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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 15 March 1957, at 2 p.m.

President:

Mr. ASHA

(Syria)

1. Report of the Trusteeship Council covering the period from 23 July 1955 to 14 August 1956 [13]
2. The future of Togoland under British administration [9]
3. Examination of the annual report on the administration of Togoland under British administration for 1955 [3d]
4. Examination of petitions concerning Togoland under British administration [4]
5. Attainment of self-government or independence by Trust Territories [11]
6. Financing of the economic development plans of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration: report of the Mission of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration [7]

Note: The Official Records of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.753 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL COVERING THE PERIOD FROM 23 JULY 1955 TO
14 AUGUST 1956 (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1066 (XI)) (A/RES/499) [agenda item 13]

The PRESIDENT: The resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its eleventh session (A/RES/499) took note of the report of the Trusteeship Council and recommended that, in its future deliberations, the Council should take into account the comments and suggestions made in the course of the discussion of the report at the eleventh session of the General Assembly.

I invite the comments of the members of the Council.

As there are no comments, I take it that the Council wishes to take note of what was stated. It is therefore so decided.

It was so decided.

THE FUTURE OF TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1044 (XI)) (A/RES/425; T/1301) [agenda item 9]

The PRESIDENT: The resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its eleventh session (A/RES/425) contains four operative paragraphs, as follows:

"1. Expresses its approval of the union of the Territory of Togoland under British administration with an independent Gold Coast and accordingly invites the Administering Authority to take such steps as are necessary to this end;

"2. Resolves, with the agreement of the Administering Authority, that, on the date on which the Gold Coast becomes independent and the union with it of the Territory of Togoland under British administration takes place, the Trusteeship Agreement approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 63 (I) of 13 December 1946 shall cease to be in force, the objectives of trusteeship having been attained;

"3. Requests the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to notify the Secretary-General as soon as the union of the Territory of Togoland under British administration with an independent Gold Coast has been effected;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to communicate to all Members of the United Nations and to the Trusteeship Council at its nineteenth session the notification by the Government of the United Kingdom referred to in paragraph 3 above."

(The President)

In accordance with operative paragraph 3 of the General Assembly resolution, the United Kingdom Government has informed the Secretary-General that, with effect from midnight on 5/6 March 1957, "the territories previously comprised in the Gold Coast became the independent State of Ghana", and that "the union of the former Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration with the independent State of Ghana took place with effect from the same time and date" (T/1301).

Do any members of the Council wish to comment on this item?

Mr. JAIPAL (India): As the President has just read out the terms of the General Assembly resolution contained in document A/RES/425, it remains for me only to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that in terms of that resolution the Council has not been given any specific task other than to receive a certain notification through the Secretary-General from the Government of the United Kingdom. That notification has been received and circulated in document T/1301, and I would therefore suggest that all that remains for us to do now is simply to take note of that document.

The PRESIDENT: I take it that the Council is in agreement with the suggestion of the representative of India that the Council should take note of the receipt of this notification by the Secretary-General.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): We have just heard the observations made by the representative of India with regard to the task which the Council should carry out on the present item. My delegation feels that in addition to taking note of the receipt by the Secretary-General of the notification sent by the United Kingdom, perhaps we should also communicate this final action of the Council to the Assembly in order to complete the cycle of procedure. We would thus not only take note of that here but we would also communicate to the General Assembly that all the steps which have been set forth in its resolution of 13 December 1956 have been taken, and that therefore the Trusteeship Agreement has been terminated.

The PRESIDENT: In reply to the representative of Guatemala, I should like to state that his point is well provided for: it will automatically be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. There is no question about informing the General Assembly that we have taken note of the receipt of the notification.

I take it, therefore, that the suggestion of the representative of India that the Council should take note of the receipt of the notification is accepted.

It was so decided.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION FOR 1955 (T/1283, 1299, 1304; T/L.738) [agenda item 3a]

EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS CONCERNING TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION (T/PET.6/352 to 355; T/PET.6/L.68 to 87) [agenda item 4]

The PRESIDENT: In the paper prepared by the Secretariat, "Outline of conditions in the Territory", document T/L.738, the following is pointed out:

"Pending a decision by the Trusteeship Council as to the disposal of the annual report on the administration of Togoland under British administration for the year 1955 and of the further reports which it is assumed will be submitted covering the year 1956 and the period from 1 January to 5 March 1957, the Secretariat has followed the procedure previously laid down by the Council by preparing, in this working paper, a summary of the information at present available to it."

In view of the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement for Togoland under British administration as of midnight 5/6 March 1957, the Council will have to decide whether it wants to examine and discuss that annual report, as provided for in our procedure.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): My delegation would like to offer its comments on items 3 and 4 together.

The PRESIDENT: I shall proceed now, and then I shall give the floor to the representative of India to speak on both items. The report which is before the Council in connexion with item 3 concerns events prior to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and has to be disposed of by some kind of decision or action. Item 4, which is related to the item to which I have just referred, has to do with the examination of petitions concerning Togoland under British administration.

Before I give the floor to the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions, I should like to say that a number of petitions concerning Togoland under British administration received prior to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement have been placed on the agenda for the present session, that is, documents T/PET.6/352 to 355 and T/PET.6/L.68 to 87. These petitions also must be disposed of by a decision of the Council.

Before giving the floor to the representative of India, I should like to call on the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions to make a statement.

U PE KIN (Burma): In connexion with the item under discussion, I wish to make a brief statement as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Petitions.

During its recent examination of the preliminary examination given by the Secretary-General to petitions and communications circulated under rules 85 (2) and 24, the Standing Committee on Petitions had before it documents contained in T/PET.6/L.68 to 87, inclusive, and T/COM.6/L.70 to 76, inclusive, which related to the affairs of the former Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration. The Committee deemed it inappropriate to consider the classification of these documents in view of the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement for that Territory on 6 March 1957. The report on these and other communications and petitions was adopted by the Standing Committee only at this morning's meeting and will therefore not be available to the Council before Monday. In these circumstances, I felt it advisable to inform the Council of the Committee's action at this stage in order to enable the Council, if it so desires, to take the Committee's decision into consideration at this time.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): As is known, the Trusteeship Agreement covering the Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration has expired, and that former Trust Territory is now outside the scope of the International Trusteeship System, and consequently outside the purview of this Council.

Whatever functions the Council exercised in the past derived directly from the Trusteeship Agreement. A reference to Article 87 of the Charter will make that quite clear. Now that the Trusteeship System has ceased to be in force, the functions of the Council have also come to an end in respect of that former Trust Territory. For the same reason, the former Administering Authority does not, in our opinion, have any further responsibilities in respect of that Territory, and, so far as my delegation is concerned, we certainly do not expect it to submit any reports in the future, regardless of the period to which they may relate. We do not have any authority to conduct a post-mortem, as it were. Might I therefore suggest that we decide that no action is called for in respect of items 3 and 4 and, for that matter, in respect of the former Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration. Indeed, items 3 and 4, in our opinion, should not have been on the agenda. I am sorry that we did not raise that point yesterday; our failure to do so was due to an oversight. That fact is that the Council no longer has any authority to deal with matters concerning this former Trust Territory.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): The French delegation shares fully the opinions just expressed by the representative of India. Nevertheless, since the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions has told us that a report of his Committee is to be submitted to the Council, I believe that perhaps it would be appropriate to wait until that report has been distributed, so that we may note it. It would not alter the principle of the proposal made by India, but it would perhaps be more regular to proceed in that way.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no other comments, I take it that the suggestion of the representative of India is accepted.

(The President)

I might add that this action should not create any precedent in connexion with our future work. It just happens that conditions did not permit the Council or the Committee on Petitions to discuss the report. Certainly it is not only a post-mortem operation, but it is somewhat too late to embark on a lengthy discussion. But then, as I have said -- and I think I am expressing the views of the Council -- this will not create a precedent for other cases. Each case will be dealt with on its merits and in the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

ATTAINMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE BY TRUST TERRITORIES (General Assembly resolution 1064 (XI)) (A/RES/497) [Agenda item 11]

The PRESIDENT: In resolution A/RES/497, the General Assembly recommended:

"that the Administering Authorities take the necessary measures to ensure that the Trust Territories of Tanganyika, the Cameroons under British administration, the Cameroons under French administration, Togoland under French administration and Ruanda-Urundi achieve self-government or independence at an early date."

The Assembly further invited the Administering Authorities:

"to estimate the period of time required for the attainment of self-government or independence by all Trust Territories ... [and] to submit appropriate information to the Trusteeship Council at its nineteenth and twentieth sessions ...".

Finally, the General Assembly requested the Trusteeship Council:

"to report to the General Assembly at its twelfth session on the progress made in implementing the present resolution."

(The President)

It may be recalled that at its seventeenth session the Council adopted a special procedure for dealing with the question of the attainment of self-government or independence (resolution 1569)(XVII)). According to that procedure, the drafting committees are instructed to prepare, for inclusion in the appropriate chapters on conditions in Trust Territories, draft sections setting out the information available as regards the establishment of intermediate and final time-tables for the attainment of self-government or independence and the Council's conclusions on the subject. It would seem that the foregoing procedure is applicable to General Assembly resolution 1064 (XI).

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): As the President has quite rightly noted, the General Assembly recommended that the Administering Authorities should take the necessary steps to ensure the achievement, in the near future, of self-government by the Territories mentioned. The Assembly also invited the Administering Authorities to determine the period of time required for the attainment of self-government or independence by all Trust Territories, and the Administering Authorities are obliged to submit to the Trusteeship Council, at its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, the pertinent information as to these two desiderata, including also information concerning the necessary measures for the attainment of independence or self-government in the near future.

It seems to me that the Council cannot limit itself to the role of a mere intermediary which transmits information from the Administering Authorities to the General Assembly. In order to judge correctly the extent to which a certain resolution is being implemented, it is necessary to study thoroughly all the data available on the relevant question. It is the duty of the Council to appraise correctly the information obtained from the Administering Authorities and to express its opinion as to whether and to what extent this information indicates that the situation is consistent with the purposes of the Trusteeship System, and also to what extent the situation is consistent with certain resolutions of the Assembly.

(Mr. Lobanov, USSR)

In the unfortunate event -- which I do not wish to visualize -- of an Administering Authority's being unwilling to implement the resolution of the General Assembly, and perhaps precisely in such event, it would be necessary fully to discuss the situation which would then arise, since the Council, first of all, must concern itself with the implementation of the Assembly's resolutions.

In this connexion the Soviet delegation is of the opinion that the progress of the implementation of resolution 1064 (XI) should be subjected to thorough scrutiny and the result of such study referred to the General Assembly in the form of a report from the Council. I wish to emphasize once more that we are not talking of the submission of formal information or summaries of information which will be made available, or not made available, by the Administering Authorities; we are speaking of the submission of a report describing the progress of the implementation of the resolution, including the measures pursued by the Administering Authorities in order to promote the attainment of independence by Trust Territories.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): The General Assembly resolution contains two invitations and one recommendation addressed to the Administering Authorities. We think that it is up to the Administering Authorities to respond to these invitations and the recommendation. The Council's report to the Assembly will, naturally, depend upon the nature of the responses from the Administering Authorities. Meanwhile, we see no objection whatsoever to the procedure outlined by the President, which is to implement the earlier resolution of the Trusteeship Council.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria) (interpretation from French): I should like to support the views just expressed by the representative of India. The resolution adopted by the General Assembly invites the Administering Authorities to provide information concerning this problem now before us. Therefore, it seems that the representatives of those Administering Authorities in the Council would themselves be bound to provide the Council with certain indications regarding the implementation of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the resolution. Therefore, we should like to know the views of those representatives on this point.

(Mr. Mufti, Syria)

With regard to the position of my delegation in this matter, I wish to emphasize that I shall return to the problem when we examine the reports submitted by the Administering Authorities and, in due course, I shall point out the wide gaps existing in these reports concerning the question now before us. Consequently, we should like to know the views of the representatives of the Administering Authorities, and we should, at least, like to receive assurance that the recommendation of the General Assembly will be duly respected in future.

The PRESIDENT: Since there are no further comments, we shall proceed to the next item on the agenda.

FINANCING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION: REPORT OF THE MISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT TO THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION (TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1255 (XVI) (T/1296))

Agenda item 7

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): On behalf of my delegation, I should like to make a few remarks with regard to this item.

The Italian Government, as is well known, is fully aware of the importance of this question, as well as of the urgency with which it must be dealt with. My delegation is, therefore, prepared to discuss this report at any time the Council may deem it well to do so. On the other hand, I must point out that, in the opinion of my delegation, it is essential for representatives of the Somali Government to be present at our discussions inasmuch as we shall be dealing with a problem which will be of such vital importance for the future independent State of Somalia, and I think that everyone at this table will agree with us.

Furthermore, whatever decision or conclusion may be reached will necessarily require the concurrence of the representatives of the Somali people.

(Mr. Zadotti, Italy)

In this connexion I must inform the Council that the Somali Government has advised us that it will not be in a position to send its delegation to New York before 15 April, for two reasons. First of all, the report of the International Bank reached Mogadiscio only on 10 February, when some of the most important officials and representatives of the Government and the Legislative Assembly were in New York attending proceedings of the General Assembly. That delegation has just returned to Mogadiscio and, so far, have not had an opportunity of considering the report.

(Mr. Zadotti, Italy)

Secondly, as the Somali delegation also proposes to attend the examination of the annual report which will take place during the summer session, it would be the desire of the Somali Government, apart from the financial implications which are easily understandable, to avoid a prolonged stay of its delegation in New York because of the fact that such a prolonged stay would detach important officials and members of the Government from their duties in Somaliland.

I felt it my duty to call this to the attention of the Trusteeship Council and I wish to add that this concern of the Somali Government is fully shared by my delegation.

The PRESIDENT: The problem which we have to discuss is certainly one of the most important problems as far as the territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration is concerned. May I suggest that for today's meeting we postpone the discussion of this item until Monday and then find out what will be the best procedure to follow in view of the statement we have just heard. I think that we should give the Government of Somaliland enough time to study the matter and we should also get the views of the Government on that important report. Therefore, if there is no objection, I would propose that we postpone the consideration of this item for our meeting on Monday.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): Since this item is on today's agenda, may we be permitted to offer a few observations in the light of the statement just made by the representative of Italy. We have read the Bank's report rather carefully and we find ourselves bristling with a series of questions the answers to which we presume cannot be furnished exclusively by the Administering Authority. Indeed, some of our questions may have to be addressed to the representatives of the Somali Government. Undoubtedly, the Somali Government would come increasingly into the picture and their representatives would have to be present here if we are to embark on any realistic discussion of the Bank's report.

According to the representative of Italy, it seems that these representatives cannot be present here before 15 April. In the circumstances, it seems to us that it might be better to have this item put off, not until Monday but perhaps until the next session of the Trusteeship Council, when it could be taken up together with the annual report on Somaliland. This may be the most convenient arrangement,

(Mr. Jaipal, India)

taking everything into account. When we eventually come to discuss the Bank's report, we hope that the Administering Authority will be in a position to let us have a plan. I should like to quote here from Trusteeship Council resolution 1255 (XVI). The last preambular paragraph has taken note of

"the statement of the representative of Italy that such a report would enable the Italian Government to submit to the Trusteeship Council a plan as regards problems which required immediate examination and those relating to the economy of the Territory after 1960 when it would become independent."

Naturally, we would like to know what sort of plan the Italian Government has in mind for the Territory. At any rate, we would expect detailed observations not only on the Bank's report but also in terms of the paragraph which I have just read out. It is only after these observations of the Italian Government are made clear to us that we will find ourselves in a position to embark seriously on the various problems referred to in the Bank's report.

Mr. McGREGOR (United States of America): The United States delegation feels strongly that there should be no delay in Council consideration, either by referral to a special committee or by the Trusteeship Council itself, of the chronic and serious economic and financial difficulties facing Italian Somaliland. It concurs in the views expressed by the Italian representative that it is important that the views of the Somalis should be studied at the same time that the Bank's report and the comments of the Administering Authority are likewise considered.

While the United States would favour, under certain circumstances, the setting up of a special committee to go into these matters, it is disposed to agree to prior Trusteeship Council consideration of the item provided this does not mean any appreciable delay in studying the matter. The important thing here is that a serious study be initiated as soon as possible. The United States representative therefore concurs in the view expressed by you, Mr. President, that this item be carried out over to Monday's meeting in order to give all delegations a change to consider the matter thoroughly.

The PRESIDENT: As there are no further comments, I should like to offer some clarification with regard to the statement I have made. It would certainly be most convenient to have the report of the Bank studied and discussed during the examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Somaliland. This is the normal procedure, and at that time we would have the benefit of the presence of the representative of the Somali Government. Nevertheless, this report seems to me at least to be a very important document. The Council will not meet beyond the last few days of April, if not earlier than that. The twentieth session will commence somewhere in the first few days of June and should be concluded as early as possible, about the date of 15 July, in order to give an opportunity to another Committee of the General Assembly to work on the non-self-governing territories.

The Council knows that this year the General Assembly adjourned on 8 March. We were quite behind in our schedule as far as the session of the Council is concerned. That is why I have offered this tentative suggestion, without prejudice to the proposal made by the representatives of India and the United States, that we reflect on the matter over the weekend and see whether we cannot agree on a formula whereby we can give the report the necessary attention it deserves and also discharge our responsibility to the Trust Territory which we hope will be independent by 1960.

Therefore, if there is no objection, we will follow the suggestion of the representative of the United States and myself that the matter should be considered further on Monday when a final decision on the procedure to be followed can be taken.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Therefore, at Monday's meeting we will consider three items. The first item will be the question of the Bank's report. The second item will be the classification of petitions, which is the report of the Standing Committee on Petitions. The third item will be the examination of the annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, which will be found in documents T/1282, T/1304 and T/L.735. On Monday the Council will hear the statement of the representative of Belgium and the statement of the

(The President)

special representative, and I trust that all members will be prepared to embark on the political questions, and if anyone would like to combine other questions, the Council has taken a prior decision that this would be quite in order.

The meeting rose at 2.40 p.m.