

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## SEVENTH SESSION

### Official Records



## FOURTH COMMITTEE, 314th

(CLOSING) MEETING

Friday, 19 December 1952, at 8.15 p.m.

Headquarters, New York

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

### Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2150 and Add. 1) (*concluded*)

[Item 12]\*

#### HEARING OF PETITIONERS FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION (A/C.4/L.270) (*concluded*)

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Issa, representative of the Somali Youth League, and Mr. Omar, representative of the Unione Nazionale Somala, took places at the Committee table.*

1. Mr. KONDAPI (India) recalled that, in replying to a question asked at the 313th meeting, Mr. Issa had said that no compensation had been paid for land that had been alienated. He would like to know whether any reason had been given for the alienation of land by the Italian authorities.
2. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) said that no reason had been given.
3. Mr. KONDAPI (India) asked whether the matter had been taken before the law courts.
4. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) replied in the negative.
5. Mr. KONDAPI (India) asked whether any reasons had been given for the numerous arrests and detentions of members of the Somali Youth League to which Mr. Issa had referred.
6. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) replied that no reasons had been given; in his opinion the arrests and detentions were on purely political grounds.
7. Mr. KONDAPI (India) asked whether the arrested persons had been brought to trial in accordance with established legal practice.
8. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) said that they had not; as he had said in his opening statement (313th

meeting), the laws in force in the Territory were those enacted under the pre-war fascist régime.

9. Mr. KONDAPI (India) recalled that in his statement Mr. Issa had urged that the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration should be empowered to investigate complaints from the people. The Advisory Council, however, had been set up to aid and advise the Administering Authority on matters of general policy and not to intervene in the day-to-day administration. He wondered whether Mr. Issa had any other suggestions to make with a view to rendering the existing machinery more effective, particularly in the application of the Trusteeship Agreement.

10. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) replied that during the past two and a half years the Advisory Council's work had been ineffective because of its interpretation of its terms of reference. He thought that if the General Assembly were to query that interpretation, the Advisory Council might become more effective.

11. Mr. KONDAPI (India) wondered whether the Territorial Council could be gradually developed within the eight years to come so as to be able to function as the legislature of an independent Somaliland.

12. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) considered that the Territorial Council could be developed into a legislative body provided that its members were elected from among the literate elements of the population instead of being, as at the moment, chosen from among the tribal chiefs.

13. Mr. KONDAPI (India) observed that for constituting the existing Territorial Council, a combined system of proportional representation and representation of functional groups was employed. He asked Mr. Issa whether he would be in favour of a change to territorial representation.

14. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) was of the opinion that the members of the Council should be elected from among the political parties and not chosen on a tribal basis, as at present.

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

15. Mr. KONDAPI (India) asked Mr. Issa whether he agreed with the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1951, that the establishment of a civil register should not be made a condition precedent to the introduction of an electoral system in the Territory (T/947 and Corr. 1, para. 141).

16. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) agreed to a certain extent. The Somali Youth League had more than once expressed the opinion that a civil register was necessary. If the Administering Authority would take the matter in hand, both an election and the establishment of a civil register could take place within a relatively short time.

17. Mr. KONDAPI (India) asked whether Mr. Issa was in favour of the Territorial Council as at present constituted being vested with legislature powers.

18. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) replied in the affirmative, provided the members of the Council were elected and not, as now, tribal chiefs who approved every decision taken by the Administration.

19. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) wished to know the number of members of the Unione Nazionale Somala and of the other parties which Mr. Omar claimed to represent.

20. Mr. OMAR (Unione Nazionale Somala) said that, besides the Unione Nazionale Somala, of which he was president, he represented a number of other organizations which had sent cablegrams to the United Nations saying that he was to represent them.

21. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) inquired what was the reason for the dissolution of the Conferenza della Somalia.

22. Mr. OMAR (Unione Nazionale Somala) replied that the Conferenza was an association of parties. It was still in existence, but each party was now free to act as it wished.

23. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) asked whether the Administering Authority was practising a discriminatory policy with regard to any political party in Somaliland.

24. Mr. OMAR (Unione Nazionale Somala) replied that there was no discrimination; all political organizations received the same treatment.

25. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) pointed out that according to the petitions from the Unione Nazionale Somala, the Administration showed a marked preference for the Somali Youth League. He had understood that to be one of the main grievances of the Unione Nazionale Somala. If that was not so, he was at a loss to understand the reason for the petitioners' presence.

26. Mr. OMAR (Unione Nazionale Somala) explained that his organization had wished him to be present in the Fourth Committee because it knew that the representative of the Somali Youth League was to attend; as the latter was opposed to the Administration, whereas the majority of the population was satisfied with its work, the Unione Nazionale Somala had felt that the opinion of the majority should be represented.

27. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) asked what were the chief features of the programme of the Unione Nazionale Somala.

28. Mr. OMAR (Unione Nazionale Somala) said that the object of his organization was association in the political, economic, social and cultural advancement of the population of Somaliland and the promotion of its well-being and prosperity.

29. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) asked what difference there was between the views of the Unione Nazionale Somala and those of the Somali Youth League with regard to the future of Somaliland.

30. Mr. OMAR (Unione Nazionale Somala) replied that there was no difference as to the ultimate aim, but only as to the methods to be used.

31. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) asked the two petitioners whether they favoured the immediate introduction of a system of universal suffrage for the election of members of the Territorial Assembly.

32. Mr. OMAR (Unione Nazionale Somala) said that his party had been assured by the Administration that the Territorial Assembly would shortly become a legislative assembly; it hoped that that would take place in 1953 or 1954.

33. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) confirmed that statement.

34. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) asked Mr. Omar whether the Unione Nazionale Somala agreed that heads of tribes should be elected by direct universal suffrage and by secret ballot.

35. Mr. OMAR (Unione Nazionale Somala) said that that would be satisfactory to his party.

36. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) asked Mr. Issa whether in his opinion the hostile attitude, to which the Advisory Council's report (T/979) referred, displayed by some officials of the Administration to members of the Somali Youth League, was a general attitude of the Administration or was due to personal feelings.

37. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) said that the majority of Administration officials showed a hostile attitude because most of them had been in the Territory under the fascist régime and did not understand the new status of the Territory.

38. Mr. OMAR (Unione Nazionale Somala) dissented; his party had no complaints to make about the Italian officials. If there were justified complaints about an official, he was dismissed and repatriated.

39. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) asked the petitioners the reason for the existence of double electoral lists.

40. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) thought that question should be put to the representative of the Administering Authority. The Somali Youth League was entirely opposed to the system of appointing members of the Territorial Assembly instead of electing them.

41. Mr. OMAR (Unione Nazionale Somala) said that the members were appointed by the Residency councils,

which represented the majority of the population, and the regional assemblies, and not by the Administration.

42. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) asked whether the parties were represented in proportion to their respective strength.

43. Mr. OMAR (Unione Nazionale Somala) replied in the affirmative.

44. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) did not consider the proportions to be correct, and thought that that would not be rectified until the Administering Authority introduced elections.

45. Mr. PEON DEL VALLE (Mexico) said that he had asked the petitioners from Togoland and the Cameroons about, *inter alia*, the political, social, economic and educational advancement of those Territories, the dissemination of United Nations documents and the flying of the United Nations flag. He would refrain from asking the petitioners from Somaliland similar questions because the Advisory Council was qualified to make any necessary suggestions, not because he did not have the Somalis' welfare deeply at heart.

46. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) asked permission to remain in his place at the Committee table during the general debate and the discussion of the draft resolution submitted by El Salvador (A/C.4/L.270), and also requested that the letter addressed to the Chairman on 3 December 1952 and the text of his statement at the 313th meeting should be circulated.

47. Mr. COOPER (Liberia) and Mr. ROSHCIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the petitioner's request for permission to remain at the Committee table.

*It was so agreed.*

48. The CHAIRMAN said that, at the 302nd meeting, the Committee had acceded to a similar request for the circulation of a document. The Committee should be careful to avoid giving the impression that it had tried to restrict a petitioner's freedom of expression, but it must be quite clear that the authorization to circulate such documents had been prompted solely by the fact that the petitioners had been heard very late in the session and that on no account did it constitute a precedent.

*It was agreed that the documents should be circulated.<sup>1</sup>*

49. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) said that the Committee should study those documents very carefully since it had not had sufficient time to give the matter a thorough hearing. The situation in Somaliland deserved particular and urgent attention.

50. He had no strong objection to the draft resolution of El Salvador (A/C.4/L.270), since the Trusteeship Council was naturally concerned with a Trust Territory such as Somaliland; but the Somali Youth League had vainly submitted several petitions to it and had on one occasion requested it in vain to hold a special session when the Administering Authority had out-

lawed the League and had arrested some 2,000 of its members at Chisimaio, many of whom were still in prison awaiting trial. The Trusteeship Council should accordingly give the matter priority and see whether it could accede to his request that the Administering Authority should be asked to permit the reopening of the branches of the Somali Youth League, to allow the League to carry on its political activities freely and to request the United Nations to supply Somaliland with technical assistance.

51. Mr. GUIDOTTI (Italy) said that, at the 282nd meeting, he had outlined the general situation in Somaliland and the Administering Authority's plans for the ensuing eight years. In carrying out its plan for the Territory's economic and social development, the Administering Authority had always been considerably hampered by the preconceived hostility of a political party, or rather of a group within that party. The Administering Authority had spared no effort to persuade that group to abandon its ill-conceived hostility, but its efforts, although supported by the Visiting Mission, had met with little success. There were, however, some signs that some elements in that group were beginning to realize that their activities were seriously impeding the Territory's economic and social development.

52. When the Administering Authority had taken over the administration, it had found that, as a result of the war, the Somali Youth League held quite an enviable position, with almost a monopoly of the higher posts in the civil service. That situation had changed with the gradual development of other political parties. The Somali Youth League had reacted by stiffening its opposition and intensifying its violence, culminating with the affair at Chisimaio where one policeman and two *carabinieri* had been savagely murdered. It was unnecessary to counter the allegations made in that connexion by the Somali Youth League; they were unwarranted and unfounded.

53. He could not understand Mr. Issa's insinuations about the time-limit for Somali independence decided by the United Nations. Italy had never failed clearly to express its firm determination to fulfil its task strictly within that time-limit.

54. Whenever names and places had been cited in petitions with regard to the alleged alienation of land and other economic rights, the Standing Committee on Petitions and the Trusteeship Council had examined them and had invariably found them groundless. The further allegations made by Mr. Issa were equally unfounded. Since the Italian Administration had taken over the Territory, not a single acre had been taken from Somalis and given to Italians.

55. Mr. Issa had given the erroneous impression that the penal decrees were still in force. Those regarding imprisonment had been repealed many months previously and those concerning fines would be abolished as soon as the legislation relating to the judicature was enacted.

56. Mr. Issa's allegations with regard to the lack of political freedom were equally baseless. The Visiting Mission had unanimously agreed in the autumn of 1951 that political liberties were enjoyed by all Somalis. The Mission had thoroughly inspected the

<sup>1</sup> The letter of 3 December 1952 addressed to the Chairman of the Fourth Committee was subsequently circulated as document A/C.4/228 and Mr. Issa's statement to the Committee was circulated as document A/C.4/227.

courts and penal institutions and had received only vague and unsubstantiated complaints. Mr. Issa's allegations were the stranger, inasmuch as more than half of the 800 higher posts in the Somaliland administration were held by members of a party opposing the Administration and that party had been freely permitted to set up schools for the benefit of its members, in which students were to be taught administration rather than ideology. The activities and presence of Mr. Issa himself showed that there was entire freedom of speech and movement. Both the Advisory Council, particularly the Philippine and Colombian members, and the Visiting Mission had spoken very highly of the Administering Authority's achievements, especially in the sphere of civil and political liberties. Those tributes had been entirely spontaneous. They had confirmed the fact that after only thirty months the foundations of the future Somali State had been solidly laid and that independence within eight more years was clearly in sight. Ill-advised and exaggerated nationalism such as that shown by some members of the Somali Youth League was, however, seriously impeding the constructive action of the Italian Administration, which sincerely wished for the collaboration of all groups, including the Somali Youth League.

57. Mr. EGUIZABAL (El Salvador), introducing his draft resolution (A/C.4/L.270), said that he had submitted it for reasons similar to those which had prompted him and other delegations to sponsor the draft resolution (A/C.4/L.265) dealing with the Cameroons under French administration. It was purely a procedural motion and did not deal with substance.

58. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) said that the representatives of the Somali Youth League and the Unione Nazionale Somala had given a picture of Somaliland very different from that painted by the Advisory Council. As a member of the Trusteeship Council and a former member of the 1951 Visiting Mission, he felt it his duty to clear up some points which the representative of the Somali Youth League had presented in a propagandist light, possibly with ulterior motives.

59. The Visiting Mission had been particularly anxious to impress upon the Somalis that their special position as the inhabitants of the only Trust Territory for whose independence a definite, relatively short, time-limit had been set placed upon them a special national and international responsibility to collaborate with the Administering Authority and to understand the serious problems facing Somaliland. The Mission had had a long interview with the executive committee of the Somali Youth League, and had found it radical in outlook but admirably organized. It had begged the League to persuade the youth of Somaliland to drop their former ill-will towards the Administration, persistence in which could only aid and comfort international communism. Rather, they should make an effort to comprehend the Territory's economic problems and the genuine financial sacrifices made by the Administering Authority. The Mission had made every effort to discover whether the opposition parties had any real conception of those problems and had found that most of the younger Somalis were more concerned with politics than with the Territory's real needs. Mr. Issa, his party, and nearly all the younger

Somalis seemed to think that the United Nations, as the source of the idea of the Somali State, should provide everything. The Mission had replied that Somaliland must fend for itself before it could be fully independent. Mr. Issa's picture could not be accepted, since it might well be used for propaganda against the United Nations, the Trusteeship System and the Administering Authority.

60. The Visiting Mission had found that some obsolete laws had indeed been still in force, but had been assured that they would be repealed very shortly. The Advisory Council had shared the Mission's misgivings about the idea of proportional representation for the political parties and had taken action. The law gave the requisite protection for political activity. The Mission had also looked into the judicial and prison systems and had found that prolonged pre-trial detention still existed, but also that the Administering Authority was doing its utmost to abolish it and that no one could be thus detained without the order of a competent authority. The Trusteeship Council had expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would make every effort to remedy the situation with regard to the period of detention (A/2150, p. 118) and had been convinced that the Administering Authority would comply with that recommendation.

61. The Trusteeship Council and the Visiting Mission had made it very clear that the Somalis must bear their part of the economic responsibility for the Territory, if Somaliland was not to be an artificial State, as it would be if 80 per cent of the inhabitants remained unaware of their duty to contribute to the Territory's budget. Fiscal collaboration by all the indigenous inhabitants was essential. Fiscal opposition would impede the establishment of the Somali State on solid economic foundations.

62. The Somali Youth League seemed to be as frivolous about the nomad problem as it was about taxation. Mr. Issa had advocated building more schools as a solution. The Visiting Mission, after careful study, had concluded that such a scheme would meet with great technical difficulties, but an expert on the educational problems of nomadism had been sent out and would report shortly.

63. The educational problem had not yet been properly understood by the Somali Youth League. The schools opened by the League had been designed to train future administrators, not political agitators. They should be used for that purpose, not for fostering an ideology perhaps not wholly consonant with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

64. The members of the Visiting Mission had seen with their own eyes that the political parties were active and enjoyed complete freedom. The Somali Youth League would serve its country better if it devoted its undisputed talents for organization and violence to more effective collaboration with the Administering Authority instead of nourishing old grudges against it and expecting the United Nations to do everything for Somaliland. The Trusteeship Council had always shown a particular concern for the Territory of Somaliland because of its special position. If the Somali Youth League was willing to appear before the Council in that spirit, there could be no objection to the draft resolution of El Salvador.

65. Mr. RIEMENS (Netherlands) informed the Committee that courses in English, Government, Administration and other subjects were offered by the Institute of Social Studies at The Hague and that fellowships for inhabitants of Trust Territories were given by the Institute itself and by the United Nations. Particulars could be obtained from the permanent Netherlands delegation to the United Nations.

66. His delegation considered the procedure followed at the present, as well as at previous, hearings not entirely satisfactory, as the Committee had sometimes jumped to conclusions when dealing with extremely complex matters and had failed to make adequate use of the work of other organs of the United Nations, such as the Trusteeship Council and the visiting missions. He regretted that the suggestions in the draft resolution submitted by the representative of the Dominican Republic (A/C.4/L.240 and Rev.1) for a more rational procedure had not been acted upon.

67. He also regretted the visa difficulties which had inconvenienced the petitioners and had seriously hampered the Committee's work, and hoped that those circumstances would not recur.

68. He was prepared to support the draft resolution of El Salvador, though he doubted the need for a separate visiting mission to Somaliland, as the regular visiting mission would go there in two years' time and the Advisory Council was there permanently.

69. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had been impressed by the petition submitted and the statements made by the representative of the Somali Youth League. The petition had been carefully prepared and was clear, consistent and well documented. It described an intolerable state of affairs in the Trust Territory. The Administering Authority had resorted to unwarranted mass arrests of members of the League and had alienated land of the indigenous inhabitants wholesale. Racial discrimination was rampant in economic relations and human rights were being violated. Mr. Issa's masterly account had made an important contribution to the Committee's work and had borne out the USSR delegation's contention that the situation in the Territory was far from satisfactory and should be corrected. The Somali Youth League had been quite right in asking the United Nations to defend Somaliland against the depredations of the Administering Authority.

70. As the draft resolution of El Salvador failed to provide for any measures to remedy the situation, it was entirely inadequate and he would be unable to support it.

71. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's sympathy for the work of the Somali Youth League, regretted that so important a question had had to be considered under conditions unfavourable to the petitioner, and hoped at a later stage to be able to give active support to the League's demands.

72. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) felt that, because of conditions in the Trust Territory, the question deserved more careful study than it had received. He appealed to the Administering Authority to collaborate more closely with all political parties in the Territory and hoped that the parties themselves, in particular

the Unione Nazionale Somala, would respond favourably.

73. The picture painted by the representative of the Dominican Republic was at variance with that which emerged from the Trusteeship Council's report (A/2150) and the report of the Advisory Council as well as annex I of that report. The latter report, incidentally, constituted an "authoritative opinion" by the Advisory Council, so that the fourth paragraph of the preamble of the draft resolution (A/C.4/L.270) was not justified. The two reports showed that the Administering Authority had failed to take the necessary action to prepare the people of Somaliland for independence within the next eight years. Since the United Nations had special responsibilities towards Somaliland under Italian administration, the Trusteeship Council should be requested to ask the Administering Authority to submit as soon as possible plans outlining concrete measures for accelerating the tempo of the Territory's economic and political development. Suggestions for such measures, made by the representatives of New Zealand, China and the Dominican Republic, were to be found in the Trusteeship Council's report; on none of them had action been taken by the Administering Authority. The draft resolution, which was purely procedural, failed to provide for any adequate way of dealing with the unsatisfactory conditions in the Trust Territory; he would not vote against it but would abstain.

74. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) said that, as his delegation had pointed out in the general debate (283rd meeting), the Administering Authority had been guilty of violations of the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement. Italy's alleged financial sacrifices in Somaliland did not bear scrutiny; far more was spent for military purposes than for raising the economic level of the Somali people. The present hearing had borne out his delegation's statements and had given further evidence of strong political discrimination on the part of the Administering Authority. His delegation did not regard the matter as closed and would raise it again at a more opportune moment.

75. As the draft resolution of El Salvador in no way reflected the seriousness of the situation in Somaliland, he was unable to support it.

76. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) suggested that it would be factually more correct to use the word "made" instead of "approved" in the third paragraph of the preamble of the Salvadorean draft resolution.

77. Mr. LESCURE (Argentina) supported the draft resolution, but proposed the deletion of the words "and of sending a separate visiting mission to that Territory", in paragraph 3 of the operative part. A separate mission was hardly needed, since the Advisory Council in Somaliland might be regarded as a permanent visiting mission.

78. Mr. TAJIBNAPIS (Indonesia) proposed that after the word "Decides" in paragraph 2 of the operative part, the phrase "without prejudice to future requests for oral hearings before the Fourth Committee" should be inserted. A similar text had been adopted at the 312th meeting, in the draft resolution dealing with the Cameroons under French administration.

79. Mr. EL-TANAMLI (Egypt) did not think that a separate visiting mission would necessarily duplicate the work of the Advisory Council, since their terms of reference would be different, but suggested that it might be advisable, after the reference to the visiting mission in paragraph 3 of the operative part, to indicate that the mission would work in close co-operation with the Advisory Council.

80. Mr. EGUIZABAL (El Salvador) accepted the suggestions of the New Zealand and Indonesian representatives, but was unable to accept those of the Argentine and Egyptian representatives.

81. In reply to the USSR and Polish representatives, he pointed out that his draft resolution purposely refrained from dealing with substance. It was precisely because his delegation was convinced of the importance of the problem that it wished the matter to be carefully examined and reported upon by the Trusteeship Council, so that the Fourth Committee would be able to take positive action at the following session.

82. Mr. EL-TANAMLI (Egypt) would not press his suggestion.

83. Mr. LESCURE (Argentina) requested a separate vote on the phrase in paragraph 3 which he would prefer to see deleted.

*The phrase "and of sending a separate visiting mission to that Territory" was adopted by 23 votes to 12, with 6 abstentions.*

*The draft resolution of El Salvador (A/C.4/L.270), as a whole, with the amendments accepted by the Salvadorean representative, was adopted by 30 votes to 2, with 10 abstentions.*

84. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) said that although he had voted for the retention of the phrase "and of sending a separate visiting mission to that Territory", he had done so merely as a matter of procedure, because he wished the question to be referred to the Trusteeship Council for study. He reserved his attitude on the substance of the matter.

85. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) observed that in connexion with the hearings of the petitioners from the Cameroons under French administration (312th meeting), he had expressed regret that the Fourth Committee had heard the oral presentation of a petition which had not yet been considered by the Trusteeship Council.

86. Turning to the draft resolution just adopted, he said he could see no necessity for the phrase "and to request the Council to give special attention to these questions", in paragraph 2 of the operative part. There could be no doubt that the Council would give the questions all the consideration they required. With reference to paragraph 3 of the operative part, he said there was no need for a special questionnaire concerning Somaliland. The existing questionnaire was entirely adequate. The proposal for a separate visiting mission also in paragraph 3, was hardly courteous to the Visiting Mission which had been to Somaliland before or to the Advisory Council. For those reasons he had been unable to vote for the draft resolution.

87. Mr. PIGNON (France) explained that he had voted against the draft resolution for the reasons already explained by the Belgian representative.

88. Furthermore, the draft resolution betrayed once again an unjustifiable lack of confidence in the Trusteeship Council. He suggested that the members of the Committee should familiarize themselves with the verbatim records of the Council's meetings at which Somaliland under Italian administration had been discussed.

*Mr. Issa, representative of the Somali Youth League, and Mr. Omar, representative of the Unione Nazionale Somala, withdrew.*

89. Mr. CALERO RODRIGUES (Brazil), supported by Mr. PEON DEL VALLE (Mexico), suggested that, as an exception, the Committee should authorize the Rapporteur to complete the Committee's report on the question just discussed. That would avoid holding a special meeting for the sole purpose of adopting a short report.

*It was so decided.*

#### **Records of the Fourth Committee (concluded)**

90. Mr. PEON DEL VALLE (Mexico) asked for a reply to the question he had put at the 312th meeting concerning the summary records.

91. Mr. BUNCHE (Secretary of the Committee) said that the questions put by the Mexican representative related to budgetary matters and he was therefore not qualified to deal with them fully. He would, however, give brief replies.

92. The responsibility for the preparation of summary records rested with the Department of Conference and General Services. The services that Department could provide depended upon the funds made available by the General Assembly. The summary records were prepared alternately in English and French and translated within twenty-four hours into the other two working languages. That was because there was no provision for teams of Spanish précis-writers. The records were circulated first in the language in which they had been prepared. No funds were available for recruiting Spanish précis-writers.

93. Finally, the General Assembly had decided some years previously, in accordance with the budgetary recommendations made by the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/168 and Add.1), that only plenary meetings and the meetings of one Main Committee should be covered by verbatim reporters. The General Committee decided each year which committee should enjoy that privilege; so far it had always decided that it should be the First Committee.

94. The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of Argentina, shared the views expressed by the Mexican representative.

#### **Completion of the Committee's work**

95. Mr. RIEMENS (Netherlands) moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman and to the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur, the Assistant Secretary-General, the Secretary of the Committee and all the members of the Secretariat who had helped the Committee in its work.

96. Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of all the Latin-American countries, and of Canada and

the United States, paid a tribute to the Chairman for the admirable manner in which he had conducted the Committee's debates.

97. He also paid a tribute to the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur and the members of the Secretariat who had been associated with the work of the Committee.

98. The CHAIRMAN thanked the representatives for their kind words and for their co-operation during the session.

The meeting rose at 11.50 p.m.