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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE UNIONS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 7 July 1952, at 10.30 a.m.

CONTENTS:

Observations concerning the Committee's report

Consideration of the various aspects of the administrative arrangements affecting Togoland and the Cameroons under French Administration and the French Union (Conference room paper No. 6) (continued)

Chairman:	Mr. McKAY	United States of America
Members:	Mr. YANG	China
	Mr. SCOTT	New Zealand
	Mr. DEVAKUL	Thailand
Secretariat:		
	Mr. WIESCHHOFF	Secretary of the Committee

OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Committee reviewed the action it had taken with respect to the various administrative unions and discussed the question of the consistency of the action taken by the Committee in each case. The Committee decided to consider the possibility of including, at the beginning of its special report, an introductory section explaining the complexity of the problem that was studied.

CONSIDERATION OF THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AFFECTING TOGOLAND AND THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION AND THE FRENCH UNION (Conference room paper No. 6) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN invited consideration of conference room paper No. 6.

Chapter I

Mr. WIESCHHOFF (Secretary of the Committee) observed that, in order to meet the wishes of the Secretary-General, the Committee should make every effort to confine its report to approximately 150 pages. It might, for instance, devote not more than one chapter to the provisions of the various Trusteeship Agreements. Adoption of that procedure meant that the Committee's report would comprise a general chapter, a second chapter dealing with the provisions of Trusteeship Agreements relating to administrative unions, and a third chapter covering the Trust Territories considered by the Committee. The Secretariat would submit to the Committee a new text of Chapter II which, with the exception of a few minor amendments, would be identical with Chapter II as given in document A/1306.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) thought that, despite apparent similarities, the relevant provisions of the Trusteeship Agreements differed somewhat depending upon the Territory concerned. It would be difficult, in the circumstances, to include them in a single chapter. Moreover, the first chapter of conference room paper No. 6 was admirably worded. He would therefore like to see that wording retained.

The CHAIRMAN understood the New Zeland representative's position but felt that the procedure suggested by the Secretariat had the merit of meeting the wishes of the General Assembly in the matter of reducing printing costs. The United States delegation would therefore support that procedure it being understood that members of the Committee might submit whatever comments and suggestions they saw fit during consideration of the new text prepared by the Secretariat.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) explained that he was prepared to agree to that procedure on the understanding that he would be allowed to propose the adoption of the present text of Chapter I of conference room paper No. 6 if he did not consider satisfactory the new text drafted by the Secretariat when it came up for discussion.

The CHAIRMAN noted the New Zealand representative's reservations. Subject thereto, the Committee might accept the procedure proposed by the Secretariat.

It was so decided.

Chapter II

The CHAIRMAN wondered if it might be possible to shorten Chapter II.

Mr. WIESCHHOFF (Secretary of the Committee) observed that it might be inadvisable unduly to condense the section of the report dealing with the French Union since the latter had never been mentioned in previous reports.

Paragraph 1

The CHAIRMAN proposed that paragraph 1 should remain unchanged.

It was so decided.

Paragraph 2

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) wondered why only three paragraphs arbitrarily selected from the preamble of the Constitution of the French Republic were mentioned. The preamble should be quoted in full or, if it was intended to shorten Chapter II for reasons of economy, not mentioned at all.

Mr. YANG (China) believed that the quotations from the Constitution appearing in Chapter II, paragraph 2, should be retained since they were not unrelated to the resolution submitted to the Committee at its previous meeting. He would not object to the preamble being quoted in full.

The CHAIRMAN observed that the previous report had included only the three paragraphs quoted.

Mr. DEVAKUL (Thailand) supported the text as contained in the conference room paper.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the proposal to retain the wording of paragraph 2 in its present form.

Paragraph 2 was adopted by 3 votes to 1.

Paragraph 3

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the words "appear to be relevant" should be substituted for "are relevant" in the first line.

Paragraph 3, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraphs 4, 5 and 6

Paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 were adopted.

Paragraph 7

The CHAIRMAN suggested that, to use the wording in article 82 of the Constitution of the French Republic, the words "retaining their personal status" should be substituted for "having local status" in the seventh sentence.

Paragraph 7, as amended, was adopted.

/Paragraph 8

Paragraph 8

Paragraph 8 was adopted.

Paragraphs 9 to 18

Mr. WIESCHHOFF (Secretary of the Committee) pointed out that the paragraphs concerned had been taken from documents T/AC.14/22 and T/AC.14/25. The documents had not been printed but could be consulted in the archives. The Committee might, with regard to paragraphs 9 to 18, merely refer to the relevant documents since it would have to insert a new paragraph in its report containing the information provided by the French representative at the Committee's twenty-ninth meeting.

Following an exchange of views, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should reserve its decision on the paragraphs concerned until it had received the text of the statements made by the French representative at its twenty-ninth meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.