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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 8 February 1955, at 10.35 a.m.

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PRESENT:

Chairman:

Mr. TARAZI Syria

Members:

Mr. SCHEYVEN Belgium

Mr. MAX France

Mr. BHANDARI India

Mr. KARTSEV Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics

Mr. CRAMER United States of America

Also present:

Mr. AMAH Special Representative of the  
Administering Authority for  
the Trust Territory of  
Togoland under French  
Administration

Brigadier GIBBONS Special Representative of the  
Administering Authority for  
the Trust Territory of the  
Cameroons under British  
Administration

Secretariat:

Mr. RANKIN Secretary of the Committee

DRAFT REPORT ON PETITIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF TOGOLAND UNDER  
FRENCH ADMINISTRATION (T/C.2/L.115/Add.1) (continued)

XI. Petition from Mr. Emile M. Doegah (T/PET.7/400)

Draft resolution VII was approved by 4 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend that copies of the relevant resolutions should be sent to the Greater New York Negro Labour Council, to which reference was made in paragraph 5 of the introduction to the draft report.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that all the resolutions in the draft report should be entered in paragraph 3 of the introduction as calling for no special information with regard to the action taken upon them.

It was so decided.

The draft report (T/C.2/L.115/Add.1) was adopted by 4 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Mr. Amah, Special Representative for Togoland under French Administration, withdrew.

PETITIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH  
ADMINISTRATION (T/C.2/L.114)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Brigadier Gibbons, Special Representative for the Cameroons under British Administration, took a seat at the Committee table.

I. Petition from the Eastern Kamerun Welfare Union (T/PET.4/102 and Add.1 and 2)

In reply to questions by Mr. KARTSEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. CRAMER (United States of America) and Mr. BHANDARI (India), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) explained that, apart from the matter of the franchise, in which the petitioners were particularly interested, the civic

(Brigadier Gibbons, Special Representative)

rights enjoyed by immigrants from the Cameroons under French Administration were generally identical with those of Cameroonians under British Administration. They were even entitled to vote in local government elections; their only legal disability was that they were not entitled to take part in elections to the House of Assembly and the House of Representatives. The political party in power in the Southern Cameroons was known to be interested in securing that right for them but it had not so far introduced any draft legislation to that effect. The number of persons involved was about 17,000, out of a population of 775,000 for the Southern Cameroons and one and a half million for the whole Territory of the Cameroons under British Administration.

Mr. CRAMER (United States of America) suggested that the petitioners should be informed that the matter would have to wait until the new Southern Cameroons legislature could deal with it.

Mr. MAX (France) agreed. It was indeed surprising that the petitioners should expect to be granted the franchise in a country not their own.

PETITIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORIES OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION AND THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION (T/C.2/L.84 and Add.1)

Petitions concerning a frontier incident (T/PET.4 and 5/1 and 2)

Mr. RANKIN (Secretary of the Committee) explained that the petitions had been ascribed to both Territories because it had not been clear in which Territory the incident had taken place. The Administering Authorities' observations had since shown that only the Cameroons under British Administration was concerned.

In reply to a question by Mr. CRAMER (United States of America), Brigadier GIBBONS (Special Representative) confirmed that the Mr. Saha of the petitions and the Issac Sah of the observations were one and the same man.

Mr. MAX (France) observed that the Administering Authority's observations were completely satisfactory and suggested that the petitioners' attention should be directed to them.

Brigadier Gibbons, Special Representative for the Cameroons under British Administration, withdrew.

PETITIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION  
(T/C.2/L.123: T/PET.7/420, T/PET.7/421; T/OBS.7/28) (continued)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Amah, Special Representative for Togoland under French Administration, took a seat at the Committee table.

The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that, as a result of a tie vote the previous day, a second vote should be taken on the United States proposal that the Secretary should be requested to issue a corrigendum reclassifying the petitions mentioned in sections I and II of document T/C.2/L.123 as communications.

After a short procedural discussion, the Committee decided by 3 votes to 2, with 1 abstention, to recommend to the Trusteeship Council that the petitions summarized in sections I and II (T/PET.7/420, T/PET.7/421) should be regarded as communications circulated under rule 24 of the rules of procedure, that the established procedure concerning petitions should accordingly not be applied to them and that they should be removed from the agenda.

Mr. BHANDARI (India) explained that his abstention should not be interpreted to mean that his delegation's vote at the previous meeting had been based on a false premise or an initial error. A close perusal of document T/C.2/L.123 had led it to the conclusion that the complaints in question would be more properly classified as communications than as petitions.

DRAFT REPORTS ON PETITIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF TOGOLAND UNDER  
FRENCH ADMINISTRATION (T/C.2/L.115/Add.2) (continued)

I. Petition from Mr. Daniel J. Ajavon (T/PET.7/382)

Draft resolution I was approved by 3 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

II. Petition from Mr. Flavianus Amouh Comla (T/PET.7/385)

Draft resolution II was approved by 4 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

III. Petition from Mr. Zebaot Adabunu (T/PET.7/397)

Draft resolution III was approved by 3 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

IV. Petition from Mr. Jonas Kpegba (T/PET.7/386 and Add.1 and 2)

Mr. MAX (France) asked for separate votes: one on the preamble and paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, and the other on paragraph 2.

The preamble and paragraph 1 were approved unanimously.

Paragraph 2 was approved by 3 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

Draft resolution IV was approved by 3 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

V. Petitions from Messrs. Fritz Bassah and Sam Woapah (T/PET.7/387 and Add.1)  
and Mr. Fritz Bassah (T/PET.7/398)

Draft resolution V was approved by 4 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

VI. Petition from Regional Secretary, Togoland Congress, Branch of Borada  
(T/PET.7/375)

Draft resolution VI was approved by 5 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

VII. Petitions from Mr. A.W. Norvor (T/PET.7/394) and the National Chairman of  
JUVENTO (T/PET.7/377)

Draft resolution VII was approved by 5 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

VIII. Petition from Mr. Taïrou Dorego (T/PET.7/376)

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that two alternative proposals had been presented, alternative A by the Belgian representative and alternative B by the Syrian representative.

A vote was taken on alternative A.

There were 3 votes in favour and 3 votes against.

After a brief recess in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, a second vote was taken.

There were 3 votes in favour and 3 against. Alternative A was not adopted.

A vote was taken on alternative B.

There were 3 votes in favour and 3 votes against.

After a brief recess in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, a second vote was taken.

There were 3 votes in favour and 3 against. Alternative B was not adopted.

The CHAIRMAN stated that, in accordance with the usual procedure, the Committee's report would mention the fact that no decision had been reached on the petition and the two alternatives would be transmitted to the Council.

IX. Petition from Messrs. Emmanuel Q. Attiogbe, Otto Ametepe and Azih Louis (T/PET.7/399 and Add.1)

Draft resolution IX was approved by 4 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

X. Petition from Mr. Nicodeme A. Amegah (T/PET.7/378)

Draft resolution X was approved by 4 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

XI. Petition from Mr. Stephan Zotou (T/PET.7/401)

Draft resolution XI was approved by 3 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

XII. Petition from Mr. Nicodème Amegah (T/PET.7/379)

Mr. MAX (France) suggested that paragraph 3 of the draft resolution should be amended to read:

"3. Expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will continue to ensure that the territorial Administration replies promptly to written inquiries received from members of the public."<sup>1/</sup>

It was so decided.

Mr. MAX (France) asked for a separate vote on paragraph 2 of the draft resolution.

Paragraph 2 was approved by 4 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Draft resolution XII, as amended, was approved by 4 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

XIII. Petition from Chief H.K. Apetor II and Others (T/PET.7/392)

Draft resolution XIII was approved by 4 votes to 2.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of Syria, proposed that the report should state that no special information was required concerning the action taken on any of the resolutions except resolution IV.

A vote was taken on the Syrian proposal.

There were 3 votes in favour and 3 against.

After a brief recess in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, a second vote was taken.

There were 3 votes in favour and 3 against. The proposal was not adopted.

Mr. CRAMER (United States of America) and Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) explained that they had voted against the Syrian proposal because they did not consider that any special information was required, although they had not voted in favour of resolution IV.

<sup>1/</sup> Provisional translation.



The CHAIRMAN put the draft report (T/C.2/L.115/Add.2) as a whole to the vote.

The draft report was adopted by 1 vote to none, with 5 abstentions.

Mr. CRAMER (United States of America) explained that he had voted for the draft report, although it was not wholly satisfactory to him, because he wished to expedite the Committee's work.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.