



GENERAL

T/C.2/SR.1  
28 March 1952

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

DOCUMENTS  
INDEX UNIT  
31 MAR 1952  
156

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

First Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 18 March 1952, at 10.30 a.m.

CONTENTS

Election of Chairman

Programme of work (T/957, T/L.243, T/L.243/Corr.1)

Examination of the petition from the New Guinea Chinese Union,  
Rabaul, and from the Overseas Chinese Association, Kavieng,  
concerning New Guinea, (T/PET.8/4, T/PET.8/4/Add.1, T/PET.8/4/Add.2,  
T/965, T/C.2/L.1)

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. PEACHEY	Australia
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. YANG	China
	Mr. URQUIA	El Salvador
	Mr. SCOTT	New Zealand
	Mr. SOLDATOV	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. CARGO	United States of America

<u>Also present:</u>	Mr. HALLIGAN	Special Representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of New Guinea
	Mr. HOUARD	Belgium
	Mr. THEOBALD	France
	Mr. ROBERTI	Italy
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. AMMAR	Secretary of the Committee

#### ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. YANG (China) nominated Mr. Peachey (Australia) as Chairman.

Mr. CARCO (United States of America) supported the nomination.

Mr. Peachey (Australia) was elected Chairman by 4 votes to none,  
with 1 abstention.

#### PROGRAMME OF WORK (T/957, T/L.243, T/L.243/Corr.1)

The CHAIRMAN noted that the Committee had before it the task of examining approximately 300 petitions from the various Trust Territories. He hoped that with thorough preparation by the members of the Committee, and the same efficient help which the Secretariat had always provided in the past the Committee would be able to deal with all those petitions in a satisfactory manner in the time available to it.

At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. AMMAR (Secretary of the Committee) explained that 302 petitions had been placed on the agenda of the Council's current session; of that number, 61 were from Tanganyika, 20 from Ruanda Urundi, 8 from the Cameroons under British administration, 8 from the Cameroons under French administration, 1 from Togoland under British administration, 3 from Togoland under French administration, 1 from New Guinea, and 199 from Somaliland under Italian administration. Consultation with the Governments of Belgium, France and the United Kingdom had elicited

/agreement by

agreement by those Administering Powers to the discussion of 66 of the petitions in question at the current session of the Committee. The addition of the single petition emanating from New Guinea, consideration of which had been postponed from the eighth session of the Council pending the receipt of further information, brought the total to 67.

In reply to questions from Mr. CARGO (United States of America) and Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. AMMAR (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Secretariat could, within a short space of time, circulate to the members of the Committee a list of the 67 petitions which, it was proposed, should be examined at the current session; summaries of those documents had been prepared and could be distributed at an early moment, should the Committee issue instructions to that effect.

Mr. CARGO (United States of America) said he assumed that it was the Committee's desire to examine as many petitions as possible at its current session, in order that the Council might be in a position to take the maximum action on petitions before it adjourned its own session. In that connexion, he noted that a Special Representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Ruanda Urundi was at present at Headquarters; and accordingly, he suggested that the Committee should take advantage of that fact by examining the petitions from that Territory as soon as it had dealt with the single petition from New Guinea.

The CHAIRMAN noted that representatives of three Administering Powers closely concerned with the future work of the Committee -- namely, Belgium, France and Italy -- were present at the meeting. He proposed that they should be invited to present any further comments which they wished to make concerning the positions of their respective Governments.

It was so decided.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Houard (Belgium) took a place at the Committee table.

/Mr. HOUARD

Mr. HOUARD (Belgium) said that in principle his Government preferred that the examination of petitions should coincide with the examination of the report of the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory concerned. In the present case, however, his delegation hoped that the Committee would take advantage of the presence of the Special Representative for the Trust Territory of Ruanda Urundi by examining at its current session those petitions enumerated in the list which he had transmitted to the Secretariat.

Mr. Houard (Belgium) withdrew.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Roberti (Italy) took a place at the Committee table.

Mr. ROBERTI (Italy) said that his delegation was prepared to discuss six of the petitions relating to Somaliland under Italian Administration on which his Government had already submitted its observations. He would hand a list of those petitions to the Secretariat.

Mr. Roberti (Italy) withdrew.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Theobald (France) took a place at the Committee table.

Mr. THEOBALD (France) recalled that his delegation had already informed the Secretariat that it had no objection to the consideration of such petitions relating to the African Trust Territories under French Administration as did not require the presence of its Special Representatives from those Territories.

Mr. Theobald (France) withdrew.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) stressed that in considering those petitions the Committee should apply the new procedure for the examination of petitions which the Council had recently adopted and which was set out in document T/L.243. The Secretariat should be asked to go over the list of petitions to be discussed and tentatively separate what seemed to be genuine petitions from anonymous communications or communications dealing with questions previously raised in the Council or on which the Council had already adopted a decision.

Mr. AMMAR (Secretary of the Committee) noted that the Secretariat had processed all incoming communications and petitions in accordance with the old procedure which had been in force at the time of their receipt. If the Committee so desired, it could now classify the petitions before the Committee on the basis of the new system.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) thought that a new classification was necessary as otherwise the Committee might for several sessions to come find itself dealing with petitions which had been processed in the old manner. In particular, anonymous letters should be regarded as communications and not, as they were now classified, petitions.

The CHAIRMAN felt that the Committee should be careful not to ask the Secretariat to make any classification which might later be challenged by members and thus place the Secretariat in an embarrassing position. The latter could easily be asked to enumerate the anonymous communications, but the task of classifying communications of a general nature was essentially the Committee's.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that the Committee might save time by following a slightly different procedure. First, it should ask the Secretariat to enumerate the petitions which could be taken up at the present session. Then, after examining the petition from New Guinea, it could decide in what order the remaining petitions should be considered; and finally, during the actual examination of the petitions it could effect the requisite screening. In that way unnecessary repetition of discussion could be avoided.

Mr. CARGO (United States of America) supported the USSR representative's suggestion. In addition it might be useful to ask the Secretariat to prepare a tentative appraisal of each petition which the Committee could take into consideration when undertaking its work in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 of document T/L.2/43.

/ Mr. SCOTT

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) and the CHAIRMAN endorsed the USSR representative's suggestion as amended by the United States representative.

EXAMINATION OF THE PETITION FROM THE NEW GUINEA CHINESE UNION, RABAU, AND FROM THE OVERSEAS CHINESE ASSOCIATION, KAVIENG, CONCERNING NEW GUINEA (T/PET.8/4, T/PET.8/4/Add.1, T/PET.8/4/Add.2, T/965, T/C.2/L.1)

At the Chairman's invitation, Mr. Halligan, Special Representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of New Guinea, took a place at the Committee table.

In answer to a question from Mr. CARGO (United States of America), Mr. HALLIGAN (Special Representative) said he had nothing to add to the observations of the Administering Authority as summarized in document T/965. The whole question was still under consideration.

Mr. YANG (China) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the status granted to locally born Chinese children in New Guinea. Referring to page 254 of document A/1856, he asked for further information on the status of the 200 Chinese who had entered the territory of New Guinea some ten to eighteen years previously and had not become permanent residents. The question was of considerable urgency, since the last exemption granted them would expire in June 1952.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special Representative) explained that the Chinese had been admitted on certificates of exemption, mostly for periods not exceeding three years. As a result of conditions in China and the Second World War, they had not left the Territory and their periods of exemption had been extended. The current exemption was due to expire in June 1952. The Administering Authority might decide either to grant them further exemption, to grant them permanent residence, or to require them to leave the territory. The Administering Authority was carefully considering the question but had as yet reached no decision.

/Mr. YANG (China)

Mr. YANG (China) pointed out that, as indicated in document T/PET.8/4/Add.2, the petitioners were opposed to the present regime on the Chinese mainland and did not wish to leave the Territory. He asked that the Administering Authority should take that point into consideration pending a favourable decision on the question of granting to them permanent residence in the Territory.

He further raised the question of the transfer of land and referred to three cases in which discrimination had been exercised against the Chinese. If it was the policy of the Administering Authority not to approve transfers of land to Chinese, he urged that that should be made known to the Chinese so that they would not deposit large sums of money as an earnest on which no interest was paid.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special Representative) said the transfer of land in New Guinea was governed by the Land Ordinance and was subject to the interests of the indigenous inhabitants. Approval might be and in some cases had been given to the transfer of land to Chinese. He had transmitted to his Government information on the three cases mentioned by the Chinese representative, but had not so far received its comments. He took note of a request by the Chinese representative, that the Administering Authority should inform the Council of the situation in regard to those cases in the annual report on New Guinea to be submitted to the Council's following session.

The CHAIRMAN called for an expression of views on the action to be taken on the petition.

Mr. YANG (China) suggested that the Council should recommend the Administering Authority to grant exemption to the 200 Chinese in question after the expiry of their present exemption, pending final decision as to their becoming permanent residents of the Territory, and that the Administering Authority should further be recommended to give full consideration to all the points raised in petition T/PET.8/4/Add.2 in the light of the suggestions made by the Visiting Mission on that petition.

/Mr. CARGO

Mr. CARGO (United States of America) thought it scarcely necessary to adopt such a specific recommendation. He suggested that the Council might note the observations of the Administering Authority, in particular, the change in the status of Chinese children born in the Territory, note the comments made in the Council and in the Committee, decide to keep all aspects of the petition under review and ask the Administering Authority to keep the Council informed of the action taken.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) agreed with the United States representative and proposed the Committee should recommend that the Council should also express the hope that the Administering Authority would not unduly delay its decision.

Mr. YANG (China) suggested the Secretariat should be asked to prepare a draft resolution along the lines indicated by the Committee, for consideration at its next meeting.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.