

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCILCONSEIL
DE TUTELLET/P.V. 27
28 April 1947
English

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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Lake Success, New York

Monday, 28 April 1947, at 9:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

The PRESIDENT: Mr. FRANCIS B. SAYRE

Mr. Makin	Australia
Mr. Ryckmans	Belgium
Mr. Liu Chieh	China
Mr. Garreau	France
Mr. Khalidy	Iraq
Mr. Padilla Nervo	Mexico
Sir Carl Berendsen	New Zealand
Mr. Thomas	United Kingdom
Mr. Gerig	United States of America

The PRESIDENT: The Council is in session.

We have before us the completion of the items on the agenda, Items 12 and 13.

CONSIDERATION, WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, OF ANY ITEMS PROPOSED BY ANY MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

The PRESIDENT: Item 12 relates to the consideration, within the competence of the Trusteeship Council, of any items proposed by any Member of the United Nations.

Since no items have been proposed for the agenda by any Member of the United Nations, I believe there is nothing to discuss under Item 12.

DRAFT REPORT BY THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COVERING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL, 26 MARCH TO 28 APRIL 1947

The PRESIDENT: That brings us to the consideration of the Draft Report by the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly covering the First Session of the Council, 26 March to 28 April 1947.

You see before you document T/39, dated 28 April 1947, to which a few verbal corrections should be made. I shall ask our Secretary to give you the corrections.

Mr. BUNCHE (Secretary): In the Table of Contents on the back of the cover page, Item 14, under "Annexes", Roman Numeral I was omitted and should read, "List of Representatives, Alternates, and Advisers at the First Session."

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On page 1 of the Report, the next to the last line from the bottom the word "regular" should be inserted between "Second" and "Session", so that the last line would read, "...General Assembly for consideration at its Second regular Session."

On page 3, a paragraph was omitted, referring to the representation of the specialized agencies, which should read: "Representatives from the three specialized agencies, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agricultural Organization, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization were also present. The Agreements entered into between the United Nations and these agencies provide for attendance of their representatives at the meetings of the Trusteeship Council." That would be a new paragraph between the second and third full paragraphs on page 3.

On page 5, the second paragraph, the words "(Section 2 of Chapter IV of the Preparatory Commission's Report)" should be deleted since that reference appears in the next paragraph in the body of the resolution of the General Assembly.

On page 7, second line from the top, in view of this morning's action, the word "refined" should be deleted. That line would read: "understanding that the Questionnaire will be revised and adapted as necessary."

Mr. THOMAS (United Kingdom): It should be "Revised and, if necessary, adapted" to meet the amendment.

Mr. BUNCHE (Secretary): That is correct. "Revised and if necessary, adapted." Delete "as necessary" in the third line, therefore.

Also, on page 7, the third full paragraph, the brackets should be removed from that paragraph in view of the approval of the resolution this morning.

On page 10, the beginning of the third paragraph, the brackets should also be removed ending at the last line at the bottom of of the page, in view of this morning's action.

Also, there is a typographical error in the third paragraph, fifth line, the word "personally" is misspelled.

On page 11, the sub-heading "ILO Petitions" should read "Petitions relating to the ILO."

On page 14, the last paragraph from the bottom, the brackets should be removed and the wording on the last two lines should be revised, in view of this morning's action, to read "Visits to trust territories as a recurring item on the basis of one visiting mission each year", deleting the words "biennial visits to each of the trust territories". Remove the brackets after Annex VI.

On page 15, remove the brackets from the second paragraph.

On page 16, Annex 1 should read "List of representatives, alternates and advisors at the First Session." The present Annex 1 would then be, for the purposes of this meeting, Annex 1 A.

Mr. THOMAS (United Kingdom): I have a few small points, some very literary and few of a little more importance.

On page 1, the last line, it should be "First Session of the Trusteeship Council was convened at Lake Success."

Page 6, line 5, the first paragraph, "of other Organs of the United Nations which had meanwhile been established", inserting "meanwhile" between "had" and "been", and omitting "earlier". It will be obvious to the representatives why I have done that.

On page 8, paragraph 4, line 1, three petitions and not two petitions were received on this subject, the Petitions of Women and International Law. I do not recollect that the last one was carried, but three were certainly received on the subject.

Mr. BUNCHE (Secretary): The last one was too late.

Mr. THOMAS (United Kingdom): The last one was too late for consideration, I see.

Page 10, third paragraph, line 4, in order to harmonize this with the exact words used, I should prefer it to read "those who were Axis sympathizers or those whose conduct rendered them liable to deportation, irrespective of nationality" and so on.

Mr. THOMAS (United Kingdom): Yes. This will be given to the Secretary.

Page 10, paragraph four, line 3, for the same reason I should prefer this paragraph to read "that the great majority of the Italian nationals and a considerable number of the Germans were being permitted to remain in or return to Tanganyika and none of the former Dutch South African Nationals would be sent to Germany against their will."

If I may revert to page 8, the first line of paragraph 3. I suggest we omit the words "or other". There are no persons corresponding to that category.

I should have preferred, I may say, Mr. President, in the resolution of this subject, if we could have separated the German and Italian petitioners, more particularly as I hoped that when this Report is considered by the General Assembly, Italy will have been admitted as a Member of the United Nations, as the Powers negotiating the Peace Treaty have agreed to support her. But in view of the pressure of time under which we are now working, I shall not ask for that amendment.

Mr. GARREAU (France) (Interpretation from French): I would like you to mention in this Report, where it deals with the Tanganyika petitions, that the French representative, on the basis of Article 107 of the Charter did not participate in the discussion of German petitions, and in the discussion of the German petitions only.

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq): It seems to me proper to mention, in an otherwise admirable document, I think, and a very straight and neat one, that the first session was opened by the Secretary-General. This has not been mentioned and I believe we owe him this courtesy.

The PRESIDENT: I take it that we are all in favour of the suggestions which have been made, that the Secretariat be authorized to write in an appropriate sentence, in accordance with the suggestion of the representative of France, and similarly, to write an appropriate sentence in accordance with the suggestion of the representative of Iraq.

Are there any other comments, suggestions, deletions or additions?

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq): Mr. President, a very small point again. I believe it would perhaps be of some use to mention the hour of the opening meeting of the session. Many people will take it, as I do that

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the first convening of this Council is an historic one. Perhaps we could say it was convened on 26 March, at eleven o'clock. Perhaps the mention of the hour would not be amiss.

The PRESIDENT: I take it there are no objections to that, and the Secretariat will be asked to insert the hour of the meeting on 26 March.

(No objections indicated.)

Mr. GERIG (United States): Item 5 in the Table of Contents reads "Provisional Agenda", and it occurs again on page 4. I wonder if that word "Provisional" had not better be dropped and call it the "Agenda". The paragraph starts with "Provisional Agenda", but it did become the "Agenda".

The PRESIDENT: I take it we are in accord with that suggestion and I shall ask the Secretariat to make the appropriate change in the Table of Contents and in the heading on page 4.

Mr. THOMAS (United Kingdom): While we are on the Table of Contents, the ILO petitions will be altered there also, of course?

The PRESIDENT: Yes. In the Table of Contents we will change, under Item 8, "Petitions", to the following language: "Petitions Relating to Tanganyika", "Petition Relating to Western Samoa", and "Petitions Relating to the ILO."

The PRESIDENT: Are there any other suggestions or corrections?

(No response.)

The PRESIDENT: If not, I will ask all those in favour of the adoption of the Report, as modified and amended, to signify immediately after the interpretation by raising their right hands.

(A vote was taken by a show of hands.)

The PRESIDENT: It is a unanimous vote in favour of the adoption of the report.

As Chairman of the Committee of Nine to select the individuals who shall compose the Samoan Visiting Mission, I should like to announce to the Council the adoption of the following resolution by the committee:

"RESOLVED that the Visiting Mission to Western Samoa to investigate the petition from the leaders and representatives of Western Samoa, authorized in the Resolution adopted by the Trusteeship Council at its 23rd Meeting on 24 April 1947, be composed of the following individuals: Mr. Francis B. Sayre, Mr. Pierre Ryckmans, and Mr. Awai Khalidy."

It was further agreed by the Committee, that in the unhappy event that Mr. Khalidy, himself, is unable to go, the three Members of the Mission should meet to recommend to the Committee of Nine the name, or names, of a proposed substitute. It was also agreed that Members of the mission will meet to recommend the names of such experts as they see fit to recommend to the Committee of Nine, as accompanying the mission.

There remains the question of a press communique covering the meeting of the ad hoc Committee of Nine. I have a brief suggestion as to the wording of that press communique, which I should like to read to the Members of the Council, to determine whether it meets with their approval. The suggested press communique would be as follows:

"At its second meeting, the ad hoc Committee on the composition of the Visiting Mission to Western Samoa adopted unanimously the following resolution:

'RESOLVED that the Visiting Mission to Western Samoa to investigate the petition from the leaders and representatives of Western Samoa, authorized in the resolution adopted by the Trusteeship Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting, on 24 April 1947, be composed of the following individuals:

Mr. Francis B. Sayre, Mr. Pierre Ryckmans and Mr. Awni Khalidy.'

"It was agreed that the three Members of the Mission should consider the proposal that expert consultants be appointed in an advisory capacity, and report back to the Committee. The Mission was further authorized to consider other matters relating to the staffing of the Mission."

Does that meet with the desire of the Council? Are there any further suggestions?

I make this suggestion in view of Rule 45 of our Rules of Procedure, which provides:

"At the close of private meetings, as may be appropriate, the Trusteeship Council shall issue a communique ^{through} / the Secretary-General".

Mr. GERIG (United States): In regard to the communique, I wonder whether it would not be better to say, "possibly two experts". I thought that was the sense in which the resolution was voted. If it is left open, it might be thought by someone that a large number of experts was contemplated.

The PRESIDENT: The representative of the United States suggests that the opening words of the last paragraph which now reads: "It was agreed that the three Members of the Mission should consider the proposal that expert consultants be appointed in an advisory capacity and report back to the Committee...", be changed by inserting the words "possibly two", so as to read: "...should consider the proposal that possibly two expert consultants be appointed..."

Are there any objections?

(No objection indicated.)

The PRESIDENT: Since no one objects to the suggested modification, and hearing no objections or further comments with regard to the proposed communique as thus modified, I take it, it has the approval of the Council.

CONSIDERATION OF ITEM 13, SCHEDULE OF FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND PROGRAMMES OF FUTURE WORK

The PRESIDENT: Rule 1 of our Rules of Procedure provides:

"The Trusteeship Council shall meet in two regular sessions each year. The first of such sessions shall be convened during the latter half of June and the second shall be convened during the latter half of November."

Rule 4 provides:

"The President of the Trusteeship Council shall notify the Members of the Council of the date and place of the first meeting of each session through the Secretary-General."

In accordance with these Rules, the date and place of the second session of this Council will be made known to the Members by the President through the Secretary-General. I take it that no further action is required at this session in regard to the date of the next meeting.

Is there any other business which this Council should consider?

Mr. GARREAU (France) (Interpretation from French): Now that the work of the present session is almost finished, may I be allowed to interpret what I believe are the feelings of all my colleagues in voicing our appreciation to our President at the close of these many weeks of work which have taken place in the most cordial atmosphere, an atmosphere of confidence. I think this is a very good omen for our future sessions.

I wish to state how much we have appreciated your impartiality, Mr. President, and the competency of your presidency. Thanks to you, there have been no difficulties; all the solutions ^{at which} we have arrived have been reached in a spirit of friendship and co-operation. Most of our resolutions have been adopted unanimously. I wish again to express the thanks, I believe of the whole Trusteeship Council, to you, sir.

The PRESIDENT: That is very gracious of you, M. Garreau. I appreciate it; I appreciate the things you said, from my heart. I have looked forward eagerly to the work that the Trusteeship Council would do when constituted. It never entered my mind, to be quite honest and frank, that I should ever be chosen as President. My thoughts were entirely in another direction. I accepted the position because I was so sincerely anxious to do whatever the Council desired in order to further this work.

Through these four weeks during which we have been sitting, I have felt again and again the friendly constructive help of every Member of this Council. I know that my shortcomings must have been rather glaring at times, but I have wanted this Council to do its utmost to bring about the objective which all of

us have in common, and always a simple reference to that objective has been enough to clear away all misunderstandings, all difficulties which were merely superficial, because I realize profoundly that this group of men is determined to make a success of what this Council has been set up to achieve. I have tremendous confidence in what this Council is going to achieve because of the men who make it up.

In closing, I do want to express my profound appreciation for all your kindness, for your generosity to your President. I hope and trust and believe that the friendships which have begun in this Council will carry on throughout our lives.

Sir Carl EBERENDSEN (New Zealand): All my life, Mr. President, it has been my unhappy fate to miss the bus. I asked for the floor because it was my ambition to say, in my halting way, what has been so charmingly said by our colleague from France and to prevent your rapping that gavel, as you do with such shattering effect, before you had learned of the sentiments of your colleagues. All I can do is to endorse very warmly and most cordially what has been said by M. Garreau.

I would like to add this, too: we have been breaking new ground here. I suppose all of us approached this meeting with some natural doubts as to how this body would get along. We will all leave knowing that it is getting along very well. We have learned to know each other.

I look around this table and I feel a glow of warm personal regard for every single man around this table. I believe, as the one whose proposals have been more frequently and emphatically negated than those of anybody else around the room, that such ^eremark can come from me with particular grace. I shall be proud to believe that my colleagues hold the same sentiments towards me as I do towards them, and I am happy to believe that this is not "goodbye" but "au revoir."

Mr. THOMAS (United Kingdom): In associating myself, Mr. President, with all that has been said, with an eloquence that I could not possibly command, in both the French and the English tongues, about yourself, I should like to propose a motion in which you and the Vice-President, as well as the rest of us, can all join. That is, to express our warmest thanks to the members of the Secretariat who have worked with us, and also the interpreters, who have carried out their difficult tasks so well.

We are fortunate in having in this section of the Secretariat some of the best members in that organ of the United Nations; and when we look around and see that even today they have produced the verbatim report of what we said this morning we see how well they do their job. We owe them a very great deal indeed for the

success of this session.

As for the interpreters, I am always lost in admiration for their work. It is true they have not succeeded in interpreting into French Sir Carl Berendsen's "in the flesh," and I notice that the vernacular "O.K." of the English or is it the American tongue, became the loftier "approbation" in French. I did not notice just now how "missed the bus" was ^{interpreted} / into French. They have a most difficult task which they accomplish most admirably.

May I add a few personal words to that. It is unlikely, I suppose, that I shall be able to attend more meetings of the Trusteeship Council. The lives of politicians are insecure in any case. We come like water and we go like the wind. We shall, of course, before long, appoint the United Kingdom representative who will be a person qualified for meetings of this Council in a better sense than I can hope to be.

Therefore, this may very well be the first and last meeting of the Trusteeship Council that I shall be able to attend. However, as one who was present at its birth in the General Assembly and who left the meetings last December in a very depressed state of mind -- I do not mind saying/frankly -- I should now like to say that this first meeting of the Trusteeship Council has, to my way of thinking, been most heartening. Your own presidency has contributed not a little to that, but the way in which we have all worked together has made it the success that it is.

I should like to go on record in saying that, to the best of my recollection there has been only one occasion on which all the administering powers have voted against all the non-administering powers, and that was on an entirely unimportant question of procedure. There has been no such division as might have been

expected between administering and non-administering powers. Everyone around this table has been willing to look at matters objectively and judge them according to his own conscience in the matter.

I think that is exceedingly heartening for the future, and I go back convinced that the Trusteeship Council has made an excellent beginning in the important task entrusted to it.

The PRESIDENT: I am glad that Mr. Thomas said what he did, particularly about the Secretariat and the interpreters. Without the very able assistance of men like Victor Hoo, Dr. Bunche, and their corps of assistants, we never in the world could have accomplished what we have; and, as Mr. Thomas has said, the interpreters are a constant marvel to us all.

On behalf of all the Members of the Council, I want to reiterate and to emphasize what he said in expressing our appreciation to both the Members of the Secretariat and the interpreters.

Dr. HOO (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Trusteeship):

In the name of my colleagues on the Secretariat, may I thank you and Mr. Thomas for the kind words of appreciation that you have just uttered for the Members of the Secretariat and their work here in the Trusteeship Council. We did, Mr. President, our duty. We were serving the Trusteeship Council because we were serving the cause of the United Nations.

I was glad--and my colleagues were glad--to see that every day, there was a growing confidence on the part of the Members of the Trusteeship Council, vis-a-vis the Members of the Secretariat. I hope that in the future this confidence will grow ever more so that we will make one body for the sake of the United Nations.

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq): I do not think, that it would matter very much if we all said a word. We are such a small Council that we can take a few minutes each in order to do so.

I naturally associate myself very heartily with everything that has been said. May I take this occasion--indeed, from the depths of my heart--to express my admiration for the Secretariat. I have had the unfortunate lot sometimes to differ with the Secretariat. I hasten to assure them that was purely on points of principle. My admiration for the Secretariat has never been greater than it is now. The interpreters, the Secretary of this Council, Mr. Bunche,

and his assistants, indeed deserve a very, very hearty compliment. Their smiling faces were many times a great alleviation of our hardships. I do not hide the fact, that sometimes when our discussions became prolonged and a little boring--though not very much--I developed the very happy habit of looking at the faces of the ladies around this table. I could not very well turn my face towards the audience. That would have been too pointed. Therefore, I would turn it to this side; and I assure you that their smiling faces were a great encouragement to me.

I would like to put one point that has been very often put, and rightly so, by our very able and beloved Vice-President. This Council session has been indeed marked by, what I consider most happily, the absence of suspicion between the administering authorities and the non-administering authorities. There can be no question about it; there were many suspicions before this Council met. It is a very fortunate stroke of fate, perhaps, that the suspicions were before the Council and not during the Council.

You have said something about the beginnings of this Council and how it has become a fact. There is no question about it; it has become a fact. However, let us not forget that we are just at the beginning. We, shall I use an American word and say "kid ourselves", if we thought that we have won the cause. We have not. We are just at the beginning of the cause and we do not know what fate holds for us.

You, sir, and Dr. Victor Hoo perhaps more than anybody else in the Secretariat have assisted very ably in the birth of this child. But the child is just born. It has many years to go yet and we would do well to remember that. There is a great deal of difference between your meeting a lovely lady at a cocktail party and your wanting to propose to her. You have not done so. Indeed, you do not know whether her tender health will stand the shock at all and we must wait and see.

You will allow me to say that we will also commit a great mistake if we think that ^{the} United Nations as an Organization--and this is one important Organ of it--have won the full confidence of the world. We have a lot to do to win the full confidence of the world. At the present time, you will find millions of people repeating the same old story of power politics, of no confidence in the United Nations Organization, and of old diplomacy. However, let us hope we can refute their erroneous thoughts; and we can do that if we have the will. As far as this Council is concerned--and I hope every Organ of the United Nations--if we have the will, then let us exercise it, for indeed, if this world falls, it will fall on our heads. The civilization of the present man has surpassed itself to the very detriment of its creators. Our moral progress has never kept pace with our material progress.

During the wars of religion in France in the sixteenth century, a French King bent over the body of his friend ^{dying} at the hand of an assassin and told him, "Yours is the wound, mine the sorrow." If this world falls--and it will fall from our hands only--we will repeat it, when it is too late to do anything about it, "Yours is the wound, mine the sorrow."

Mr. LIU CHIEH (China): Mr. President, this is one occasion on which I do not propose to waive my right to speak as the representative of a non-administering power. In fact, as on so many other occasions, I find myself in complete agreement with all that has been said on the part of the representatives of the administering States. I have always felt that we who represent the non-administering States are not here to constitute ourselves as an opposition to the administering authorities. We are here to consult with them in the performance of a great task that has been imposed on the Council by the Charter.

If we often bring to the problems some dissenting views, I believe that difference of approach to problems is very helpful to the Council in arriving at the most satisfactory solution. In fact, we would be failing in our duties as representatives of non-administering powers if we were contented to remain as silent partners in this great experiment of trusteeship.

I am very happy to know that the representatives of the administering powers have come to share this view and that they have been convinced of our position. I am sure that we could not have arrived at such a happy understanding if it were not for the patience and wisdom with which you, ^{President,} Mr./ have guided the deliberations of this Council.

As to our friends in the Secretariat, I do not think I need add anything to the words of appreciation that have been voiced. I believe that the Council can only be as good as the Secretariat, and we certainly should, as our Assistant Secretary-General once pointed out, consider them as one of us.

The PRESIDENT: Is there any further business to come before our Council?

(No response.)

The PRESIDENT: May I announce a meeting of the Samoan Visiting Mission in my office tomorrow morning. May I ask Mr. Ryckmans and Mr. Khalidy whether 11 o'clock would be a convenient hour.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium): Where, sir?

The PRESIDENT: In my office, Room 2532, at 250 West 57th Street in New York City, which, I take it, would be more convenient than out here.

The Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the First Session of the Trusteeship Council is adjourned.

(The Twenty-Seventh Meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m., thereby concluding the First Session of the Trusteeship Council.)