

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH SESSION

Official Records

Friday, 24 October 1958,
at 10.50 a.m.

NEW YORK

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

Organization of work

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Minister for Overseas France and the Prime Minister of Togoland under French administration would arrive in New York on 3 November to take part in the Committee's debate on the question of the future of Togoland under French administration (agenda item 40). As they would be able to stay in New York only for a limited period, he suggested that the Committee might on that date suspend its examination of the report of the Trusteeship Council (agenda item 13) in order to take up agenda item 40.

2. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) had no objection in principle to that proposal, provided that the suspension did not affect discussion of the Trust Territories of the Cameroons.

3. Mr. CAMPO POSADA (Colombia) seconded the Chairman's proposal.

The Chairman's proposal was adopted.

Requests for hearings (continued)

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

4. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Committee had decided to grant hearings to four petitioners in connexion with its consideration of the Trusteeship Council's report; 1/ two of them, Mr. Ntumazah and Mr. Moumié, were already in New York, but the names and arrival dates of the two representatives of the Union nationale des étudiants kamerunais were not yet known.

5. Mr. KELLY (Australia) suggested that the Committee should wait until the names of the representatives of the Union nationale des étudiants kamerunais were known before taking a decision on their request for hearings.

6. Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) considered that it would be unprecedented for the United Nations to grant hearings to petitioners whose name and

standing were unknown to it. He accordingly thought that the Committee should set a date for hearing all the petitioners as soon as it knew whom the Union nationale des étudiants kamerunais had appointed as its representatives.

7. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) thought that the Committee should set a date for hearing all the petitioners immediately. The Union nationale des étudiants kamerunais was responsible for appointing its own representatives, and their credentials could be examined when they arrived in New York.

8. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) pointed out that the Committee must know the names and standing of the representatives in question.

9. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) thought that the objections raised by the representatives of Australia, France and Belgium were designed solely to delay consideration of the question of the Cameroons. He recalled that the petitioners had requested that they might be given a hearing when the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1958, was in the Territory, and he hoped that that Mission would be informed of the views stated by the petitioners and the opinions expressed by members of the Committee.

10. Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) declared that the French delegation was in no way seeking to delay the consideration of the Cameroons question, but that the most elementary courtesy required that the Committee should be informed of the names of the petitioners whom it was to hear. The Committee should accordingly wait until it knew those names before setting a date for the hearing.

11. Mr. CARPIO (Philippines) suggested that the Secretariat should cable to the Union nationale des étudiants kamerunais to inquire the names of its representatives.

12. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) seconded that proposal and hoped that all the petitioners would be heard at the same time and as soon as possible.

The Philippine proposal was adopted.

13. The CHAIRMAN proposed Tuesday, 28 October, as the date for the hearings.

14. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) supported that proposal. He suggested that the petitioners already in New York should be heard immediately and the others at a later date.

15. Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) said that if all the petitioners were not in New York by the date the Chairman had proposed, the French delegation would request that all the hearings should be deferred until a later date.

16. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) supported the

1/ See 745th and 754th meetings.

suggestion made by the Indian representative, and pointed out that the Committee had made no decision on the question whether all the petitioners should be heard at the same time.

17. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Secretariat should notify all the petitioners that the Committee would grant them a hearing on Tuesday, 28 October. If they had not all reached New York by that date, the Committee could then decide whether to give a separate hearing to those who were present, or to wait for the arrival of all the petitioners before beginning the hearings.

It was so decided.

18. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that a request for a hearing in connexion with the Committee's consideration of the report of the Trusteeship Council had been received from Mr. John Kale. He suggested that the request should be circulated in the usual way.

It was so decided.^{2/}

AGENDA ITEM 13

Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/3822)

19. Mr. CLAEYS BOUAERT (Belgium), President of the Trusteeship Council, introduced the Council's report on the work of its twenty-first and twenty-second sessions (A/3822). The report had been divided into two volumes in order to facilitate the work of the Secretariat and to shorten the publication time. The first part of volume I dealt with the organization and activities of the Council. The second part of volume I and the whole of volume II consisted of eight chapters devoted to the examination of conditions in the Trust Territories, which was the most important part of the Council's work. The examination was based on information provided by the Administering Authorities concerned, on the reports of the visiting missions and on petitions received by the Council. The examination of conditions in Togoland under French administration had been postponed at the request of the French delegation until the eighth special session of the Council, which was submitting a special report to the General Assembly on all questions relating to that Territory (A/3958).

20. Great progress had recently been made in the Trust Territories. Besides Somaliland under Italian administration, which was to become independent in 1960, and Togoland under French administration, the future of which was a special item on the agenda of the Fourth Committee, the two Territories of the Cameroons and also the Territory of Western Samoa were nearing the end of their period of international trusteeship.

21. The Cameroons under British administration was shortly to be granted the status of full autonomy within the Federation of Nigeria. The Government of the United Kingdom would fix a date for the independence of the Federation in 1960. At that time, a decision on the Territory's future would have to be made, and the inhabitants would be given the chance of freely

expressing their ideas on the subject. At the suggestion of the United Kingdom Government, ^{3/}the 1958 Visiting Mission, which was to go to the Cameroons under British administration, had been given the task of evaluating the present situation in the Territory and stating its views on what methods of consultation should be adopted at the appropriate time.

22. At the beginning of 1957 the Cameroons under French administration had been granted a new Statute. A Legislative Assembly had been elected, and a Cameroonian Government formed, and there would be further reforms before long.

23. The New Zealand Government had announced that the Territory of Western Samoa would become self-governing in 1960 and that termination of the Trusteeship Agreement for that Territory should be envisaged. At the suggestion of the New Zealand Government, ^{4/}the Trusteeship Council had decided at its twenty-second session (933rd meeting) to send a separate mission to the Territory in 1959, and, at its eighth special session, it had adopted resolution 1922 (S-VIII) instructing the mission to examine the present situation in the Territory as well as the further steps necessary for the attainment of the objectives of the Trusteeship System.

24. The other Trust Territories had also made great progress and were gradually moving towards the objectives set out in Article 76 of the Charter.

25. At its two sessions in 1958, the Council had examined, along with the annual reports of the Administering Authorities, 6,862 petitions raising general questions. Furthermore, 274 specific petitions had been examined individually, first by the Standing Committee on Petitions and then by the Council itself. In accordance with a special procedure provisionally adopted by the Council, communications and petitions were classified by the Committee on Classification of Communications, which was empowered to summarize in a single document petitions dealing essentially with the same question. The Council had felt that the experience gained so far was not sufficient to enable it to come to a decision on the new procedure, and it was therefore continuing as before for another year.

26. The Committee on Rural Economic Development of the Trust Territories, set up by Trusteeship Council resolution 305 (VIII), had amassed a huge collection of data but had been unable to submit a final report to the Council. That Committee had completed its work on Ruanda-Urundi ^{5/} and New Guinea ^{6/} in the current year, and a summary of the studies made by the Committee together with the Council's observations and conclusions had been included in the Council's report (A/3822, Vol. I, part I, chap. V).

27. At its two sessions in 1958, the Council had examined the question of the effects of the association of the Trust Territories with the European Economic Community as part of its study of the situation in the Trust Territories concerned. It had not been able to undertake the general study requested by the General Assembly in resolution 1210 (XII) since the general information referred to in the General Assembly resolution had not yet been published.

^{3/} See T/1393.

^{4/} See T/1387.

^{5/} See T/1369.

^{6/} See T/1399.

^{2/} The request was subsequently circulated in document A/C.4/377/Add.3.

28. He pointed out the harmonious way in which members of the Council had worked together despite certain differences of opinion on how the aims envisaged should be achieved. The progress made in all Trust Territories was proof of the efficacy of the International Trusteeship System.

29. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti), Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the Questionnaire said that, at the request of the members of the Sub-Committee, he would give a progress report on the work of that body, which had been established by the General Assembly resolution 751 (VIII) for the purpose of preparing separate questionnaires adapted to the particular conditions in each Trust Territory in accordance with Article 88 of the Charter. The revised basic questionnaire (T/1010) was not applicable in all respects to all Territories. By the time that the work of adapting the basic questionnaire to the special conditions in the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration had been almost completed, such adaptation in the case of certain Territories, namely Somaliland, Togoland under British administration, Togoland under French administration, the Cameroons under British administration, the Cameroons under French administration and Western Samoa, had been found to be unnecessary inasmuch as those Territories would attain the objectives set forth in the Charter at a relatively early date. The Sub-Committee had, however, announced its intention to prepare special questionnaires for the Territories of New Guinea, Nauru, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Ruanda-Urundi and Tanganyika.

30. Proposals for the amendment of the questionnaire in order to adapt it to conditions in the Trust Territory of New Guinea had been submitted by the Sub-Committee to the Trusteeship Council in 1956 (T/1267). Those proposals had been revised in the light of some proposals submitted by the Administering Authority (T/L.785) and had been accepted by the Council with certain changes at its twenty-second session (929th and 930th meetings). The Sub-Committee was now preparing a special questionnaire for the Trust Territory of Nauru, and would deal next with those for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Ruanda-Urundi and Tanganyika. The amount of time which had elapsed between the establishment of the Sub-Committee and the adoption by the Trusteeship Council of the proposals concerning the Trust Territory of New Guinea had been due solely to the complexity of the Sub-Committee's task and to the

numerous other commitments of its members during that period.

GENERAL DEBATE

31. Mr. COHEN (Chile) recalled that when he had been head of the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories he had closely followed the work of the Trusteeship Council. He was looking forward to the day when the Trust Territories acquired self-government or independence, thus fulfilling the aims of the Charter. Public opinion, which was absorbed by the political aspects of discussions on the ideological misunderstandings and clashes of interest among the Powers, was not always sufficiently well-informed on the positive work of the United Nations in the field of trusteeship. The system laid down in the Charter for the progressive development of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories towards independence had been able to function only through the co-operation of the three parties concerned, namely the United Nations, the Governments of the administering Powers and the peoples of the Territories, who had to be consulted on any change in the legal status of the Territories. The Trusteeship Council reports showed that the Administering Authorities, sometimes of their own accord and sometimes spurred on by world public opinion, had been able to create social, economic and political conditions by virtue of which peoples who had until quite recently lived on the edge of modern society and had been separated by differences of language and tradition, were now acquiring a sense of common interests. Thus, since the time when the principle of the self-determination of peoples had been formulated the influence of public opinion and the quietly continuing work of the United Nations had enabled a number of peoples to become independent and to enrich man's common heritage with their culture.

32. The Trusteeship Council was carrying out its task with conscientiousness, wisdom and loyalty. Its work would soon enable the Trusteeship System to be withdrawn from four Territories, which then, as independent States, would become Members of the United Nations. Despite obstacles and conflicts, the Trusteeship Council was fulfilling a constructive task worthy of the United Nations and deserving of recognition by the whole world.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.