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**Chairman:** Mr. Rodolfo MUNOZ (Argentina).

## Programme of work

1. Mr. TAJIBNAPIS (Indonesia) suggested that the Committee should decide when to hear the petitioners to whom it had granted oral hearings in connexion with the discussion of the Trusteeship Council's report (A/2150). An appropriate time would be after the general debate on the item and before the discussion of any draft resolutions that might be submitted. He asked the Secretariat how many petitioners were already in New York and when the rest were expected to arrive.

2. Mr. BUNCHE (Secretary of the Committee) said that the representatives of the Meru Citizens Union had been in New York for some time and were anxious to appear before the Committee as soon as possible because of the expense of prolonging their stay. The representative of the Somali Youth League was in Cairo awaiting a visa to the United States. The Secretary-General had asked the United States Government to act on the application as speedily as possible. The representative of the Unione Nazionale Somala was in New York. The representative of the Union des populations du Cameroun had reached Paris on 6 November and was waiting for a visa to the United States. The Secretary-General had again approached the United States authorities. The most recent information concerning the representative of the Traditional Assembly of the Douala People was that he could not be in New York before 2 December. They had been told that it was unlikely that that date would be too late. The representative of the Cameroons Socialist Party was already in New York and the Moslem Groups in the Cameroons had authorized a member of the French delegation to make a statement on its behalf. There was no information on the representation of the Bloc démocratique camerounais. Mr. Sylvanus Olympio, representing the All-Ewe Conference, and Mr. Antor, representing the Togoland Congress, who wished to appear in connexion with the report on the Ewe problem, were already in New York. A complaint had been received by cablegram that three other representatives had been refused dollar exchange by the Gold Coast Government. No further information had been received

from the Union des chefs du Nord Togo and the Parti togolais du progrès.

3. Mr. TAJIBNAPIS (Indonesia) said that the Committee would be glad of further details from the Administering Authorities or the United States delegation regarding the difficulties experienced in connexion with visas or dollar exchange. He proposed that the procedure he had suggested should be adopted and that the representatives of the Meru Citizens Union should be heard first.

*It was so decided.*

4. Mr. MUCCIO (United States of America) said that the appropriate United States consuls had been informed as soon as the Secretary-General had reported the granting of the requests for oral hearings. The authorities would again be asked to deal with the applications speedily.

5. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) said that he would inquire into the question of dollar exchange and inform the Committee as soon as possible.

## Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2150) (*continued*) [Item 12]\*

6. Mr. NASZKOWSKI (Poland) said that each succeeding year of trusteeship ought to bring the peoples living under that system closer to independence as a realization of the principle of the right to self-determination. It was not by chance that much had been said at the current Assembly in all the Committees regarding self-determination, for the awakening of the colonial and semi-colonial peoples and the intensification of their struggle for national liberation were the outstanding feature of the times. The clamour for freedom must be echoed in the discussions of the United Nations despite the efforts of the colonial Powers to stifle it.

7. The reports of the Trusteeship Council, the Administering Authorities and the Visiting Missions

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

showed clearly that all the Administering Authorities continually and systematically violated the provisions of Article 1 and Article 76 of the Charter.

8. Instead of promoting the economic advancement of the Trust Territories, the Administering Authorities extracted from them the largest possible quantity of raw, and particularly strategic, materials. Their interest in the African Trust Territories was growing steadily because of the loss of a great part of their colonial empires in the Far East and the general political ferment in Asia. Thus, the report on the Cameroons under French administration<sup>1</sup> noted that four missions of the Economic Co-operation Administration, one on strategic raw materials, had visited the Cameroons. As well as being a valuable source of minerals and agricultural products, the Trust Territories were importers of goods exported by the Administering Authorities, for which they were forced to pay exorbitant prices because the Administering Authorities used their monopoly over external trade to fix the prices of imports and exports to their own advantage and the disadvantage of the Trust Territories. The area needed for the cultivation of products of prime necessity for the local population was being encroached upon more and more by plantations of export crops to be sold at high profits. So much was clear from the so-called economic plans. He instanced Somaliland and the Cameroons under French administration, where the people were being forced to buy imported food at high prices while the land was turned over to export crops.

9. The natural wealth of the Trust Territories was not being used to enrich the population but rather to increase their oppression. For example, the Pacific Phosphate Company, Limited, paid the Australian Administration less than £200,000 a year of the £1,300,000 it earned from its exports of phosphates from Nauru, whereas the amount paid to the Nauruans and to various funds for financing education and other social activities on the island was £55,000. That sum had been fixed, as the special representative of the Administering Authority had admitted in the Trusteeship Council, not in accordance with the price of phosphate exports, but with the present and future needs of the population of Nauru.<sup>2</sup> Obviously, those needs were not regarded by the shareholders in the company as very great. When the phosphate deposits were exhausted in some seventy years' time, the Australian Administration proposed simply to move the population to another island, without first exploring the other productive possibilities of Nauru.

10. The colonial administrations in Africa obtained cheap labour either by restricting the land available to the indigenous inhabitants or by imposing upon them monetary taxes, thus forcing them in both cases to seek paid work. Examples of those two aspects of economic oppression could be found in all the reports on the Trust Territories, the most striking of all being the forcible expulsion of 3,000 members of the Wa-Meru tribe in Tanganyika from their land, which was suitable for cattle-raising. In exchange they had been offered land infested by the tsetse fly. The resolution

adopted by the Trusteeship Council in that connexion (resolution 468 (XI)) had been a bitter disappointment to the tribespeople. It recommended monetary compensation and aid in resettlement, but it did not advocate the only real remedy, the restoration of their homeland. However, despite the protests of the Administering Authorities, the Committee would shortly have an opportunity of hearing the victims themselves. Mr. Naszkowski then gave details of land ownership in the northern part of Tanganyika, Somaliland, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under United States administration, to show how land was being alienated on a long-term basis in the Trust Territories.

11. Despite their poverty, the indigenous inhabitants were required to pay capitation taxes in all the Trust Territories. In Tanganyika and Somaliland, for example, failure to pay was an offence punishable by imprisonment.

12. The Administering Authorities were also acting contrary to the Charter and the interests of the indigenous inhabitants as regards industrialization, which was being carried out on a very limited scale and only in so far as it was profitable to the colonists. For example, though cotton was a basic raw material of Ruanda-Urundi, only one textile factory was to be built in the Territory in the next ten years, on the grounds that the textile factory at Albertville in the Belgian Congo was sufficient for the needs of Ruanda-Urundi, which would thus export its cotton to the Congo and buy it back in the form of cloth.

13. An examination of social conditions in the Trust Territories showed that the Administering Authorities were violating not only the spirit and letter of the Charter, but also a series of international conventions. Most of the colonial Powers had not signed the Convention concerning Penal Sanctions for Breaches of Contracts of Employment by Indigenous Workers, adopted by the International Labour Conference in 1939 on the abolition of penal sanctions against indigenous workers. In Ruanda-Urundi, penal sanctions were applied to indigenous workers, there was no law limiting working hours and the statutory minimum wage was 72 per cent of the minimum living wage. In all the Trust Territories, there was racial discrimination in wages. In Nauru, the Chinese and Native Labour Ordinance sanctioned the practice of different wages for workers of different nationalities. In several Territories, such as Ruanda-Urundi and Nauru, curfew was imposed. The Chinese seasonal workers employed on Nauru were prohibited from bringing members of their family with them, despite the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council. The Administering Authorities were also opposed to the organization of trade unions. In Somaliland, for example, there were no trade unions and in Tanganyika the registration of indigenous trade unions had been cancelled on the grounds that they were incapable of managing their affairs properly.

14. Racial discrimination was also to be found in matters of health, where in addition the general level was extremely low. Thus, there were separate hospitals for indigenous inhabitants and Europeans, and proportionately far fewer doctors for the indigenous inhabitants than for Europeans. Similarly, there were separate schools for different national groups in all

<sup>1</sup> See *Rapport annuel du Gouvernement français à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration du Cameroun placé sous la tutelle de la France, année 1951*.

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Tenth Session, 401st meeting*.

the Trust Territories. In Ruanda-Urundi a programme to combat illiteracy had not yet been prepared. Such action was intended to stifle the development of national culture, prevent the use of the national language and perpetuate the ignorance of the exploited peoples.

15. Racial discrimination was practiced even in the prisons in Trust Territories; for example, in Somaliland, the food ration for indigenous prisoners was smaller than that for Europeans, and of those prisoners thirty-eight were under fourteen years of age and seventy-eight between fourteen and eighteen years of age.

16. A striking illustration of conditions in the Trust Territories was the fact that in Tanganyika, Togoland under British administration and Ruanda-Urundi, despite the various General Assembly resolutions, corporal punishment was still imposed.

17. The situation in the political field was no better. The Administering Authorities kept the indigenous populations from playing any significant part in the political life of the Trust Territories, thus failing to implement Article 76, b of the Charter. The participation of the indigenous populations in so-called local government organs was restricted to the appointment of a few "representatives" from among petty autocrats devoted to the Administration. He quoted figures to show the extent of representation in Tanganyika and Ruanda-Urundi. The Italian Government was continually violating its obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement, which guaranteed Somaliland independence in 1960. For example, the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1951, had noted in its report on Somaliland (T/947 and Corr. 1, para. 79) that the Territorial Council was not a truly representative body in the full sense of the term. The Administration in Somaliland was still organized along the lines established under the Mussolini régime, one survival of which was the system of collective sanctions. After referring to the case of mass arrests by the Carabinieri, to be found on page 122 of the report, Mr. Naszkowski said the Italian Government was delaying the political advancement of the population by promoting backward tribal systems and encouraging anti-democratic tribal chiefs.

18. No general electoral system existed in any of the Trust Territories and none of the "advisory" or "territorial" bodies had any real influence on the peoples' future. Although pressure of public opinion had forced the Administering Authorities to introduce certain limited reforms—for example, the recent law on the Representative Assembly of the Cameroons under French administration—no real advance had been made towards achieving the right of peoples to self-determination.

19. The Administering Authorities were falling increasingly under the sway of the aggressive plans of the United States and were dragging the Trust Territories along the same path. The Belgian Government's report on Ruanda-Urundi<sup>3</sup> did not mention the uranium mines in that Territory, nor was there any direct information in any of the annual reports on the use of

the Trust Territories as military bases and sources of cannon fodder.

20. There was no lack, however, of significant details, such as the strategic research being undertaken in the Cameroons under French administration within the framework of the United States Economic Cooperation Administration, and the figure of 75,400,000 somalos for extra-budgetary military expenditure in 1950-1951 in Somaliland under Italian administration, which had been integrated into the Mutual Security Programme of the United States.

21. Spurred on in their struggle for independence by the victories over fascism and reaction in the Second World War and in China, and by the struggles of the peoples of Vietnam and Malaya, the peoples of the Trust Territories were demanding their rights. It was the duty of the United Nations to help the dependent peoples achieve political and economic independence in the near future and the Polish delegation would always give its whole-hearted support to their aspirations.

22. Mr. ABOU KHADRA (Saudi Arabia) said that it was a cause of great satisfaction to note that the Trust Territories were making steady, though slow, progress under the aegis of the Administering Authorities and the supervision of the Trusteeship Council. He was sure that the concept of trust, with its corollary of responsibility and accountability to an international body, was an influential factor in the advancement so far achieved.

23. His delegation was guided by two principles: first, the provisions of the Charter and, secondly, the interests and welfare of the Trust Territories. In considering the Council's report, he had borne in mind the degree of progress achieved compared to the preceding year and the backwardness of the Territory concerned. The Council's report unfortunately showed only too much evidence of discrimination to the disadvantage of the indigenous population. In political, administrative and commercial matters, the Trust Territories were not always governed in the best interests of the local inhabitants.

24. Very slow progress had been made in some areas in transferring political authority in municipal or central government to the local population, and it was notable that the European inhabitants were invariably represented in the different advisory or legislative councils in a manner completely disproportionate to their number.

25. His delegation had been struck by the large amount of movable and immovable property held by foreign persons in the Trust Territory and by the fact that most business corporations were in the hands of citizens of the administering State.

26. There was discrimination against the use of the vernacular. Certain difficulties admittedly lay in the way of using the vernacular, but the crucial question, as always, was whether the Administering Authorities had the interests and welfare of the Trust Territories at heart. In that connexion, his delegation welcomed the statement by the United Kingdom representative at the 379th meeting. The record of the United Kingdom Government in Tanganyika, the Cameroons and Togoland was indeed impressive.

<sup>3</sup> See *Rapport soumis par le Gouvernement belge à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies au sujet de l'administration du Ruanda-Urundi pendant l'année 1951*, Brussels, 1952.

27. It was to the slow pace of progress rather than its lack that his delegation wished to draw the Committee's attention. In that connexion, he wished to emphasize the importance of education, for the fundamental cause of backwardness was illiteracy. Any comprehensive plan for advancement should always start with education.

28. The Council had examined 638 petitions at its tenth and eleventh sessions and in most cases had merely drawn the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authorities and to any previous recommendations on the questions raised, and assured them that their petitions would be examined in connexion with the annual consideration of conditions in the Trust Territories. He agreed with previous speakers who had urged that the right of petition should be encouraged and regretted that certain Administering Authorities had tried in one way or another to discourage petitions.

29. After stressing the value of visiting missions, he expressed approval of the Council's recommendations on executive and legislative organs in Tanganyika, set forth on page 32 of the report. He noted with pleasure that, in its report on Tanganyika (T/946 and Corr.1, para. 163), the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1951, had commended the Administering Authority on its economic achievements; he hoped that the latter would make more use of the services that could certainly be rendered by the technical agencies and affiliated organizations of the United Nations.

30. His delegation also approved the Council's recommendation on page 77 of the report on administrative training in Ruanda-Urundi, the recommendation on school fees in the Cameroons under British administration, on page 161, and the recommendation, on page 188, on higher educational facilities in the Cameroons under French administration.

31. He noted with satisfaction the recommendation on page 197 of the report concerning the further development of the civil service of the Gold Coast and Togoland under British administration. The need for extending administrative training facilities in Togoland under French administration was particularly great in view of the reforms relating to the Representative Assembly, mentioned on page 219 of the report. His delegation had noted with interest the ten-year development plan in Togoland under French administration. It was to be hoped that that plan would give due consideration to diversifying the economy of the Territory so that it would become a viable independent entity.

32. The New Zealand representative had given an excellent account of the achievements of his Government in Western Samoa. The Saudi Arabian delegation supported the recommendation on page 242 of the report to the effect that the Administering Authority should give constant attention to educating the Samoan people toward the realization of the place of universal suffrage in a system of democratic self-government.

33. In connexion with Somaliland under Italian administration, he felt bound to point out that no less than 209 petitions from that Territory had been sent to the Trusteeship Council and that the Italian administration

had done little to train the Somalis or transfer authority to them so that they would be in a position to achieve independence in 1960 as provided in the Trusteeship Agreement. It was to be hoped that all the members of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration would attend its meetings in the future. His delegation noted with satisfaction the progress related by the Italian representative at the 282nd meeting. The increase in the number of schools was particularly satisfactory. His delegation welcomed the establishment of a legislative body, reforms in land tenure, sanitation and hygiene, and the sending of students abroad for educational purposes. Nevertheless, it hoped that the Administering Authority would give serious consideration to the question of training the indigenous population for higher places in the administration and in technical services. It further hoped that the difficulties arising from the frontier incidents between Somalis and Ethiopians would eventually be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties. Lastly, he expressed the hope that Italy would very soon join the Fourth Committee as a full member.

34. In conclusion, he emphasized that his delegation could not approve any tendency to restrict or curb the responsibilities of the Committee in favour of the Trusteeship Council, although it endorsed the Iraqi representative's appeal for an atmosphere of harmony and co-operation.

35. U THANT (Burma) recalled that in the general discussion on the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2219 and Corr.1), he had said that his delegation ardently desired that all colonial territories should achieve full responsible government as soon as possible, in conditions that would ensure the people a peaceful and orderly social system, the highest possible standard of living and freedom from aggression from any quarter. He had also said that Burma would never associate itself with any policy which tolerated or encouraged discrimination based on colour or creed. Those considerations governed his delegation's views on the Trusteeship Council's report.

36. It had been repeatedly stated in the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly that the number of indigenous inhabitants in administrative posts, and particularly, higher posts, should be increased. Belgium, however, had clearly stated in the Trusteeship Council that its policy was completely different. The special representative had said that the administrative cadre in Ruanda-Urundi was naturally Belgian and that it was normal that, as long as trusteeship lasted, the indigenous inhabitants should have only modest jobs.<sup>4</sup> Such age-worn colonial attitudes did not make for the progress, peace and stability for which the United Nations stood.

37. It could be argued that the indigenous inhabitants must be fully qualified if they were to be promoted to positions of responsibility. The necessary qualifications could be secured either through intensive training in the Trust Territories or through special courses abroad. Educational facilities could and must be built up in the Territories, and his delegation recommended the in-

<sup>4</sup> See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Eleventh Session*, 422nd meeting.

stitution of intensive training programmes and the granting of scholarships on as wide a basis as possible. The number of primary schools should be increased as soon as possible and instruction should be given in the vernacular.

38. He had read with interest of the economic developments in many Trust Territories, but felt bound to note that such developments were uneven. In some cases, development plans had been established but, as the Indian representative had pointed out (280th meeting), technological and economic progress alone could give rise to tensions and conflicts which would prevent any stability or peace in the social pattern of the Territory. His delegation would like to see speedier economic development with more participation by the indigenous inhabitants in the work of development and the enjoyment of its rewards.

39. The Administering Authorities should take immediate steps to improve the living conditions of the very poorly paid indigenous workers and to raise the economic and social level of the rural communities from which the migrant workers came. His delegation noted with pleasure that several Administering Authorities were sincerely endeavouring to improve and increase the health facilities in the Trust Territories. The obstacles were stupendous, but they must be overcome. Attention should be paid to the training of indigenous doctors, nurses and visiting nurses and to the widest possible dissemination of health education in the schools.

40. The right of petition was not sufficiently known in the Trust Territories. That was explicitly stated in the report of the Visiting Mission on Ruanda-Urundi (T/948, para. 89), which further stated that several indigenous inhabitants had expressed the fear that by stating their views and grievances, they might expose themselves to direct or indirect reprisals by the Administration or the community. His delegation felt strongly that the Administering Authority should bring the right of petition to the notice of the indigenous peoples since it was their only recourse against what they conceived to be unjust.

41. Despite the establishment of the Standing Committee on Petitions, much remained to be done as regards the manner in which petitions were handled. In most cases, the attention of the petitioners had merely been drawn to the observations of the Administering Authorities. That might be sufficient for petitions of minor importance or trivial petitions, but the more important ones should not in future be subjected to the same cursory treatment.

42. He had been very interested in the statement by the Haitian representative at the 281st meeting on the implementation of Trusteeship Council resolutions. One Administering Authority had apparently stated that the Administering Authorities were not under any obligation to implement the Council's resolutions. He felt that that stand was incorrect. Each Administering Authority must implement the Council's resolutions, since the Council had supervisory power over the Administering Authorities and the Trust Territories.

43. The Haitian representative had also pointed out that the drafting committees on the report of the Trusteeship Council on specific Trust Territories were composed of more administering members than non-admin-

istering members. While the principle of balanced representation need not apply in subsidiary bodies of the Trusteeship Council, in no case should any committee have more representatives from administering than non-administering States.

44. The revised questionnaire represented an improvement, but it was a general questionnaire not applicable to all the Trust Territories. He would therefore like to suggest that the General Assembly should request the Trusteeship Council to undertake the preparation of separate questionnaires for each Trust Territory.

45. Mr. LANNUNG (Denmark) congratulated the Trusteeship Council on its report and noted with satisfaction that considerable progress had been made, particularly in the development of economic life in the Trust Territories, which was basic to a sound development of all other aspects of life.

46. The Danish delegation had always taken a special interest in the status of women in the Trust Territories and had taken note of progress made, and he was convinced that the Administering Authorities would continue to pay attention to that problem.

47. He noted with interest the improved presentation of the Council's report, which had taken into account many suggestions made by the members of the Fourth Committee at previous sessions of the General Assembly. At the same time the report was becoming longer every year. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had expressed concern over the increasing length of individual reports and the wasteful practice of repeating or paraphrasing material that had already been reproduced (A/2157, para. 29). Such criticism might to some extent be valid with regard to the Council's report. The report repeated or paraphrased a considerable amount of material which had already appeared in previous annual reports. The printing costs for the Trusteeship Council for 1953 were estimated at more than \$40,000.

48. In his opinion it should be possible considerably to reduce the length of the report. Obviously, some repetitions were unavoidable if a report of existing conditions in the Trust Territories was to be made annually, with a résumé of what had been achieved and what was to be done. All the material included in the report on each Territory could be divided, broadly speaking, into four categories: general information; indications of progress made or problems met in the year under review; conclusions adopted by the Trusteeship Council; observations of members of the Trusteeship Council representing their individual opinions only. Many things did not change; for example, it was unnecessary to repeat every year information concerning the geographical features of each Territory. It would be sufficient to submit a full report on conditions in the Trust Territories perhaps every third year, with reports in the intervening years containing first and foremost a review of perceptible changes that had taken place. Those who desired additional information could always consult the annual reports of the Administering Authorities, which were communicated to all Members of the United Nations. That system might be given a trial during the next two years.

49. Information with regard to progress made and problems met in any particular year, as well as the

conclusions of the Trusteeship Council constituted the essential material which the Fourth Committee and other readers expected to find, and which could hardly be abbreviated. Observations of individual members, however, took up much space. That material might be either omitted altogether, reference being made to the records of the Council, or abbreviated substantially and presented in a more rational and simplified manner. Some of the observations were of great interest, but others were of a very general nature and repetitions from year to year or even within the same report were very numerous. The remarks given as individual observations of different members were frequently almost identical and might perhaps be presented in a simplified manner by means of one common summary with short individual additions.

50. He suggested that the Council should be asked to submit to the General Assembly a report in an abbreviated form on the lines he had indicated, as an experiment for the next two years.

51. Mr. MAHMOUD (Egypt) had been particularly interested to hear the speeches made at the opening of the general debate, which had sought to emphasize the achievements of the Trusteeship Council and to refute in anticipation possible criticism of its work. The members of the Council should not, however, resent the criticisms occasionally voiced in the General Assembly.

52. The relationship between the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council was rendered particularly close by specific provisions of the Charter. The Council functioned under the authority of the General Assembly, and the responsibility for the operation of the Trusteeship System lay unmistakably with the General Assembly. That relationship was a safeguard against the possible breakdown of the delicate arrangement by which the composition of the Trusteeship Council was balanced between Administering Authorities and non-administering States. The reason for that balance was that the operation of the Trusteeship System was a process of compromise between the views of the Administering Authorities on the one hand and the non-administering members on the other. If the balance in the composition of the Trusteeship Council failed to produce genuine compromise, the higher authority of the General Assembly would come almost automatically into action. The General Assembly had more than a mere competence in the matter; it had a prescribed responsibility.

53. His delegation felt somewhat disturbed by the manner in which petitions were dealt with. It had not been the intention of the General Assembly that the establishment of the Standing Committee on Petitions should merely speed up the production of standardized resolutions according to well-known formulæ, but that had so far been the result. There was danger that the peoples of the Trust Territories would lose faith in the Trusteeship System. The increasing number of requests for oral hearings received by the Committee was a further indication of the growing feeling among the inhabitants of the Trust Territories that their grievances had not received due attention from the Council.

54. Despite the fact that the General Assembly had clearly stated its view that each visiting mission should

visit fewer Territories and should stay longer in each one, the two visiting missions recently organized by the Council had again had to do too much in too little time. The United Nations Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1952, had been entrusted not only with the task of examining conditions in all fields in all four Trust Territories in that area, but also with the responsibility of studying all aspects of the Ewe and Togoland unification problem—a problem which in the eyes of the General Assembly warranted the attention of a special mission. The Mission's report on that problem (T/1034) clearly bore the marks of undue pressure and lack of time. Although very lengthy, it had little in it that was new. Instead of making a definite proposal, it stated that the Mission had not been able to find out precisely which unification proposal enjoyed support throughout the two Territories. Furthermore, the Council had decided at its eleventh session (456th meeting) that a single mission should visit all the Trust Territories in the Pacific and had not appreciably increased the time to be spent in each of them.

55. The report pointed to economic progress in a number of Trust Territories. The figures mentioned by certain Administering Authorities regarding increase in production and progress in the development programmes undertaken had been impressive. It would be interesting to hear from them how those increased production and development programmes were linked with the welfare of the inhabitants and to what extent they had led to higher wages and to better living conditions, housing, educational and health facilities. The improvement of the lot of the inhabitants of the Territories was the only justification for the authority with which the Administering Authorities were entrusted.

56. With regard to Somaliland under Italian administration, the setting of a time-limit for the period of trusteeship represented an important element. Since the goals prescribed in the Trusteeship Agreement must be achieved by 1960, it was not difficult to foresee the logical progression of steps to be taken towards those goals and it should become increasingly evident what concrete measures were required at various stages of development in the political, economic, social and educational fields.

57. The magnitude of the tasks confronting the Italian Government and the Somali people could be better understood if projected against the background of conditions in the Territory, whose resources were meagre. The Somali people were to an unusual degree imbued with a national consciousness and desire to assume responsibility for their own affairs. Their development in recent years had been rapid in spite of the material limitations of their country, and many of them showed a thirst for education and progress. Their capacity to learn quickly was an asset that should be cultivated and used to the fullest extent in programmes for the advancement of the Territory.

58. He drew the Committee's attention to the question of political parties and their relations with the Administration. As pointed out by the 1951 Visiting Mission, there had been a great increase in the number and activity of political parties in recent years. That factor should be taken into consideration in examining political development in the Territory. The Administration had had difficulty in particular with



the Somali Youth League, which, in the opinion of the Visiting Mission (T/947 and Corr.1, para. 112) counted among its members many young and energetic persons anxious to see their country develop along modern lines. The great number of petitions originating with that party indicated the unsettled relations between the Administering Authority and that section of the population. That was a matter of serious concern, since the Administering Authority must rely in the first instance on the more advanced section of the population for the establishment of democratic organs of government. It was therefore imperative that an atmosphere of mutual understanding and tolerance should be established between the Administration and the groups which would provide leadership and administrative staff. Clearly, however, the Administration had met with opposition from certain political parties, and in determining the composition of organs of government, it had relied to an excessive degree on traditional elements. That was a serious problem because, as the Visiting Mission had pointed out (T/947 and Corr.1, paras. 100 *et seq.*), strong and integrated patterns of political authority did not exist in Somali society. Tribal organization was relatively weak and the authority of the tribal leaders restricted, and it could not be assumed that their representation in the Territorial Council would ensure the support and co-operation of tribesmen in necessary reforms and development.

59. In the opinion of the Egyptian delegation, the Trusteeship Council had shown a tendency to underestimate the contribution that political parties could make to the democratic development of the Territory, as could be seen from the resolutions adopted on petitions from political parties.

60. The Administering Authority was to be commended for having established a political structure which should become fully operative within the next eight years, thus ensuring the stability and development of the future Somali State. The problem, however, was that of ensuring the development of that governmental structure in the short period preceding independence. The Committee was aware of the difficulties in that respect which confronted the Administering Authority, but not of the means by which it proposed to overcome them. If the minimum level of development es-

sential to the establishment and survival of the Somali State could not be wholly or partly achieved on the basis of present plans and resources, it was urgent that the matter should be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, which could then review the situation in order to ascertain what special measures might be required.

61. In the opinion of the Egyptian delegation, the time had come for the formulation of a detailed and systematic picture of the essential needs of the Territory, the steps which should be taken to meet those needs, the financial requirements of each phase of the programme and, above all, the extent to which those requirements could be met from local revenue and the resources of the Administering Authority. Only when such information was available would it be possible to take steps for outside technical and financial assistance whereby the rapid development of the Territory might be ensured.

62. In view of the statement in the report that in 1951 there had not been a single indigenous inhabitant ready to undertake advanced secondary studies, and the need for trained Somali technicians and administrative staff before 1960, it was essential that special measures should be devised to accelerate the training of Somalis employed in the Administration and of students in the schools. It might be wise to select a certain number every year to receive intensified training on specific lines both in the Territory and abroad, and an abbreviated curriculum might be devised to prepare a sufficiently large number of men for government service.

63. The situation in connexion with Somaliland was serious and difficult, and a purely negative approach would reflect disastrously on the United Nations. As in the case of Libya, special measures were required in order to attain the goals set forth in the Trusteeship Agreement, in the fulfilment of which the General Assembly had a primary responsibility. The Trusteeship Council should devote special care and attention and detailed consideration to the Territory in order adequately to discharge the responsibility delegated to it by the General Assembly.

64. He reserved his delegation's right to deal with other specific points as they arose.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.