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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 7 April, 1960, at 3.15 p.m.

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(T/C.2/L.411)

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PRESENT:

Chairman:

Mr. RASGOTRA

India

Members:

Miss TENZER

Belgium

Mr. YIN

China

Mr. ANTONOV

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Mr. CASTON

United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland

Mr. BACON

United States of America

Also present:

Mr. CURTIS

Australia

Mr. ABDEL-WAHAB

United Arab
Republic

} Committee on
Classification of
Communications

Secretariat:

Mr. CHACKO

Secretary of the Committee

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CLASSIFICATION OF COMMUNICATIONS
(T/C.2/L.411)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Curtis (Australia) and Mr. Abdel-Wahab (United Arab Republic), members of the Committee on Classification of Communications, took places at the Committee table.

The CHAIRMAN observed that paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the report of the Committee on Classification were of an introductory nature. He asked whether any member of the Committee had any observations to make with regard to paragraph 4 (a).

Mr. CASRON (United Kingdom) said that in his delegation's view the first four positions dealt with in that section of the report would have been more suitably classified under paragraph 85 (2) of the rules of procedure but since the proposed classification had been unanimously recommended by the Committee on Classification he would not press for a revision. Subject to that reservation he would agree to the classification proposed in paragraph 4 (a).

Paragraph 4 (a) was approved.

Paragraphs 4 (b) and (c) were approved.

Paragraph 5 was approved.

Paragraph 6 was approved.

Mr. Curtis (Australia) and Mr. Abdel-Wahab (United Arab Republic), members of the Committee on Classification of Communications, withdrew.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a paper that had been circulated to the Committee giving the expected dates of arrival of Special Representatives for the various Territories. He asked whether the representatives of the Administering Authorities could give the Committee any additional information on that subject.

Miss TENZIER (Belgium) said that as far as she knew the Special Representative for Ruandi-Urundi would arrive in New York about 7 June, as stated in the paper. She would give the Committee more precise information as soon as she was able to do so.

Mr. BACON (United States of America) said that the Special Representative for the Pacific Islands would undoubtedly arrive in good time for the Council's debate on that Territory, although he could not say whether it would be exactly on 22 April, the date given in the paper.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) said that the Special Representatives for Tanganyika and the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration were both expected to arrive in New York on 12 May. It might be necessary to change the date by a day or two; if so he would inform the Committee.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that according to the Secretariat paper no observations had been received from the Administering Authorities concerned in connexion with a number of petitions. Under the rules of procedure they should have been received much earlier. Their absence had hampered the Committee's work.

The CHAIRMAN agreed that the observations of the Administering Authorities were overdue in respect of a large number of petitions.

Miss TENZER (Belgium) protested that in the case of a number of petitions from Ruanda-Urundi the time-limit allowed by the rules of procedure had barely elapsed. Her Government would certainly forward its observations on the petitions in question as early as possible. She pointed out that the majority of petitions related to political reforms and to the political disturbances which had taken place in the Territory, and that in view of the fact that a Visiting Mission had recently spent some time in the Territory studying those very problems it was only natural that the Belgian Government should defer forwarding its observations until it had heard the views of the Visiting Mission.

Mr. BACON (United States of America) said that his Government had forwarded observations relating to one of the two petitions received from the Pacific Islands; the Special Representative would comment verbally on the second when he arrived.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) felt that no action by the Committee was called for at the present time. The absence of written observations had never prevented the Committee from discharging its functions; if it appeared likely to do so, consideration could then be given to the action to be taken.

As far as the twenty-seven outstanding petitions from the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration were concerned, he did not know on which of them written observations would be submitted and on which his Government considered that oral observations would suffice. With regard to the one outstanding petition from Tanganyika, he knew that the observations were practically ready; the delay was due to the fact that there was one point involved which required extensive research into past records.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that the Committee should ask the Secretary to urge the Administering Authorities to transmit their observations as soon as possible.

He did not agree with the United Kingdom representative that the absence of observations had never prevented the Committee from doing its work. Nor could he agree with the representative of Belgium that the observations concerning a number of petitions from Ruanda-Urundi were not overdue. The observations relating to over half the petitions from the Territory should have arrived in time for the twenty-fifth session of the Trusteeship Council.

The CHAIRMAN, in compliance with the request of the USSR representative, asked the Secretary of the Committee to draw the attention of the Administering Authorities concerned to the fact that observations were due on a number of petitions and to ask that they should be expedited.

He drew attention to the statement in the Secretariat paper that the Special Representative for Somaliland would not be able to be present in New York earlier than May. In view of that fact the examination of petitions from Somaliland under Italian administration would have to be deferred.

With regard to the petitions from Togoland under French administration, the Secretariat had asked the French delegation when a Special Representative would be available and had been informed on 31 March that the matter had been referred to the Government of France. He suggested that the Committee should wait at least until the opening of the twenty-sixth session of the Council

(The Chairman)

before coming to any decision in the matter. With the information already available to it, it could begin its consideration of petitions from Nauru, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands in April; take up petitions from the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration, Tanganyika and Somaliland under Italian administration in May; and deal with petitions from Ruanda-Urundi and any others that might still be outstanding in June.

If there was no objection he would fix the dates of the Committee's future meetings in consultation with the Secretariat and inform delegations accordingly.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.