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**NEW YORK**

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**Chairman: Mr. Thanat KHOMAN (Thailand).**

**Statement by the Chairman**

1. The CHAIRMAN said that he regarded the honour of his election as Chairman as a tribute to Thailand's unflinching loyalty to the principles and ideals of the United Nations. The task confronting the Committee and the responsibility devolving upon its members would not be light, but if they bore in mind the ultimate goal, which was the attainment of self-government or independence by the dependent peoples, they would be able to adapt their methods to the circumstances of international life and slowly but surely achieve the desired result. The task would be further facilitated if all the representatives were equally animated by the desire to help the dependent peoples to reach a position from which they might determine their own destiny and fulfil their legitimate aspirations. The methods might vary from country to country, depending on historical, political and social traditions, but if the members of the Committee concentrated their efforts on finding positive and constructive solutions they would make valuable contributions to the cause which they held dear.

2. The efforts of the United Nations could bear fruit only if the full co-operation of all Governments responsible for the administration of dependent territories were secured. So far such co-operation had always been forthcoming and there was no reason to believe that it would not be so in the future. It had made possible the attainment of independence and the admission to the United Nations of two new Members, Ghana and the Federation of Malaya, which he was happy to welcome. Such results encouraged the belief that other Territories would soon achieve self-government or independence. The members of the Committee could encourage that evolution by using their good judgement in formulating suggestions or offering criticism.

**Election of the Vice-Chairman and of the Rapporteur**

3. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) nominated Mr. Aleksander Božović (Yugoslavia) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

4. Mr. AHMED (India), Mr. DE CAMARET (France) and Mr. RIFAI (Syria) supported the nomination.

Mr. Božović (Yugoslavia) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

5. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) thanked the members of the Committee. He considered the confidence placed in him a tribute to the part his country had played in the work of the Committee.

6. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) nominated Mrs. Brita Skottsberg-Ahman (Sweden) for the office of Rapporteur.

7. Mr. NOGUEIRA (Portugal), Miss DUNNE (United States of America), Miss ROESAD (Indonesia) and Miss BROOKS (Liberia) supported the nomination.

Mrs. Skottsberg-Ahman (Sweden) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

8. Mrs. SKOTTSBERG-Ahman (Sweden) thanked the members of the Committee for the honour done to her country.

9. Mr. LOIZIDES (Greece) congratulated the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur on their election and welcomed the two new Member States. Their presence on the Committee was a triumph in the cause of freedom and the right of peoples to self-determination, and a great encouragement for peoples nearer to Greece, such as the Cypriots.

10. Mr. CHAMANDI (Yemen) congratulated the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur on their election and welcomed the two new Member States.

**Order of discussion of agenda items (A/C.4/352)**

11. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the list of agenda items that had been allocated to it (A/C.4/352).

12. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) asked if the order in which the items appeared in document A/C.4/352 constituted a definitive proposal by the Secretariat.

13. The CHAIRMAN replied that that was so. The Secretariat's arrangement of the agenda items had been based on a number of practical considerations.

14. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala), referring to the questions of South West Africa and the future of Togoland under French administration, asked whether in placing those items first and second on the Committee's agenda the Secretariat had taken into account any requests for hearings that might have been made and the time it would take the petitioners to arrive.

15. With regard to item 13 (Report of the Trusteeship Council), which was placed fifth on the list of items given in document A/C.4/352, he recalled that at the previous session the Committee had not had time to devote a sufficient number of meetings to the Council's

report. He wondered if the Secretariat had taken that fact into account.

16. The CHAIRMAN stated that he intended to raise the question of requests for hearings immediately after that of the adoption of the agenda.

17. With regard to the allocation of meetings to the various items, he drew attention to the provisional time-table drawn up by the Secretariat and circulated as Conference Room Paper No. 1.<sup>1/</sup>

18. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) felt that it would be more logical, before deciding the order in which the Committee would discuss the questions before it, to ascertain whether there were any requests for hearings and on what matters the petitioners wished to make statements.

19. The CHAIRMAN thought it could be assumed that the Secretariat had taken all those factors into account. Two requests for hearings concerned South West Africa and the petitioners were already in New York. A further two requests concerned Togoland under French administration and the Secretariat understood that the petitioners would be able to arrive in time.

20. The Committee was, of course, quite free to change the order of the items whenever it so wished. He proposed, however, that it should adopt the order in which the items appeared in document A/C.4/352.

It was so decided.

21. In reply to a question from Miss ROESAD (Indonesia), the CHAIRMAN said that the petitioners from South West Africa could be heard on Thursday, 26 September; as a general rule, the hearings would take place before each debate, so that during the discussion the Committee might bear in mind the statements made by the petitioners.

#### Requests for hearings (A/C.4/353, A/C.4/354)

22. The CHAIRMAN stated that the Secretariat had received six requests for hearings: two referring to South West Africa, two to Togoland under French administration, and the remaining two to the Cameroons under French administration. He proposed that, in accordance with established procedure, the requests should be circulated.

It was so decided.

23. The CHAIRMAN stated that because the questions of South West Africa and the future of Togoland under French administration were to be discussed in the immediate future the Committee should take action on the requests concerning those two items without delay. The Secretariat had made arrangements for those requests to be circulated at once. He proposed that the Committee should consider those requests after a brief recess. The requests concerning the Cameroons under French administration would be examined at the following meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 11.45 a.m. and resumed at 12.5 p.m.

#### REQUESTS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 38 (THE QUESTION OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA) (A/C.4/353)

24. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider first the two requests for hearings concerning South

<sup>1/</sup> Document circulated to members of the Committee only.

West Africa (A/C.4/353). The first request came from Mr. Mburumba ua'Kerina Getzen; the second from the Reverend Michael Scott.

25. Mr. LONGDEN (United Kingdom) said that, in the opinion of the United Kingdom delegation, the Committee should not grant requests for hearings on the subject of South West Africa. In stating that opinion he was not, of course, intending to cast any reflection on either of the petitioners. Private individuals should not be allowed to address a committee of the General Assembly, which was an organization of States. According to the advisory opinion given by the International Court of Justice in 1950<sup>2/</sup>, the United Nations should conform as closely as possible to the procedures followed by the Permanent Mandates Commission, which had never granted hearings to petitioners. Furthermore, to hear the petitioners would neither expedite the work of the Committee nor be likely to help towards reaching an acceptable solution to the question before it.

26. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the requests for hearings concerning South West Africa.

The Committee decided, by 49 votes to 4, with 14 abstentions, to grant a hearing to Mr. Mburumba ua'Kerina Getzen.

The Committee decided, by 50 votes to 4, with 15 abstentions, to grant a hearing to the Reverend Michael Scott.

27. Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) explained that his delegation had voted against the granting of hearings to the petitioners for procedural reasons. The Belgian delegation was not convinced that the requests fulfilled the required legal conditions, since they had not been preceded by written petitions. In his view they were inconsistent with the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. Moreover he did not consider that the Fourth Committee was the right place for the hearing of petitioners.

#### REQUESTS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 37 (THE FUTURE OF TOGOLAND UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION) (A/C.4/354)

28. The chairman invited the French representatives to give his delegation's views regarding the two requests for hearings concerning Togoland under French administration (A/C.4/354).

29. Mr. DE CAMARET (France) replied that the French delegation would not oppose the granting of those requests. It would be glad to hear once again Mr. Olympio, who would represent the All-Ewe Conference, and the French Government would undoubtedly grant the petitioner every transport facility, as it had done in the past.

The Committee decided, by 60 votes to none, with 11 abstentions, to grant the hearing requested by Mr. Agbeko for a representative of the All-Ewe Conference (A/C.4/354, para. 1).

30. Miss DUNNE (United States of America) asked whether the petitioner who represented Juvento did in fact come from Togoland under French administra-

<sup>2/</sup> International status of South West Africa, Advisory Opinion: I.C.J. Reports 1950, p. 128. (Transmitted to Members of the General Assembly by the Secretary-General under cover of document A/1362.)

tion. If he did not, the United States delegation would be obliged to reserve its position.

31. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat had no information on the subject but it assumed that the petitioner did in fact come from that Territory.

The Committee decided, by 57 votes to none, with 17 abstentions, to grant the hearing requested by Mr. Ahtson for a representative of Juvento (A/C.4/354, para. 2).

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.