



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.4/336
28 November 1956

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Eleventh session
FOURTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 39

THE TOGOLAND UNIFICATION PROBLEM AND THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST
TERRITORY OF TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

Statement made by Mr. J.S. Maclay, representative of the
United Kingdom, at the 559th meeting of the Fourth Committee
on 28 November 1956

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with the
decision taken by the Fourth Committee at its 559th meeting,
the text of the following statement is circulated to members
of the Committee for their information.

Mr. Chairman,

While my delegation had not intended to make an intervention at this stage and may well wish to ask for the floor later in the debate, I am of course anxious to do what I can to help the deliberations of the Committee.

I believe that the most useful thing I can do is to give immediate answers to certain questions which have been asked by several of its members: first, about the constitutional processes which must be gone through in order to make the grant of independence to the Gold Coast effective, second, about the voting figures in the General Elections held in the Gold Coast in July 1956 in so far as the Constituencies wholly or partly in British Togoland are concerned.

The fact is, Mr. Chairman, that the legal and constitutional issues which lie behind the grant of independence to the Gold Coast are quite simple. As the Committee knows, Her Majesty's Government have announced their intention to give effect to this intention to grant independence to the Gold Coast on 6 March 1957. What is required to give effect to this intention is an Act of the United Kingdom Parliament; and this Act will confer complete independence on the Gold Coast.

The second point under this heading which has been raised is the question of the constitution which will be in force in the Gold Coast at the date of independence. The constitution which the Gold Coast has at present will of course need amendment to make it suitable for an independent state. The actual amendments will naturally depend upon the proposals of the Gold Coast Government which the United Kingdom Government have before them at the moment. The method of amendment will be by means of a United Kingdom Constitutional Instrument known as an Order in Council. My colleague Mr. Gbedemah will, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, follow me and give the Committee some further comments on points that have been raised during the past proceedings.

As regards the questions posed this morning concerning the results of the 1956 General Election, I am afraid that no overall figures exist which show exactly how the people of Togoland, as distinct from the people of the Gold Coast, voted. Constituencies are based on long-standing local government units which do not necessarily follow the lines of the boundary between the Gold Coast and the Trust Territory. I can, however, give the names of the constituencies wholly or partly in British Togoland and the parties of the members returned in each. These were as follows:

A. Southern Togoland

Constituencies wholly in the Trust Territory - 4 in number, viz:

Akan Krachi won by the Convention Peoples Party

Buem won by the C.P.P.

Kpandu North won by Mr. Antor of the Togoland Congress

Ho West won by the Togoland Congress

Constituencies mainly in Trust Territory but partly in the Gold Coast - 2 in number, viz:

Kpandu South won by the C.P.P.

Ho East won by the Reverend Ametowobla who stood as an Independent but is now representing the Togoland Congress before this Committee.

B. Northern Togoland

Constituencies wholly in the Trust Territory - 3 in number, viz:

Nanum/Dagbon won by the C.P.P.

Dagomba East won by Mr. Allassani of the C.P.P.

Kusasi East won by the Northern Peoples Party

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Constituencies mainly in the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast
but partly in the Trust Territory - 5 in number, viz:

Gorga East won by the N.P.P.

Dagomba South won by the N.P.P.

Dagomba North won by the C.P.P.

South Mamprusi East won by the N.P.P.

Kusasi Central won by the N.P.P.

To summarize: of the 7 seats wholly in the Trust Territory the Convention Peoples Party won 4 and its opponents 3. Of the 7 seats only partly in the Trust Territory the Convention Peoples Party won 2 and its opponents 5. Of these 5, 3 represent constituencies which have much greater areas in the Gold Coast than in British Togoland.
