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TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



PROVISIONAL
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ENGLISH

Twentieth Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 20 May 1957, at 11 a.m.

Temporary President:

Mr. ASHA

(Syria)

President:

Mr. HOOD

(Australia)

1. Opening of the twentieth session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Election of the President and the Vice-President
4. Organization of work for the twentieth session

Note:

The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.794 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

OPENING OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I declare open the twentieth regular session of the Trusteeship Council.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (T/1313, 1313/Add.1 and Corr.1)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. de Holte Castello (Colombia), Mr. Osman (Egypt) and Mr. Baradi (Philippines), members of the Advisory Council for Somaliland, took places at the Council table.

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I am sure that the Council would wish me to extend a welcome to the distinguished members of the Advisory Council.

The provisional agenda, as set forth in document T/1313, is before us. It has an annex listing 1,187 petitions, contained in documents T/1313/Add.1 and T/1313/Add.1/Corr.1. Is there any objection to the adoption of the agenda?

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): As we all know, the General Assembly, in resolution 1064 (XI), entrusted to the Council the task of discussing in the nineteenth and twentieth sessions the information prepared by the Administering Authorities with regard to the fulfilment of the resolution on achievement of self-government or independence by the Trust Territories. This point is not indicated on the agenda, and therefore the Soviet delegation would welcome an explanation as to the manner in which the Council is going to deal with this recommendation of the General Assembly. Before approving the provisional agenda, we would welcome an explanation of this point.

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I think we have dealt with this problem before and we have followed the procedure that this particular resolution is applicable to the present General Assembly resolution. I suggest that the Council take note of General Assembly resolution 1064 (XI) and instruct its Drafting Committees to take the resolution into account when preparing draft reports on conditions in each of the Trust Territories. I take it that the procedure which we have followed in the past will also meet the wishes of members of the Council.

It was so decided.

U PAW HEIN (Burma): While my delegation approves of items now on the provisional agenda contained in document T/1515, it wishes to place an additional item on the agenda of this session, namely, the item which we discussed in the Council a few days ago, that is, the revision of rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council.

The reasons for such inscription need hardly be repeated here, as they were expressed very clearly by my delegation at the last session. Therefore, all I would ask now is the President's permission -- with the approval of members of the Council -- to place this item on our agenda. I might add that since there is no great urgency in the matter, it could be taken up some time later during the course of the session.

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Members of the Council have heard the proposal of the representative of Burma. He has asked the Council to put an additional item on our agenda in connexion with the revision of the rules of procedure. If there is no objection, this item will be placed on our agenda.

It was so decided.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: The next item of business is the election of the President and the Vice-President. In accordance with rule 41 of the Council's rules of procedure, the election of the President and Vice-President shall be taken by secret and separate ballot. The Council will therefore proceed first to the election of the President.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Thirteen votes were cast for Mr. Hood, representative of Australia, and there was one abstention. I therefore declare Mr. Hood President of the Trusteeship Council; I congratulate him and invite him to take the Chair.

Mr. Hood took the Chair.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to thank the Council for its mark of confidence in myself in electing me as President for this session. I trust and hope that I will discharge my duties in the same spirit and with the same diligence as my predecessor and I assure the Council of my punctilious regard for its interests and my regard for the duty of impartiality on the part of the President.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): Allow me, on behalf of my delegation and myself, to extend to you our warmest and sincerest congratulations on your election as President of the Trusteeship Council. We are confident that under your guidance the Council will prosper and will discharge its duties most effectively. We are confident also of your impartiality, your authority and your competence. I therefore extend to you our warmest congratulations on assuming this high office.

The PRESIDENT: I now invite the Council to proceed to the election of the Vice-President.

According to rule 41 of the Council's rules of procedure, this election will be by secret ballot.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows: 12 in favour of Mr. Arenales Catalan, representative of Guatemala, none against, and 2 abstentions.

I declare Mr. Arenales Catalan of Guatemala elected Vice-President of the Trusteeship Council. I invite him to take his seat.

Mr. ARENALES CATAIAN (Guatemala), Vice-President (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. President and gentlemen, I take great satisfaction in accepting this Chair, not only for myself but also on behalf of my delegation. In accepting this honour I do so with great personal humility, but at the same time with great national pride. If you will permit me to express it in this way, it is a tribute not to myself personally but rather a tribute to the policies that my delegation has followed in the sessions of the Council and in respect of all problems concerning Trust Territories and Non-Self-Governing Territories in the United Nations.

It is my deepest wish to carry out the task that has been entrusted to me as well as I possibly can. I am sure that my task will be made easier under the presidency of Ambassador Hood, to whom at this time I should like to extend my personal congratulations as well as those of my delegation on his election. I am sure that he will conduct our deliberations with the same efficiency, the same energy, the same impartiality as was shown and displayed by our past President, Ambassador Asha of Syria.

I should like to say a few words of thanks to Ambassador Asha for the exemplary way in which he conducted our work at the previous session -- a way which was not only a source of pride to his country but was also a source of satisfaction to all those delegations which in this Council are called non-administering Powers.

At the same time, I am also sure that the former Vice-President will understand me when I say that I should like to be able to serve in this post at least one-half as efficiently as he did.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): First, allow me to congratulate Ambassador Arenales Catalan upon his election as Vice-President of the Council. Mr. Arenales Catalan in his vigour, his understanding of the problems of the Trust Territories and the policy of his Government and delegation has won not only my admiration but also the admiration of my delegation and, I am sure, of the Council. We are also confident that he will discharge his duties with great honour to his country and to himself. May I take this opportunity to thank him for the kind words he said about me.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to take this opportunity of welcoming Ambassador Arenales Catalan to his office in the Council. We know his quality. We are confident that he will discharge his duties as Vice-President with competence and diligence.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE TWENTIETH SESSION

The PRESIDENT: Before adjourning this opening meeting of the twentieth session I feel that I should draw the attention of the Council to the tentative time-table, based on the agenda prepared by the Secretariat, which I understand has been distributed to the delegations. It will be noted that in this time-table, from time to time, the Council is scheduled to meet twice a day and that on several occasions as many as three meetings will be held simultaneously by the Council and its Committees.

(The President)

It is fully realized that this proposed schedule will impose a heavy burden on delegations, and I can assure the Council that this situation has been very carefully considered. But in the light of past experience it seems to be the only way for the Council to complete its work within the allotted time, namely, by 15 July. In this connexion I would invite the Under-Secretary, if he wishes, to explain a little more fully the considerations which have led to the submission of this tentative time-table.

Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary, Department of Trusteeship): I should now like to make a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Due to circumstances beyond everybody's control, the delay with respect to the meetings of the General Assembly with the consequent rearrangement of the schedules of the meetings of the various organs over a shorter period of time and the growing complexity of many of the issues which do require more detailed examination, the technical services of the Secretariat have reached practically the breaking-down point, notwithstanding the additional burdens which have been undertaken by individuals -- and this is also true, I must add, of professional staff members. The turnover of staff creates vacancies that cannot easily be filled with adequately qualified replacements. In part this is due, as the members of the Council will certainly know, to the competition and recruitment which now takes place on the part of not only specialized agencies but also other international governmental agencies. It is very hard to fill by recruitment even those posts which are available. It is not easy to train good translators in the various languages of the Charter or competent interpreters.

It is our hope that you, the members of the Council will be good enough to facilitate our task during the next few weeks by foregoing whenever possible and without harm to the discharge of your duties your legitimate demands for certain language services.

The situation in the Secretariat is so tight that most leaves and vacations have had to be postponed at least until late in the summer.

(Mr. Cohen, Under-Secretary)

The time-table we have proposed and to which the President referred a short while ago calls for a large number of meetings, sometimes twice daily, of the Council, with simultaneous sittings of standing committees, special committees and, later on, of drafting committees. Already thinned out by the assignment of several officers to the Commission for Togoland under French Administration which starts meeting in Paris within two days and the need to supply staff of the Trusteeship Division for the East Africa Visiting Mission which is due to start at the end of the first fortnight in July, the possibilities of the divisional staff are very limited indeed with respect to assuming any additional tasks. While the Council is meeting, other members of the divisional staff will be servicing the Committee on South West Africa and, as you all know, the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, on which many of the members of this Council sit, has been called to meet on 22 July.

Because of all the reasons I have mentioned and in order to make your and our participation possible and to allow the technical services of the Secretariat to process the necessary documentation, we should try in so far as it is humanly possible to adhere to the burdensome time-table which calls for the adjournment of the twentieth session by 12 July. The pressure of General Assembly documentation deadlines is such that, as a matter of internal procedure, the Secretary-General has instructed all departments to try to cut down the length of such studies and documents by 25 per cent, whenever possible.

All the above goals can be reached only through the full co-operation and action of United Nations organs. The Secretary-General has requested me to submit them to your consideration so that he may be able to achieve them under your guidance and in accordance with your wishes.

The PRESIDENT: The Council wishes to thank the Under-Secretary for this statement on behalf of the Secretary-General. May I add that an opportunity has considerably been given by the Under-Secretary for a further informal discussion of this situation by the heads of delegations in the

(The President)

Council immediately after this meeting in the conference room on the 33rd floor of the Secretariat building. I wish to thank the Under-Secretary for this helpful suggestion.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.