW YORK

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Temporary President: Mr. Miguel Rafael URQUIA (El Salvador).

Present:

The representatives of the following States members of the Trusteeship Council: Australia, Belgium, China, El Salvador, France, Haiti, India, New Zealand, Syria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The representative of the following specialized agency: International Labour Organisation.

General Assembly resolution 860 (IX): the Togoland unification problem and the future of the Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration (concluded)

[Agenda item 2]

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT recalled that the United Kingdom representative had asked at the 651st meeting whether the Council would, if the General Assembly accepted the recommendation of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Togoland under British administration and Togoland under French administration, 1955, that a plebiscite should be organized in Togoland under British administration, agree to postpone until its eighteenth session its consideration of the annual report on the Territory and the report of the Visiting Mission (T/1210). The Fourth Committee having decided at its 547th meeting that the plebiscite should be organized, the Council would have to take a decision on the United Kingdom request.

2. Mr. MENON (India) appreciated that consideration of the annual report in the normal way was impossible as it would take place at the same time as the plebiscite. However, as his delegation had pointed out in the Fourth Committee (546th meeting), it was essential that the question should remain before the Council until the eleventh session of the General Assembly, so that the Administering Authority or the Commissioner could if need be apply to the Council. He would accordingly be in favour of leaving the annual report and the report of the Visiting Mission to Togoland under British administration on the agenda of the seventeenth session.

3. Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) said that he would have no objection on the understanding that the Trusteeship Council would take into account how difficult it would be for the Administering Authority to send a special representative to Headquarters during the period of intensive preparations for the plebiscite,

and would not insist on considering the annual report at that session.

4. At the request of Mr. FORSYTH (Australia), the TEMPORARY PRESIDENT explained that the agenda of the seventeenth session would in any case include an item relating to the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on the plebiscite in Togoland under British administration, so that the Council could take up the question at any time.

5. Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) hoped that, under those circumstances, the Indian representative would have no objection to the removal from the agenda of the item relating to the consideration of the annual report and the report of the Visiting Mission to Togoland under British administration.

6. M. MENON (India) proposed that the item should be deleted from the agenda of the Council's seventeenth session.

It was decided that consideration of the annual report of the Administering Authority on Togoland under British administration for 1954, and of the report on that Territory by the Visiting Mission (T/1210) should be postponed until the eighteenth session.

7. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT proposed that the special report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Togoland under British administration and Togoland under French administration, 1955 (T/1206 and Add.1), the statements made by the representatives of the United Kingdom (T/1214) and of France (T/1215), and resolution 1368 (S-5), adopted by the Trusteeship Council on that report, should be printed in the same document.

It was so decided.

Opening date of the seventeenth session

8. Mr. BARGUES (France) thought that the opening date of the forthcoming ordinary session should be deferred, in order to allow the Administering Authorities time to study the reports of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Togoland under British administration and Togoland under French administration, 1955, and of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration, 1955.

9. Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) said that that suggestion was acceptable to his delegation.

10. Mr. JAIPAL (India) proposed that the session should open on 7 February 1956, a week later than had been originally suggested. The postponement would enable the Standing Committee on Petitions to get ahead with its work.

11. Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) appreciated the arguments in favour of postponing the opening of the session, but asked that the postponement should be for as short a time as possible. For practical reasons, he proposed that the seventeenth session should open on 3 February 1956. In that connexion, he pointed out that the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust

Territories in the Pacific, 1956, would leave New York on 4 February.

12. Mr. JAIPAL (India) inquired whether the Mission's departure could be postponed.

13. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT replied that it could not.

14. Mr. BARGUES (France) thought that it would be better if the session opened on 7 February, as that would give him time to consult the new government which would take office in France after the elections on 2 January.

15. Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) withdrew his proposal.

The Indian proposal was adopted.

Closure of the fifth special session

16. Mr. FORSYTH (Australia) congratulated the Temporary President on the manner in which he had conducted the proceedings.

17. Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom), Mr. BARGUES (France), Mr. STRONG (United States of America) and Mr. S. S. LIU (China) associated themselves with that tribute.

18. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared the fifth special session of the Trusteeship Council closed.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.