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QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF WESTERN SAMOA

Report of the Fourth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Poul BOEG (Denmark)

1. At its 881st meeting, on 1 October 1960, the General Assembly allocated to the Fourth Committee the following item on its agenda:

"44. Question of the future of Western Samoa".

2. The Trusteeship Council, at its twenty-sixth session, had recommended, by its resolution 2014 (XXVI) of 1 June 1960, that the question of the future of Western Samoa be inscribed as a separate item on the provisional agenda of the fifteenth session of the General Assembly.

3. The Committee had before it an outline of conditions prevailing in the Trust Territory which appears in chapter V of part II of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly covering the period 7 August 1959 to 30 June 1960.<sup>1/</sup> A detailed description of the steps taken with regard to the attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territory of Western Samoa is contained in paragraphs 201 to 209 of the said chapter of that report.

4. The Committee also had before it the Constitution of the Independent State of Western Samoa, as adopted by the Constitutional Convention of Western Samoa on 28 October 1960 (A/C.4/454), which was transmitted by the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations by note verbale

<sup>1/</sup> General Assembly: Official Records, Fifteenth Session, Supplement No. 4  
(A/4404)

of 10 November 1960 to the Secretary-General. Resolutions adopted by the same Constitutional Convention were transmitted by the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations, by note verbale of 25 November 1960, to the Secretary-General (A/C.4/454/Add.1).

5. At the 1081st meeting, on 9 December 1960, opening statements on this item were made by the representative of New Zealand by the Prime Minister of Western Samoa, the Honourable Fiaame Mata'afa F.M.II.

6. At the 1083rd and 1085th meetings, on 12 and 13 December 1960, the representative of New Zealand and the Prime Minister of Western Samoa replied to questions which were put to them by members of the Committee and to other points arising out of discussions at the 1083rd to 1085th meetings.

7. At the 1084th meeting, on 13 December 1960, the representative of the United Arab Republic introduced a joint draft resolution (A/C.4/L.663) co-sponsored by Argentina, the Federation of Malaya, Ghana, India, Iraq, Sudan, the United Arab Republic, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Greece, Iran and Nigeria subsequently joined the list of sponsors. The text of the draft resolution is set forth in paragraph 10 of the present report.

8. At the 1085th meeting, on 13 December 1960, the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic submitted three oral amendments whereby, (1) the words "and the resolutions adopted by that Convention," would be deleted in the second preambular paragraph; (2) the words "on the basis of that constitution" would be deleted in sub-paragraph 2 of operative paragraph 2; and (3) the words "appointed also by the General Assembly" would be inserted after the word "observers" in operative paragraph 4.

9. At the same meeting, the Fourth Committee voted on the draft resolution and the amendments thereto, as follows:

The first Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic oral amendment to delete the words "and the resolutions adopted by the Convention", in the second preambular paragraph was rejected by 31 votes to 26, with 12 abstentions.

The second preambular paragraph, as a whole, was adopted by 46 votes to 6, with 13 abstentions.

Sub-paragraph 1 of operative paragraph 2 was adopted by 64 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The second Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic oral amendment to delete the words "on the basis of that Constitution" in sub-paragraph 2 of operative ...

paragraph 2 was rejected by a roll-call vote of 35 to 22, with 15 abstentions.  
The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Liberia, Poland, Romania, Togo, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Against: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Denmark, Federation of Malaya, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Brazil, Central African Republic, Chad, Cyprus, Dahomey, El Salvador, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Paraguay, Somalia, Sudan, United Arab Republic.

The words "Do you agree that on 1 January 1962 Western Samoa should become an independent State ..." in sub-paragraph 2 of operative paragraph 2 were unanimously adopted.

The third Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic oral amendment to insert the words "appointed also by the General Assembly" after the word "observers" in operative paragraph 4 was rejected by 40 votes to 14, with 14 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 3 was unanimously adopted.

The eleven-Power draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 59 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

#### Recommendations of the Fourth Committee

10. In connexion with operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution adopted by it, the Committee, at its 1090th meeting on 16 December 1960, decided by acclamation, on a proposal of the representative of Argentina, to recommend the appointment of Mr. Najmuddine Rifai of the United Arab Republic, to be the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner.

11. The Fourth Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF WESTERN SAMOA

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Trusteeship Council as well as the report of the 1959 Visiting Mission on the Trust Territory of Western Samoa under New Zealand administration,

Having taken note of the Constitution adopted by the Constitutional Convention of Western Samoa on 28 October 1960 and the resolutions adopted by that Convention,

Noting the statements made in the Fourth Committee by the representative of the Administering Authority and the Prime Minister of Western Samoa,

1. Recommends that the Administering Authority, in pursuance of Article 76 b of the Charter of the United Nations, take steps, in consultation with a United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner, to organize, under the supervision of the United Nations, a plebiscite in Western Samoa under New Zealand administration, in order to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants of the Territory concerning their future;
2. Recommends further that the plebiscite should take place in the month of May 1961 and that the questions to be asked should be:
  - "1. Do you agree with the Constitution adopted by the Constitutional Convention on 28 October 1960?
  - "2. Do you agree that on 1 January 1962 Western Samoa should become an independent State on the basis of that Constitution?"
3. Recommends further that the plebiscite should be conducted on the basis of universal suffrage with all adult citizens of Western Samoa being entitled to vote;
4. Decides to appoint a United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner who shall exercise, on behalf of the General Assembly, all the necessary powers and functions of supervision, and who shall be assisted by observers and staff to be appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with him;
5. Requests the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner to submit to the Trusteeship Council a report on the organization, conduct and result of the Plebiscite;
6. Requests the Trusteeship Council to transmit to the General Assembly, for consideration at its sixteenth session, the report of the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner, together with any recommendations and observations it considers necessary.