

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTEENTH SESSION
Official Records



**FOURTH COMMITTEE 843rd
MEETING**

Friday, 12 December 1958,
at 12.15 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
Requests for hearings (continued)	
Requests concerning agenda item 13 (Report of the Trusteeship Council (continued))	543
Agenda item 41:	
Question of the frontier between the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration and Ethiopia: reports of the Governments of Ethiopia and of Italy (concluded)	
Draft report of the Fourth Committee	543
Adjournment of the Committee.	544

Chairman: Mr. Frederick H. BOLAND (Ireland).

Requests for hearings (continued)

REQUESTS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 13 (REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL) (continued)

1. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation did not share the views expressed at the previous meeting on the restriction of the right of petitioners who wished to speak when the question of the future of the Cameroons was considered at the resumed thirteenth session. His delegation held that the decision taken by the Committee at the beginning of the session (745th and 754th meetings) concerning the hearing of the petitioners was still valid and had undergone no change.

AGENDA ITEM 41

Question of the frontier between the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration and Ethiopia: reports of the Governments of Ethiopia and of Italy (A/4030, A/4031 and Add.1, A/C.4/L.579) (concluded)

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/C.4/L.579)

2. Mr. EILAN (Israel), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Committee on the question of the frontier between the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration and Ethiopia (A/C.4/L.579).

3. Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq) pointed out that the draft report made no reference to the suggestions put forward at the previous meeting by the representatives of Haiti and of Ireland. It would also provide a more balanced picture if the final suggestions made at the same meeting by the representatives of Ethiopia and of Italy respectively were mentioned. In his opinion, those four omissions should be rectified.

4. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) supported the representative of Iraq.

5. Mr. EILAN (Israel), Rapporteur, said that the draft report referred only to proposals which had been form-

ally submitted. It had been his understanding that the four suggestions which the representative of Iraq had mentioned had been made on an informal basis, since at that stage the draft resolution had been withdrawn. If, however, the Committee so desired, he would include a reference to them.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of any objection, a reference to the four suggestions would be included in the Committee's report.

It was so decided.

7. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) noted that paragraph 12 of the draft report opened with the words "In response to statements by some delegations". In fact it was his delegation, supported by others, which had made the statement and he felt that that should be specifically mentioned in the report.

8. In order to establish a link between paragraphs 11 and 12 of the draft report, he would prefer paragraph 12 to begin with the word "however".

9. Mr. EILAN (Israel), Rapporteur, replied that there would be no difficulty in including the names of the delegations which had made the statements referred to by the representative of the United Arab Republic. The paragraphs of the draft report were independent of one another and he was doubtful whether the link provided by the word "however" should be inserted. Nevertheless, it was a matter for the Committee to decide.

10. Mr. ALEMAYEHOU (Ethiopia) thought that to establish an association between paragraphs 11 and 12 by inserting the word "however" would distort the sense. The Secretary-General had indicated that he would assist the two Governments concerned in connexion with the appointment of the "independent person" mentioned in General Assembly 1213 (XII), if they so desired. His delegation objected to the insertion of the word.

11. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) said that he had had no intention of distorting the meaning by establishing a link between the two paragraphs. He would not, however, press for his suggestion to be incorporated.

12. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that the fourth word of paragraph 12 should be "suggestions" rather than "statements".

13. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) supported the Indian representative.

14. Mr. EILAN (Israel), Rapporteur, agreed that the word "suggestions" would be more accurate.

15. Mr. ALEMAYEHOU (Ethiopia) said that the words "on this question" at the end of the first sentence of paragraph 12 should be replaced by the words "on the appointment of the 'independent person'".

16. Mr. EILAN (Israel), Rapporteur, said that in drafting that very important sentence he had been

guided by what the Secretary-General had said and by what would appear in the summary record. Nevertheless, he would check the reference in the draft report against the summary record when the latter was available.

17. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) felt that the report accurately reflected what had been said and that the sentence should not be altered.

18. Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq) said that, in his opinion, the Ethiopian representative's point was well taken.

19. Mr. ALEMAYEHOU (Ethiopia) said that, according to his recollection, the question of the "independent person" had been under discussion when the Secretary-General had made his statement and that the Secretary-General had referred to it. He was nevertheless prepared to accept the suggestion made by the Rapporteur, provided that the text of the report was compared with the verbatim record and not with the summary record.

20. The CHAIRMAN said that the Rapporteur would compare his text with the verbatim record.

21. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) suggested that, in the summary record of the 842nd meeting, the statements made by the Secretary-General and by the representatives of the United Arab Republic, Ethiopia, and Italy should be reproduced in full.

It was so decided.

The draft report (A/C.4/L.579), as amended, was adopted.

Adjournment of the Committee

22. Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden, Miss FLOURET (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Latin-American delegations, Miss ANDERSON (United States of America), Miss BROOKS (Liberia), speaking on behalf of the African-Asian delegations, Mr. KIANG (China), Mr. PREDESCU (Romania), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Mr. FOO (Federation of Malaya), speaking on behalf of the Commonwealth delegations, and Mr. GREGORIADES (Greece), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Greece and Yugoslavia, paid tributes to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur and thanked the Under-Secretary and the members of the Secretariat who had assisted the Committee in its work.

23. Mr. RODZINSKI (Poland), Vice-Chairman, and Mr. EILAN (Israel), Rapporteur, thanked the speakers for their kind words and associated themselves with the tributes paid to the Chairman and to the Secretariat.

24. Mr. PROTITCH (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) expressed his gratitude for the references made to members of the Secretariat.

25. The CHAIRMAN thanked the representatives of France, Argentina, the United States of America, Liberia, China, Romania, the Federation of Malaya and Greece for the kind things they had said about the officers of the Committee, including himself. So far as

he was concerned he could only regard their generous and charitable expressions as yet a further instance of the courtesy, consideration and friendly encouragement which throughout the strains and stresses of the past three months all the members of the Committee had consistently and unfailingly shown to the Chair. For that he was extremely grateful and was glad to have the opportunity of offering them the expression of his most sincere thanks.

26. He was immensely proud to have served as Chairman of what could justly claim to have been the hardest-working Committee in the history of the United Nations. The Fourth Committee had met not only more than 30 per cent more frequently than any other Committee of the present session; it had met more frequently than any Committee of the United Nations ever before, the present meeting being the 103rd of the session. It certainly had not been idle; indeed it seemed a question whether in a certain sense the Committee had not worked too hard. He wondered whether, when a Committee met so often, sat so long and debated so exhaustively, there was not some danger that it might leave itself insufficient time for the quiet diplomacy between delegations which was so important if the debate was to achieve concrete results or for the thought and reflection which was so essential for the wise determination of great issues of policy.

27. Great issues of policy were precisely what had been engaging the Committee during the past three months. The problem of South West Africa, the future of Togoland, the destiny of the two Trust Territories of the Cameroons, the independence and future welfare of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, the determination of the frontier between Somaliland and Ethiopia—those were not issues of secondary importance or of merely abstract or academic interest. They were practical problems of great difficulty, of immediate concern and of immense consequence, involving not only the well-being and happiness of millions of human beings but the whole future pattern of political relationships in Africa and between the countries of Africa and the rest of the world.

28. He was not trying to pose as an authority on the questions with which the Committee dealt. Many members of the Committee had far longer and deeper acquaintance with those problems than he. But it was impossible to sit in the Chair, as he had done throughout the past three months, without learning at least something. One of the things which had been borne in upon him during his occupancy of the Chair had been a sense of the enormous significance of the work being done in the Fourth Committee, not only from the point of view of future world relations but from the point of view of the future of the United Nations itself. An English statesman had once spoken of calling a new world into existence to redress the balance of the old. Aided by the Fourth Committee, and indeed owing in no small measure to its tireless exertions, a new world was emerging among the dependent territories throughout the world which would not only leave the balance of the United Nations very different from what it had been but would confront the world community as it was today with new challenges, new demands on its sense of responsibility and on its capacity for constructive statesmanship.

29. Popular ideas to the contrary notwithstanding, he did not believe that there was really much difference

of opinion in the Committee regarding the inevitability, or indeed the desirability, of that great world trend. That differences of view should exist about its rate of progress or the direction it should take in specific instances was only understandable. It would be a wonder, indeed, if there were none. What had, however, impressed him deeply about the proceedings of the Committee was not the intensity of the conflicts of view which existed within it but the earnestness with which its members were always prepared to strive to reconcile their differences for the purpose of arriving at practical conclusions. A few days earlier the representative of India had informed the Chairman on a point of order that he could hear strains of music in his earphones. The Chairman had been tempted for a moment to reply that if anything in the nature of harmony was reaching his ears he could be sure that it did not come from the Fourth Committee. He was glad to have resisted the temptation because it would have been a grossly unjust reflection on the Committee; if there was one thing clearer than another, looking back on the work of the session, it was that the matters on which agreement had been reached, often with unanimity, were much more important and numerous than those on which the members had continued to differ. The notion which some people had that the Fourth Committee was the arena of a ceaseless and irreconcilable conflict between the forces of colonialism and anti-colonialism was, like the premature report of Mark Twain's death, grossly exaggerated. On the contrary, it was precisely because of the remarkable success it had had in harmonizing different views and attitudes and bringing them closer together that the Committee had contributed so largely towards bringing into being a new order of things in the world, an order in which former colonies or dependent territories were progressing towards freedom and independence at a tempo which few had thought possible a bare ten years previously and in which already a whole group of young nations and ancient peoples, by a process of peaceful and harmonious development, now stood on the threshold of membership of the world community.

30. The work of the Fourth Committee was given little space in the headlines of the world Press. There were people for whom, even today, Togoland and the Cameroons, Nigeria and Guinea and Somaliland were

little more than geographical expressions. It might be different tomorrow because before very long those countries would be independent States, seated in the committees of the United Nations, and the great continent of Africa—silent for so long—would speak with a fresh and stronger voice in the councils of the world. When that time came and people looked back and traced the process by which the political map of Africa had been so radically and so rapidly transformed, the work of the present session of the Fourth Committee might well stand out as a great and historic landmark. What it had accomplished justified, in his view, the suggestion, which indeed had already been made, that the thirteenth session of the General Assembly might come to be known in the future as the "African Assembly".

31. If the members of the Committee could feel—as he thought they justly could—that their work had honoured the sacred trust they all acknowledged by helping former subject peoples to stand on their own feet in freedom and dignity and to take the place in world society to which their ancient cultures and their fundamental rights entitled them, they could look back on the work of the session with something more than satisfaction—with a feeling of justifiable pride, a feeling which the Chairman shared.

32. In conclusion, he expressed his personal thanks for the great support and help given him by the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, whose collaboration had meant a great deal to him. No words he could command could express his gratitude to Mr. Protitch, Mr. Wieschhoff and Mr. Perez Guerrero, and to their personal staffs and assistants. Their contribution to the successful dispatch of the Committee's work had been greater than he could say. To them, and to all the other members of the Secretariat who had helped the Committee in its labours, he tendered on behalf of the Committee an expression of warm and heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

33. Mr. KANAKARATNE (Ceylon) asked that the Chairman's speech should be reproduced in full in the summary record.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.