



C O N T E N T S

	<i>Page</i>
Report of the Trusteeship Council (<i>continued</i>).....	423

Chairman: Mr. Santiago PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela).

**Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2427)
 (continued)**

[Item 13]*

**HEARING OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOMALI
 YOUTH LEAGUE (A/C.4/253) (*continued*)**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Abdullahi Issa, representative of the Somali Youth League, took a place at the Committee table.

1. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) reminded Mr. Issa that some delegations had wondered whether, in view of the fact that the date set by the General Assembly for the expiration of the trusteeship in Somaliland under Italian administration was definite, it would not be advisable to provide for the possibility of granting the holders of capital invested in the Territory concessions, covered by all the requisite guarantees, for periods exceeding the somewhat short period of trusteeship. He asked whether the Somali Youth League shared that opinion, on the clear understanding that there was no question of extending the period of trusteeship under the pretext of offering the necessary security for foreign capital already invested in the Territory or that might be invested later.

2. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) stated that the Somali Youth League felt that it was advisable to encourage the flow of private foreign capital into the Trust Territory, as also the establishment of private foreign companies, by granting concessions extending beyond 1960. That, incidentally, was what had been done in the case of oil prospecting and in the development of industry in the Territory; some foreign companies had obtained forty-year concessions. It was expected that the concessions would be confirmed when Somaliland attained independence, for, like the entire African continent, Somaliland was in urgent need of foreign capital.

3. In reply to a further question by Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium), Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) stated that although the production of bananas, which were a cash crop, had increased by 50 per cent, that of millet and maize, which were subsistence crops, had substantially declined. According to the Administering Authority, the export of bananas to Italy should help to eliminate the Territory's budgetary deficit; never-

theless, it should be borne in mind that it was mainly the Italian planter who benefited from the increased production, since they had the monopoly of banana growing.

4. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) thanked Mr. Issa for the courtesy with which he had answered his questions.

Mr. Rifai (Syria), Rapporteur, took the Chair.

5. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) respected the attitude of the Somali Youth League and he would therefore refrain from asking questions on the political persecution which still prevailed in Somaliland under Italian administration.

6. He would like to have particulars of the composition of the Territorial Council and to know to what extent that Council really represented the freely expressed opinion of the majority, if not the whole, of the population.

7. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) said that the Territorial Council was a purely advisory body, whose members were all selected by the Administration from the candidates proposed to it by the local authorities; they were not elected by the people. Although the political parties and the urban communities were represented on the Council to a certain extent—the Somali Youth League had five seats—the Council was mainly composed of tribal chiefs. That being so, it could not be said that the Territorial Council really represented the Somali population. The Somali Youth League asked that the members of the Council should be elected by the Somali people and that the Council should be given legislative powers.

8. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) asked what was done by the Administering Authority to eliminate the tribal system, which constituted an obstacle to the establishment of a progressive political and social structure in the Territory.

9. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) replied that generally speaking, the tribal system was an obstacle to the development of the Territory, and that the Somali Youth League would like to see that outmoded system replaced as soon as possible by a more modern social structure. Instead of encouraging the survival of the tribal system, the Administering Authority should consider setting up local councils with advisory and legislative powers. It was obvious that the elimination of the tribal system would present no difficulty if the Administering Authority would agree to take the necessary steps to that end.

10. In reply to another question by Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) explained that the Administration's officials had very extensive judicial powers. During the year reviewed in the Trusteeship Council's report, a number of officials had been appointed regional judges, which was admittedly a considerable advance. Nevertheless, the judicial system of Somaliland under Italian administra-

* Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

tion did not enjoy the absolute independence stipulated in article 7 of the Declaration of Constitutional Principles annexed to the Trusteeship Agreement. In point of fact, those regional judges were still agents of the Administration. He hoped that the Administering Authority would lose no time in establishing in the Territory an independent judiciary whose members would be real judges.

11. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) asked what, in the opinion of the Somali Youth League, were the educational measures that should be taken forthwith to bring the Somali people to the necessary stage of political maturity.

12. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) considered that the first measure was to increase the appropriations for education, which at present represented scarcely 7 per cent of the Territory's total budget, while military expenditure accounted for more than 25 per cent of the budget. The next step would be to ensure the training of a larger number of indigenous teachers, the shortage of which was due partly to the inadequacy of the salaries paid to them. Another measure which was essential and which should be easy to put into effect was the provision of mass basic education, with particular emphasis on adult education; the latter measure should make it possible to reduce the proportion of illiterates, which in Somaliland was among the highest in the world.

13. Replying to a question by Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) concerning the national status of the inhabitants of the Territory. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) said that, as the Trusteeship Council report showed, the Administering Authority was at present studying the possibility of drawing up laws defining the national status of the inhabitants of the Territory. It was to be hoped that the new laws would be promulgated without delay, thereby putting an end to the difficulties at present encountered by the people of the Territory when they had to go abroad. He himself, although of Somali nationality, had had to obtain an Italian passport in order to come to New York.

14. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) asked whether there was any official body in the Territory whose members were true representatives of the people and which could advise the Administering Authority on the economic development of the Territory.

15. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) stated that the Chamber of Commerce, which had been set up a few years previously and was composed mainly of Italian business men, was the only body of that kind in the Territory. It had advisory status, but it represented the interests of foreign business men much more than those of the indigenous business men. It could therefore be said that there was no real body in which the true national economic interests of the Territory were safeguarded. It was mainly certain political parties which took an active interest in the economic development of the Territory.

16. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) asked whether the present situation was not likely to result in the Territory's becoming an Italian dependency, which would not only retard independence but, more particularly, remove certain factors without which the Territory could not attain independence.

17. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) declared that no such danger threatened the Territory; the only thing

the people feared was that the period of trusteeship might be prolonged.

18. In reply to another question by Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) said that Somaliland would be quite fit for independence by 1960 provided the United Nations persuaded the Administering Authority to lose no time in promoting the cultural, political and economic development of the people of the Territory.

19. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) thanked Mr. Issa for the moderation and courage with which, both in his statement and in his replies, he had informed the Committee of the true opinions of the Somali population.

20. Mr. ITANI (Lebanon) asked whether scholarships in countries other than Italy had been refused to Somalis and whether, generally speaking, Somalis who wanted to go to the neighbouring countries or to travel abroad could do so without restriction.

21. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) said that the Administering Authority had never refused a Somali student permission to continue his studies in other countries besides Italy. The Somali Youth League asked that the number of scholarships should be increased and that their holders should be authorized to extend their knowledge in the countries which were Somaliland's immediate neighbours.

22. Somalis were easily able to leave the Territory, as the Administering Authority readily issued passports to them for that purpose; the only difficulty was, occasionally, that of obtaining visas for certain foreign countries. There was actually less freedom of movement within Somaliland itself and the inhabitants had to obtain a special permit in order to go from one part of Somaliland to another.

23. Replying to another question by Mr. ITANI (Lebanon), Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) explained that most of the schools in the Territory were public schools; there were also some private schools conducted by religious missions or private organizations. In 1952, the Administering Authority had enacted a law under which all private schools had to be approved by the Administration; that law restricted freedom of education and on that account the Somali Youth League asked for it to be repealed.

24. Mr. ITANI (Lebanon) asked whether Somaliland's commercial relations with the neighbouring countries were subject to restrictions and, if so, whether those restrictions did serious harm to the Territory's economy.

25. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) said that when the Trusteeship System had been instituted in Somaliland, commercial transactions between Somaliland and its neighbouring countries, particularly Kenya and Aden, had been subject to many restrictions. At that time the greater part of the goods imported into the Territory had come from Italy, although the Territory could have obtained the same goods on better terms—and perhaps of better quality—from its neighbouring countries. Those restrictions had been partly lifted but some of them were still in force. The Territory also suffered from considerable currency restrictions.

26. Replying to a further question from Mr. ITANI (Lebanon), Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) said that Arabic was one of the Territory's official languages and one of the teaching languages. The Somalis insisted upon Arabic being taught in the public schools because of the religious ties linking them to the neigh-

bouring countries and to Islamic culture in general. Many Somalis even felt that the teaching of Arabic in the public schools was at present inadequate and they asked for more teachers of Arabic.

27. Mr. ITANI (Lebanon) thanked the Somali Youth League representative for the replies he had given, which were very much to the point.

28. Mr. HURE (France) recalled that Mr. Issa had requested at the 377th meeting that a special questionnaire should be drawn up for Somaliland under Italian administration. He asked what headings Mr. Issa proposed should be eliminated from the Questionnaire at present in use (T/1010) and what new headings, if any, he would like to introduce into the special questionnaire.

29. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) explained that the Trusteeship Council's Questionnaire had been drafted for the use of the Territories placed under the United Nations Trusteeship System. Except in the particular case of Somaliland, no date had been fixed for the expiration of the period of trusteeship for those Territories. A special questionnaire for Somaliland was therefore necessary, for the Trusteeship Council should be able to put the appropriate questions to the Administering Authority in order to assure itself that the necessary steps were being taken to enable Somaliland to attain its independence in 1960.

30. In reply to a further question by Mr. HURE (France), Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) stated that though there might be petroleum deposits in Somaliland it had not yet been proved. He hoped that the country's subsoil really did contain that natural wealth, the exploitation of which would constitute an important source of revenue for the Territory.

31. Mr. HURE (France) thanked Mr. Issa for his explanations.

32. Mr. SPINELLI (Alternate Observer of Italy to the United Nations) had not intended to intervene until the end of the general debate. Since, however, the petitioner had not referred, either in his statement or in his replies to questions, to the present-day aspects of the situation in Somaliland—the particulars he had given corresponded much more to the state of affairs which had existed two or three years previously—Mr. Spinelli, who had spent the last three years in Somaliland, felt it his duty to give some explanations. The petitioner, who had been away from Somaliland for a year, had obviously lost contact with the circles which would have been able to give him accurate information on the present situation. Were that not so, Mr. Issa would never have claimed that the prohibition of the activities of the different branches of his party was still in force; it had in fact been repealed several months earlier in the case of three branches, and would be repealed shortly in the case of the fourth. Nor would he have spoken of the necessity of taking steps to enable the people to exercise directly its right to vote, since four months previously the Territorial Council had devoted three weeks to the consideration of a bill concerning the organization of the elections which would shortly be held in all the towns and villages of the Territory.

33. In political matters, Italy had, from the very beginning of its administration of Somaliland, set about organizing advisory bodies, the most important of which, the Territorial Council, was to become a legislative body. The composition of those bodies had been changed each year to allow of an ever increasing representation of the

political parties. Elections were to be held in all the villages of the Territory during the coming year. It was at present impossible to organize elections among the nomadic inhabitants. Furthermore, Italy had devoted its attention to the training of Somalis capable of occupying high posts in the Administration. In 1950, it had set up a political and administrative training school; the fifteen young people who had been its first students and who included many members of the Somali Youth League were at present in Italy. They would shortly return to Somaliland, where they would be given important posts in all the administrative services. Furthermore, four Somalis were at present in charge of Residencies, and the Administration proposed to increase year by year the number of Somalis directing Residencies or occupying posts as departmental heads in the central administration. Lastly, he recalled that the situation had been quite tense throughout the country in 1950. In the space of three years, the Administration, assisted by the best elements of the population, including many members of the Somali Youth League, had succeeded in creating conditions which no one would have dared to hope for in 1950; no political incident had recently been recorded in the Territory.

34. The Administration was sparing no effort to develop the Territory economically. When he had left Somaliland about three weeks previously, the grain pool, organized on a large scale for the first time, had begun to operate: nearly 50,000 quintals of millet and maize had already been stored. It was difficult at the moment to store all the grain offered, because the first harvest had been exceptional and the second looked like being one of the most plentiful that Somaliland had known for many years. It was clear that the petitioner did not know what he was talking about when he claimed that the millet and maize harvest had declined substantially. The object of setting up the grain pool was not only to encourage Somali farmers, who received a higher price than that paid on the market, but also to facilitate the organization of a short-term agricultural credit system, which the Administration hoped to put into operation in the spring of 1954. Lastly, the Administration was studying a project for canalizing the Uebi Scebeli and the Giuba, whose waters would thus become more usable; it hoped to put that project into operation with the assistance of the Mutual Security Agency. The MSA was already lending its aid in the execution of a well-sinking programme, for which \$500,000 had been provided for the present financial year: 150 new wells were already being sunk and 800 new wells would be drilled before 1960. Those were Somaliland's real problems and the Administration was endeavouring to solve them through many other projects in which the best elements of the Somali population were co-operating.

35. The petitioner had asserted that hygienic and public health conditions left a great deal to be desired. Mr. Spinelli pointed out that it would have been impossible to provide perfect conditions in the space of three years. Nevertheless, the Administration had not spared its efforts: four new hospitals had been built, the old hospitals had been renovated, and there were at present more than 100 health centres; all the hospitals had ambulances and for the first time the people of every region in the Territory could receive medical care. Whereas there had been only twenty-one doctors in 1950, there were now fifty. There were now eleven schools for the training of medical assistants, midwives

and nurses; more than 250 students of both sexes were attending courses at the schools, and the best were going to be sent to Italy, where they would receive additional training which would enable them to take charge of small health centres.

36. On the question of military appropriations, he recalled that in 1950 the situation had been insecure, with the result that Italy had been obliged to send over 5,000 soldiers and more than 1,000 police officials to Somaliland. At the present time there were less than 600 soldiers and less than 200 police officials. Those figures would be still further reduced next year and all that would remain in Somaliland would be the contingent of commissioned and non-commissioned officers essential to the organization of the Somali Army, as provided for in the Trusteeship Agreement, and the number of police officials necessary for the organization of a Somali police force.

37. Nor should the work achieved in the educational field be underestimated. Whereas in 1950 there had been 2,500 pupils, there were now more than 21,000. There were already primary and secondary schools of a very satisfactory standard; 1,000 pupils, including 600 Somalis, attended the secondary establishments. Moreover, the appropriations for education were decidedly higher than the figures quoted: those figures related only to the remuneration of the teaching staff and the expense of running the schools. In addition, nearly 2 million somalis were devoted in the present year to the building and repairing of teaching establishments; to those expenditures should be added the salaries of the staff of the central services and the cost of transport. Appropriations for education for the 1953-1954 financial year represented nearly 11 per cent of the total budget, and the same percentage was allotted to public health. Appropriations for education and public health were increased every year, as were also those for public works, while military appropriations were reduced.

38. The petitioner had stated that Somali students had not so far had the advantage of scholarships which would enable them to continue their studies abroad. Mr. Spinelli declared that some seventy Somali students were attending courses in Italy and approximately the same number in Egypt. On the other hand, it had not been possible to make use of the scholarships generously offered by other countries, because their holders were required to pursue higher studies for which Somali students did not yet possess the necessary qualifications, with the exception of one medical student who was attending an Italian university. The Administration was continuing to send young Somalis to Italy, while others would continue to go to Egypt. The Administration would be very happy to be able to give Somalis the advantage of scholarships in other countries when they had acquired the necessary qualifications. In general, the Administration had applied itself to developing a teaching service, which now numbered between 500 and 600 teachers, whereas there had been only seventy before, and about 700 classes against the former total of approximately eighty. Moreover, 150 Italian instructors had been sent to Somaliland to give the necessary training to future Somali teachers. In the present year twenty young Somalis who had spent two and a half years in Somaliland and eighteen months in Italy would have completed studies qualifying them as teachers and they would receive the same salaries as their colleagues with the same qualifications. Furthermore, in

order to obtain a more precise idea of the situation it was sufficient to study the conclusions in the report (T/1061 and Add.1) of an expert sent by UNESCO to study the five-year plan for the development of education in Somaliland, who had stated that a very important task had been accomplished and that the five-year plan was such as to raise the general level of education.

39. In conclusion, Mr. Spinelli pointed out that Italy, which had thus far devoted approximately 10 million dollars a year to the administration of Somaliland, was not seeking praise for the effort it was making; it knew that it was simply doing its duty. It counted, however, on the understanding and moral support of all the nations that had entrusted that arduous task to it.

40. The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee to proceed to the consideration of the Trusteeship Council's report (A/2447). He thanked Mr. Issa for the explanations he had given the Committee and announced that the oral hearing of the petitioner was completed.

41. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) thought that in fairness to the petitioner the Committee should allow him to remain at the table, so that he could follow the debate on Somaliland which would take place during the consideration of the Trusteeship Council's report.

42. The CHAIRMAN shared the Yugoslav representative's concern for fairness. He did not think, however, that the petitioner could remain at the Committee table, since the Committee was about to begin the general consideration of the Trusteeship Council's report and not the consideration of the particular issue of the situation in Somaliland.

Mr. Abdullahi, Issa, representative of the Somali Youth League, withdrew.

Mr. Perez Perez (Venezuela) resumed the Chair.

GENERAL DEBATE

43. Mr. DE HOLTE CASTELLO (Colombia), reviewing the Trusteeship Council's report, referred first to chapter III. He noted that petitions from Somaliland under Italian administration had been far the most numerous. That fact was perhaps explained by the presence in Somaliland of the United Nations Advisory Council, which the population regarded as the body that could protect their legitimate aspirations towards independence. There was an apparent tendency, however, for the people to look upon the Advisory Council as a sort of tribunal hierarchically superior to the Administration. Such a conception could not be admitted, for it was contrary to the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement. The Colombian delegation was glad to note that all the petitions showed that relations between the Administering Authority and the Somali Youth League had greatly improved and were now normal. On the other hand, it was concerned to see, from the fifth paragraph of the introduction to chapter III, that the Trusteeship Council had been obliged to postpone its examination of eighty-nine petitions because the Administering Authority had not submitted written observations on them.

44. Turning to chapter IV, he recalled the conclusions of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1952, with regard to Togoland under British administration (T/1040). The Mission had emphasized that Togoland had participated in the great political progress made by the Gold Coast. After having explained the objectives of the leading political parties in the Territory, the Mission had concluded that

the Administering Authority alone was able to know what political opinion had found most favour with the population; public opinion was not yet sufficiently clear for any steps to be taken at present which might irrevocably commit the political future of the peoples of the Territory. He fully supported the Visiting Mission's views on the present Constitution and the need for the Administering Authority to study whether the responsibility which had been vested in it by the Trusteeship Agreement permitted a transfer of power to the Gold Coast Government. The Colombian delegation attached very great importance to those conclusions of the Mission, which were summarized on pages 18 and 19 of the Trusteeship Council's report; that was why, on the occasion of the examination of the Ewe and Togoland unification question, it would have abstained from voting on the paragraph of the preamble of draft resolution A/C.4/L.308 which stated that the people of the Trust Territories desired in principle the unification of the two Trust Territories, had that paragraph been put to the vote separately. He associated himself with the tribute the Visiting Mission had paid to the Administering Authority for having ensured political freedom throughout the Territory. With regard to economic advancement, the Mission had noted that there had been a progressive development, especially where cocoa production was concerned. In the social and educational fields, he shared the Visiting Mission's opinion that the Administering Authority had intensified the development of medical services. He also supported the Visiting Mission's suggestion that the Administering Authority should envisage the possibilities of recruiting teachers who could give instruction in English, the more so since in some areas the Africans themselves had requested that a more important place should be given to instruction in, and the use of, the English language. Lastly, he noted with satisfaction that the number of Togoland students enrolled at the University College of the Gold Coast had increased from 18 in 1951 to 37 at the time of the Mission's visit.

45. Turning to the Visiting Mission's report on Togoland under French administration (T/1041), he said that the measures to replace the *Conseil privé* by a Government Council (*Conseil de gouvernement*), half of whose members would be directly elected by the Territorial Assembly, showed substantial political progress. Furthermore, the Mission had indicated the respective positions of the two leading political parties, one of which accepted, for the time being, internal self-government within the framework of the French Union while the other aimed at the complete independence of Togoland in the near future. In that connexion, the Mission had observed that the question of the participation of Togoland in the French Union had raised several problems that had already been considered by the Council. With regard to social and educational advancement, the Administering Authority deserved praise for the work it had accomplished, although much remained to be done.

46. The Visiting Mission's reports on the two parts of Togoland led the Colombian delegation to conclude that in view of the differences which existed between those two Territories with regard to political and legal structure, and of the influence of two different types of education, it would be difficult to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Ewe people.

47. Turning to the Visiting Mission's report on the Cameroons under British administration (T/1042), he

noted with interest the conclusions reached by the Mission on the subject of the new Constitution and the reactions of the various political parties, which, in the southern part, on the one hand requested that the whole of the Trust Territory should be given a separate regional status and, on the other hand, demanded the unification of the two Cameroons and self-government within five years. He concluded from that that the population as a whole was not yet fully conscious of the practical consequences of the unification of the Cameroons. The Mission had, moreover, noted that unification had been demanded only in certain regions of the southern part of the Territory and that even in those regions the question was neither a very popular demand nor a very lively issue. He was happy to learn, however, that in the northern part of the Territory the emirates were not as rigid as in the past and that elected members were slowly being introduced into all the councils at the local level as well as at the district and divisional level.

48. With regard to economic progress, the Colombian delegation had noted the activity of the Cameroons Development Corporation, which used modern agricultural methods and whose plantations were provided with adequate communications. Not only did the Corporation produce bananas, rubber and palm oil, but it ran an increasing number of hospitals, dispensaries, schools, social centres, water supply services, roads, railways, ports and ships-activities which, as the Visiting Mission had observed, called for a co-ordinated effort. His delegation was glad to note from the report that the production of cocoa in the Kumba region was increasing. It hoped that the Administering Authority would continue its efforts to develop the principle of agricultural co-operatives among the inhabitants of the Territory.

49. With regard to the Bakweri problem and the restoration of the land leased to the Cameroons Development Corporation, his delegation had noted that the Administering Authority had drafted a plan under which each Bakweri family would receive approximately nine hectares of land. The plan and the plots of land offered had not yet, however, been accepted by the Bakweris. The Colombian delegation also noted the Visiting Mission's opinion on the possible rehabilitation of the Bakweris. His delegation would refrain from making detailed observations on inter-tribal problems; but it was glad to note that thanks to the co-operation between the administrations of the two Territories, banditry was gradually disappearing.

50. Finally, the Colombian delegation was confident that the Administering Authority would bear in mind the comments of the Visiting Mission and would rapidly reduce the percentage of illiteracy, which was at present very high.

51. Turning to the situation in the Cameroons under French administration, he said that his delegation well understood the difficulties which the Administering Authority encountered in establishing in the Territory the new institutions required by any system of democratic government. As the Visiting Mission had pointed out in its report (T/1043), the Administering Authority should also try to achieve an optimum rate for the development of the Territory as a whole, taking into account the difference between the degree of development in the South and that in the North. That was a problem whose solution depended primarily on the adaptability of the old institutions, namely the traditional chiefdoms, and the functioning of the new ones, namely

the representative bodies introduced by the Administration.

52. The Colombian delegation was pleased with the Administering Authority's action in offering forty notables a visit to France. Those contacts with higher cultures would gradually reduce the hostility which the chiefs of the northern tribes displayed towards democratic methods.

53. On the question of the dual electoral college, which logically called for certain reservations, that system would constitute an intermediary stage, as the Mission had noted, allowing for a gradual transition to the single-college system. The Mission's observation that, with the exception of certain electors in the South, the Cameroonian peoples had not yet attained electoral maturity naturally caused his delegation some concern. As in the case of Togoland under French administration, unification did not at present constitute a problem in the Cameroons under French administration. The Administering Authorities would probably find, if they had not already done so, some means of eliminating the frontier difficulties with regard to *laissez-passer*.

54. On the subject of economic advancement, the Visiting Mission's report showed that the Administering Authority was making great efforts, under the ten-year plan, to improve the Territory's production and communications. There was reason to hope that the Administering Authority would allow the inhabitants of the Territory an ever increasing part in the management of commercial and agricultural undertakings. The Colombian delegation was very pleased to see that the Administration was working on a plan which would shortly be submitted to the Territorial Assembly with a view to stabilizing the prices of cocoa and groundnuts and increasing the quality of those products. The Mission had been struck by the great efforts being made by the Administering Authority to improve the communication system of the Cameroons within the framework of the ten-year-plan.

55. In the social field, his delegation noted the increase in the number of dispensaries, public health services and medical personnel, as also the increased appropriations for the health services.

56. It was hoped that the Administering Authority would take into account the Visiting Mission's recommendations with regard to education, with a view to raising the standard.

57. With respect to Western Samoa, his delegation congratulated New Zealand, the Administering Authority, on its contribution to the political, economic and social advancement of those remote islands of the Pacific Ocean.

58. Both the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific, 1953, and the Administering Authority considered that the Samoans were essentially conservative and that their traditional social and economic system was an obstacle to the institution of universal suffrage.

59. With respect to economic advancement, the Administering Authority and the Visiting Mission had both considered that one of the principal problems of Western Samoa lay in the difficulty of adapting the traditional social and economic structure to meet the need for increased production consequent upon the rapid increase in population and the rising standard of living. At the present time agricultural production in the Territory was largely in the hand of family groups, but the

Colombian delegation was glad to note that definite progress had been made, as was shown by the comparative figures for imports and exports.

60. The most remarkable feature of the report on Western Samoa was the proposed constitutional reform that the New Zealand Prime Minister had announced on 19 March 1953. The provisions that the Administering Authority intended to introduce in Western Samoa appeared on page 68 of the Trusteeship Council's report. He pointed out that the Prime Minister had announced the Administering Authority's intention of considering means of transferring to the Territory the holdings of the New Zealand Reparations Estates, which were in full operation. The New Zealand Government had proposed that the property should be transferred to a statutory company administered by an executive board to be composed of four members appointed locally and one appointed by the New Zealand Government, with the stipulation that the last-mentioned member must withdraw from the board when Western Samoa attained complete self-government. He joined the Visiting Mission and the Trusteeship Council in congratulating the Administering Authority on its plan.

61. With respect to social advancement, it should be noted that the Administering Authority would shortly be building branch hospitals in all districts of the Territory and that it was contributing to the improvement of the Apia Hospital on the Island of Upolu.

62. There had been progress in education: appropriations had increased from £24,000 in 1950 to £163,000 in 1952, the latter figure including £47,000 allocated by the Central Government for the construction of Samoa College and the provision of scholarships for study abroad.

63. New Zealand was beyond all doubt the Administering Authority which most deserved congratulation.

64. Turning to the situation in New Guinea, he said he would refrain from making any final judgment on the activities of the Administering Authority of the 600 islands constituting the Trust Territory. He recalled the statements made by the 1953 Visiting Mission in its report on that Territory (T/1056). No parallel could be drawn between the physical geography of New Guinea and that of the other Trust Territories; a realistic appraisal of the possibilities of that Territory must take into account its physical characteristics. His delegation felt, as did the Mission, that some of the discussions that took place on the political advancement of the indigenous population of that Territory were premature. It did not know, however, whether the Visiting Mission blamed the Administering Authority for having tried to introduce certain concepts before the time was ripe or whether, on the contrary, the Administering Authority was tardy in applying those new ideas. In any case, his delegation concluded from the report in question that there could be no question of modifying the present tribal structure in the near future. In fact, as the Visiting Mission itself had stated, it would be difficult for the time being to conceive of a political organization of the Territory as a whole that would have any basis in reality. His delegation considered that the next visiting mission to that remote Territory should devote more time to consideration of the complicated problem that existed there. He reviewed passages from the individual observations made by the Dominican, Syrian and Salvadorian representatives, which appeared on page 82 of the report of the Trusteeship Council.

65. His delegation, which was concerned to note that there was a certain amount of hostility in the Territory towards the civilizing work of the United Nations, believed that the Administering Authority should collaborate with the Secretary-General with a view to inculcating in the European and indigenous inhabitants of the Territory the democratic principles which sooner or later they must accept. It hoped that the information on that Territory furnished by the Administering Authority would in future be more complete.

66. With regard to Nauru, the report of the Trusteeship Council stressed two particularly important factors that had a bearing on its development. The first was its small area and the small number of inhabitants. The Island of Nauru, which was isolated in the Pacific, near the Equator, had an area of only 5,263 acres and an indigenous population of approximately 1,600. The second factor was the nature of its economy, which was almost entirely dependent upon phosphate deposits that would be exhausted in about seventy years. There was no doubt that, as the Visiting Mission had pointed out, the only possible solution would be to transfer the population of Nauru to another territory, for the Nauruan people were only a small group which could not in any case be considered as a potential State, although that group, isolated on a small Pacific island, had services far superior to those of any other group of similar size. The Administering Authority fully shared that opinion.

67. Without going into the details of the question of the political, economic and social advancement of that Territory, he agreed with the Dominican representative that it was most important to prepare the future generations for occupations which would enable them to attain a higher standard of living and earn their livelihood in the territories to which they would have to emigrate. His delegation was sure that the Administering Authority would take into account the Trusteeship Council's recommendation that a fund should be created for the resettlement of the population. As there could be no hope for economic advancement in that small island once the phosphate deposits ceased to be exploited, it was logical that the Administering Authority should attach more importance to educational and social than to political matters.

68. In conclusion, his delegation could not but express its deep concern at the discussions that had taken place in the Fourth Committee, where in many cases the object had been, not to find a just and equitable solution, but rather to incite primitive and ignorant peoples and to lead them to adopt ideologies that were diametrically opposed to the aims of the United Nations. It noted a daily increasing divergence of views between the Administering Authorities and most of the others which, fortunately, were not entrusted with the task of producing free and independent peoples in the shortest possible time.

69. Colombia was second to none in its desire that all the peoples of the world should attain their highest ideal, which was freedom. As the Colombian representative had stated at the eleventh session of the Trusteeship Council (415th meeting), the experience of a century and a half impelled his country to see that those aspirations were truly realized.

70. Having spent more than three years on the African continent, he had had an opportunity to see that not everything the Administering Authorities did was bad, and that their perseverance was responsible for the economic, political and social progress that had been made, even though in some cases those Authorities unfortunately retarded advancement that they considered premature, an opinion which he did not by any means share.

71. Seen in the light of the petitions and of the legitimate desire to know that all peoples enjoyed the same freedoms as independent peoples, the African problems assumed fantastic proportions, as in a kaleidoscope. When the police authorities had to intervene in Bogotá, or New York, in order to maintain public order, all was well. When it was necessary in the Trust Territories to ensure order among primitive peoples to prevent their destroying one another, that was a crime. When the authorities struggled to cope with serious social problems in London or Paris, no one said a word; but there was strong criticism of the fact that the African school of forestry did not meet existing standards of hygiene, and the missionaries and men of goodwill who sacrificed themselves in those territories were held to deserve no praise.

72. The Colombian delegation took the liberty of addressing a friendly appeal to the Administering Authorities to increase education in all Trust Territories and as far as possible to give them an adequate economic structure, since independence was hardly possible until they achieved a level of culture that would ensure their political progress and until they had their own economy.

73. He had not intended to take part immediately in the debate on Somaliland under Italian administration but he found it necessary to make certain observations in connexion with the statement that Mr. Issa, representative of the Somali Youth League, had made before the Fourth Committee at its 377th meeting and which had been reproduced in full in document A/C.4/253. Mr. Issa had seen fit to quote a passage from the statement he himself had made at the 463rd meeting of the Trusteeship Council. In so doing, he had illustrated the danger involved in incomplete quotations. Mr. De Holte Castello then read the statement he had made, which appeared on paragraphs 50 to 67 of the summary record of the 463rd meeting of the Trusteeship Council, held on 18 June 1953.

74. He then proceeded to review the Administering Authority's achievements in the political, social, health and educational spheres. Colombia had offered the Somali Youth League two scholarships to enable the Somalis to study at experimental stations in Colombia. Unfortunately the scholarships could not be used because of the language, since in Colombia instruction was of necessity given in Spanish. With respect to vernacular languages, he shared the doubts expressed by the French representative and said that after consultation with UNESCO it had been decided to adopt Italian and Arabic, since Arabic was almost universally known and was linked with the Moslem religion. Consequently, the idea of adopting the Somali language had been temporarily abandoned.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m