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**Chairman: Mr. Luciano JOUBLANC RIVAS
 (Mexico).**

Requests for hearings (A/C.4/323) (*continued*)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the request for an oral hearing from the Chairman of the Togoland Congress and Paramount Stool Father, Buem Borada (A/C.4/323).
2. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico) said he saw no reason why the Fourth Committee should not hear Mr. Odame. He thought the petitioner had every right to Mr. Asare's assistance but would object to Mr. Asare's presence in the Committee room.
3. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should grant the request for an oral hearing on the understanding that Mr. Odame would be the representative, that he might obtain any assistance he required, but that Mr. Asare would not be allowed to appear.

There being no objections, it was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 13

Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2933, T/L.500, T/L.579 and Add.1, T/L.591, T/L.602, T/L.609, T/L.617) (*continued*)

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

4. Mr. ARAOZ (Bolivia) said that the International Trusteeship System was one of the outstanding features of present-day life; it was based on the inescapable obligation to lead numerous peoples to independence under the aegis of the United Nations. The high cultural standard of the nations which had assumed the responsibility of administering Trust Territories might give the impression that they were fully equal to their task and that it would be pointless to examine their conduct of affairs. Much, however, still remained to be done to ensure that the objectives of the Charter were attained, although some considerable advances had been made. The other Member States had undertaken to co-operate in implementing the agreements which they had signed, and in view of the interest many of them had in all the peoples of the world, they had a duty to assist, by their experience if in no other way, in the implementation of Chapters XI, XII and XIII of the Charter.

5. A method of studying questions concerning Trust Territories must be chosen; the method he had in mind would comprise four stages. First, there would be a study of the historical development of the peoples under trusteeship, of the conditions in each Territory and of methods of assisting it to attain the objectives of the Charter. Secondly, the results obtained by resolutions and technical measures hitherto adopted should be assessed, so as to show what services the competent United Nations bodies were giving. Thirdly, the Administering Authorities' achievements could be compared with the obligations they had assumed under the agreements they had signed and the General Assembly and Trusteeship Council resolutions. Finally, the General Assembly would form an opinion, on the basis of the Trusteeship Council's report, and adopt appropriate resolutions.

6. It was especially necessary to make a historical survey in order to ascertain the progress actually made in the Territories during the existence of the United Nations. Part II of the Council's report (A/2933) did in fact give a satisfactory survey of the position in the Territories. The survey showed that, although each Territory had its characteristic features, all of them bore the mark of the economic and social structure of the colonial system. At the present stage, therefore, what was needed was measures enabling them to live as independent nations.

7. He agreed with the Syrian representative's remark, with regard to the frontier between Somaliland under Italian administration and Ethiopia, that while it was the duty of Member States to lead the Territories towards independence, they must also try to remove problems which might complicate the future of the Territories as sovereign States.

8. The Council's report showed that some Administering Authorities had tended to acknowledge the resolutions and measures hitherto approved without giving any factual explanation of what had been done to put them into effect. It would be helpful if those Powers would make observations on the resolutions so that the General Assembly might, if necessary, approach questions from a new angle. The Organization's role seemed to be restricted to a sort of moral, but not practical, supervision. The Administering Authorities' primary aim should be to develop the Territories in all respects in accordance with the principles of the social and juridical life of the metropolitan country. The time when Trust Territories achieved their independence, and the manner in which they did so, must be kept constantly in mind; in that connexion Italy deserved congratulation on its plans for the Trust Territory of Somaliland, and the United Kingdom on its policy in Togoland under British administration. Nevertheless, the Assembly should recall that it wished to receive a report on the measures taken or contemplated towards the attainment of self-government or independence by the Territories, as the

sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/L.420 proposed at the 515th meeting, the Yugoslav representative had rightly enumerated some of the measures in question.

9. Turning to the racial question which arose in most Territories, he agreed with the Salvadorian representative's statement to the Trusteeship Council at the fifteenth session (595th meeting) that the idea of a multi-racial society was negative when the aim was to establish an integrated nation in which all the inhabitants felt that they shared the same nationality.

10. He would not analyse economic, social and cultural conditions; there might be factors explaining the backwardness of Territories in those respects and although the right programmes for the solution of the problems had not been prepared in every case, some Administering Authorities had done a great deal and it was only fair to acknowledge that fact. Nevertheless the problems must be faced in order to realize how much still remained to be done before the peoples of Africa were ready to participate in their own emancipation.

11. He shared the anxiety of the Visiting Missions and the Trusteeship Council about the differences between the standards of living, housing, health, diet and education of the African masses and the non-African communities. The differences, particularly striking in the social field, arose because the various strata of the population had not all achieved the same degree of economic progress. Administering Authorities should take measures to eliminate racial inequality. If all the Territories were soon to achieve independence, the privileged groups which had accumulated property through the advantages they enjoyed at present might become minorities exploiting the African masses.

12. With regard to certain questions within the purview of the Trusteeship Council, he agreed with the Indian representative that more information on the United Nations should be circulated in Trust Territories, that indigenous participation in the work of the Council and the visiting missions should be increased and that the Questionnaire should be revised as soon as possible.

13. His delegation would therefore support any draft resolution which placed the Organization's work in a constructive light and facilitated progress in promoting the development of the peoples under trusteeship towards independence.

14. Mr. SHTOKALO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) recalled the objectives of the Trusteeship System as defined in the Charter and particularly stressed the progressive development of the Territories towards independence. A review of the Trusteeship System showed that Administering Authorities often lost sight of those objectives; the position was far from satisfactory.

15. Trusteeship documents showed that, so far as political development was concerned, the peoples in question had no universal suffrage. Nor did they have their own democratic organs. They could not obtain higher administrative posts and they suffered from discrimination. The Trusteeship Council's report showed that in Somaliland under Italian administration, for example, the Administering Authority had planned no programme for transferring executive power to Somalis, who could take no real part in the public affairs of their country because the Administering Authority controlled the legislature through the

veto. A similar right was exercised in Western Samoa by New Zealand, which also appointed the High Commissioner. Europeans were elected to the Legislative Assembly by universal suffrage, whereas indigenous inhabitants were elected by a consultative body, the *Fono* of *Faipule*. Europeans and Samoans did not have the same rights. The administration of the Territory should be democratized and the *matai* system should be abolished. The Administering Authority should also develop the Territory as a whole and enable the indigenous inhabitants to obtain responsible posts.

16. In education, he noted that in Tanganyika there were separate schools for Europeans and indigenous inhabitants. Africans received a very small part of the total expenditure on education, and girls' education left much to be desired. Education was not free, even in the primary schools. The Administering Authority had not taken steps to develop indigenous education, although that was a condition essential to the general progress of the Territory. Most of the schools in Ruanda-Urundi were private. Only 15 per cent of the children attended them, and then for an average period of merely two years of primary education. The quality of the teaching staff also left much to be desired. In the Cameroons under French administration, two-thirds of the children of school age did not attend primary school. What was more, the Territory had no higher educational establishments.

17. Health conditions in the Territories were unsatisfactory. The disease and mortality rates were very high among the indigenous inhabitants, who suffered from undernourishment, bad housing and a shortage of land. There were not enough hospitals. In Togoland, for instance, there were only three, or one for every 137,000 inhabitants. The Territory had had one doctor per 150,000 inhabitants in 1953. The doctors lived in the large urban areas and the countryside was neglected. Furthermore, the Administering Authority did not train enough indigenous medical staff. Nauru had only one government medical officer and the expenditure devoted to the health services was only 10 per cent of the budget. It was important that public health appropriations should be increased, that the training of indigenous staff should be expedited, and that the hospitals should be supplied with equipment.

18. As the petitions proved, the indigenous inhabitants in general lived in deplorable conditions. They were discriminated against and their wages remained low despite the increase in the cost of living. In addition to their other difficulties, their lands were alienated and they suffered from unemployment. The status of indigenous women was also very precarious.

19. The United Nations should take steps to ensure that the Administering Authorities carried out their duties completely. Such steps were necessary for the development of the Trust Territories. The peoples of those Territories should be given a guarantee that they would be able to achieve independence.

20. Mr. KAISR (Czechoslovakia) said that following on the historic triumph of democratic ideas and forces during the Second World War, the right of all peoples to self-determination, self-government and independence had been recognized at San Francisco in the spring of 1945. Three of the nineteen Chapters of the Charter were devoted exclusively to ensuring the development of non-self-governing nations towards

independence. Of those three chapters, Chapters XII and XIII referred to the Trust Territories, which the spirit of the Charter required should become self-governing and independent as soon as possible under the international supervision of the United Nations.

21. More than ten years had passed since the San Francisco Conference. It had been shown during that period that the question of the future and of the development of those nations which did not yet govern themselves was of growing importance. Their aspirations, which were more and more taking the form of a movement towards the national liberation of non-self-governing peoples, were reflected not only in the programme of the United Nations but also in the programmes of various international conferences. At the Asian-African Conference held at Bandung, for instance, the representatives of twenty-nine Asian and African countries had taken a clear stand against the existence of colonialism in any form. Unlike the peoples who were under various kinds of colonial administration, the peoples of the Trust Territories had been placed by the Charter, in particular by its Article 76, in a privileged position with regard to their political, economic and social development and their evolution towards independence.

22. The international supervision for which the Trusteeship Council and the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly were responsible should not consist of praising a few favourable changes that had occurred in the development of the Trust Territories. The reports of the Trusteeship Council, which did not always reflect the true situation or development of the Trust Territories, were notable for such praise, often without any real basis.

23. Mr. Kaisr referred to resolutions 558 (VI), 752 (VIII) and 858 (IX), which reflected the dissatisfaction of the General Assembly with the speed at which the Trust Territories were progressing towards independence and which invited the Administering Authorities to include in each annual report information concerning measures taken or contemplated towards self-government or independence and, *inter alia*, the estimated period of time required for such measures and for the attainment of the ultimate objective. Such information was of very great importance, as it would enable the Trusteeship Council and the Fourth Committee to gain a clearer picture of the main problems involved in the development of each of the Territories. The annual reports of the Administering Authorities included, however, a very small part of the information requested and declined to indicate the estimated period of time required to lead the Territories to self-government or independence. The Czechoslovak delegation had already drawn the Committee's attention to that fact at the General Assembly's ninth session (441st meeting), and regretted that it was obliged to do so again at the present session.

24. As the Indian representative and others had rightly pointed out, the matters referred to the Trusteeship Council by the General Assembly and mentioned in part I of the Council's report were all very important matters to which the Fourth Committee had already devoted much time. They deserved a much more prominent place in the Council's report. It was not enough that that report should merely note such fundamental General Assembly resolutions as 853 (IX), 754 (VIII) and 857 (IX); it ought also to implement all the Assembly's recommendations and instructions.

25. The Trusteeship Council ought to pay more attention to the administrative unions and ensure that they did not become political unions, which would expose the Trust Territories to the danger of annexation. New legislative and executive bodies should be set up in the Territories which would be independent of the corresponding bodies in neighbouring colonies and capable of subsequent development into completely sovereign organs of the Territories. That was why the Czechoslovak delegation regretted that the Trusteeship Council had failed, at its 641st meeting, to adopt the USSR draft resolutions on the administrative union between the Cameroons under British administration and Nigeria (T/L.603) and on the administrative union between New Guinea and Papua (T/L.580).

26. The Council should also use more care in considering petitions. Page 6 of the report revealed that 475, or more than half, of the 874 petitions submitted to the Council had not been examined. It must not be forgotten that petitions were an important and essential link between the indigenous people of the Trust Territories and the United Nations. The Council and the Fourth Committee should therefore make some considerable improvement in their procedure for examining petitions, as the Czechoslovak delegation had been urging for years. It was also important that the Administering Authorities should respect and promote the free use of the right of petition in the Trust Territories as being a sacred and inalienable right enshrined in the Charter, in particular in Article 76, sub-paragraph b. Several civil servants had complained that they had suffered persecution and reprisals for using the right of petition.

27. With regard to the offers of study and training facilities to promote educational advancement in the Trust Territories, he announced that on 20 October 1955, his country had offered ten fellowships for the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories as part of its contribution to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. As the Czechoslovak offer pertained to the academic year 1956-57, it would be well for the Secretary-General to give it the necessary publicity.

28. With regard to part II of the Council's report, the annual reports of the Administering Authorities ought to be as full as possible, and should provide up-to-date information on conditions in the Trust Territories. While the report on Somaliland under Italian administration covered the year 1954 and the first four months of 1955, the report on Western Samoa covered only 1954, those on New Guinea, Nauru and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands dealt only with the first half of 1954, and that on Ruanda-Urundi merely described conditions in the Territory in 1953. The Administering Authorities should also comply with Trusteeship Council resolution 997 (XIV) relating to supplementary information which might not otherwise have been reported to the Council.

29. From the reports of the Administering Authorities and of the Council, it was clear that some economic and social advancement had been achieved in certain Territories. But it must not be forgotten that political, economic and social advancement were indivisible. The development of the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, for instance, was unbalanced. The Council had noted with satisfaction a certain degree of economic advancement in that Territory. But his delegation did not share the Council's views on that subject. As long as economic advancement took the form of

high profits for Belgian and foreign companies rather than of a rise in the economic and social standards of the indigenous population the Administering Authority could hardly be congratulated. He accordingly agreed with the views of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1954, as recorded on page 77 of the Council's report. He could quote other similar examples.

30. Peaceful development in the conditions of the indigenous inhabitants was necessary for advancement. But in some Trust Territories there had been unfortunate incidents affecting the interests of the indigenous population. That was the reason why there were so many petitioners complaining of the oppression under which the indigenous inhabitants of the Cameroons under French administration were suffering.

31. About 40 per cent of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories lived in Tanganyika, the largest and most thickly populated of the eleven Trust Territories. Ninety-nine per cent of the population in Tanganyika were Africans. In its report on that Territory (T/1142) the 1954 Visiting Mission had noted that the Administering Authority's lack of a definite policy was at the root of the grievances and uncertainties which were agitating the minds of Africans. His delegation agreed with the Visiting Mission that no stability in the future development of the Territory was possible unless it was made clear that the goal was the government of the country mainly by Africans. Such an announcement would mark a step forward, but the Administering Authority must take the necessary action and speed up measures for a gradual transfer of the executive and legislative power to the indigenous population. At the present stage of development in Tanganyika, as in all the Trust Territories, universal and democratic suffrage should be instituted, and the indigenous inhabitants given increased opportunities to participate in the operations of the legislative and executive organs, without distinction as to race, sex, religion, social class or national minority.

32. Such a measure was even more urgently necessary in the case of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, which was to attain its independence in 1960. The Administering Authority had already enacted some valuable legislation, but it had not yet done enough. Although the Territorial Council had been established, the Somali population still did not have access to higher administrative bodies in the Territory, as the Italian Administration had not yet set up executive organs in which the Somalis could occupy senior posts in order to learn how to administer the future Somali State.

33. In all other Trust Territories, the standards of living and the social conditions of the indigenous peoples still left much to be desired, owing to the economic policy of the Administering Authorities. The sole means of subsistence for most of the indigenous population was agriculture. They must accordingly be guaranteed the possession of their land against all forms of expropriation and alienation.

34. The development of the dependent and Trust Territories was closely connected with the international political situation in general. Peace was indivisible, and the peaceful development of the Trust Territories was in keeping with the wishes of all nations desirous of achieving a lasting peace. The primary and fundamental obligation of all the Administering Authorities was accordingly that laid down in Article 76 a of the Charter.

35. Mr. FRACASSI (Observer of Italy to the United Nations), referring to the statement made at the 515th meeting by the representative of Ethiopia with regard to the question of the frontier between Ethiopia and the Trust Territory of Somaliland, wanted to make it clear that his Government was, as it had always been, ready to proceed with direct negotiations with Ethiopia if the General Assembly so desired. Italy noted with satisfaction that the Ethiopian Government had now agreed to the inclusion of Somali experts in the Italian delegation. That decision did away with the principal obstacle to the opening of the talks between the two delegations.

36. According to the representative of Ethiopia, negotiations could not start until the parties had reached agreement on the interpretation of the Convention signed by Italy and Ethiopia on 16 May 1908. He pointed out that the purpose of the talks was to see that experts undertook the task of examining the problem as a whole, taking into account all the relevant aspects of the question in order to decide on the points of disagreement and to try to settle them. That constructive method was in conformity with the recommendations of the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council.

37. His delegation would give the closest attention to any suggestion that might help to solve the problem. If the Assembly decided that the best means of settlement would be to have recourse to mediation, the Italian Government would of course be prepared to agree to that method.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.



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(Mexico).**

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GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

4. Mr. ARAOZ (Bolivia) said that the International Trusteeship System was one of the outstanding features of present-day life; it was based on the inescapable obligation to lead numerous peoples to independence under the aegis of the United Nations. The high cultural standard of the nations which had assumed the responsibility of administering Trust Territories might give the impression that they were fully equal to their task and that it would be pointless to examine their conduct of affairs. Much, however, still remained to be done to ensure that the objectives of the Charter were attained, although some considerable advances had been made. The other Member States had undertaken to co-operate in implementing the agreements which they had signed, and in view of the interest many of them had in all the peoples of the world, they had a duty to assist, by their experience if in no other way, in the implementation of Chapters XI, XII and XIII of the Charter.

5. A method of studying questions concerning Trust Territories must be chosen; the method he had in mind would comprise four stages. First, there would be a study of the historical development of the peoples under trusteeship, of the conditions in each Territory and of methods of assisting it to attain the objectives of the Charter. Secondly, the results obtained by resolutions and technical measures hitherto adopted should be assessed, so as to show what services the competent United Nations bodies were giving. Thirdly, the Administering Authorities' achievements could be compared with the obligations they had assumed under the agreements they had signed and the General Assembly and Trusteeship Council resolutions. Finally, the General Assembly would form an opinion, on the basis of the Trusteeship Council's report, and adopt appropriate resolutions.

6. It was especially necessary to make a historical survey in order to ascertain the progress actually made in the Territories during the existence of the United Nations. Part II of the Council's report (A/2933) did in fact give a satisfactory survey of the position in the Territories. The survey showed that, although each Territory had its characteristic features, all of them bore the mark of the economic and social structure of the colonial system. At the present stage, therefore, what was needed was measures enabling them to live as independent nations.

7. He agreed with the Syrian representative's remark, with regard to the frontier between Somaliland under Italian administration and Ethiopia, that while it was the duty of Member States to lead the Territories towards independence, they must also try to remove problems which might complicate the future of the Territories as sovereign States.

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sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/L.420 proposed at the 515th meeting, the Yugoslav representative had rightly enumerated some of the measures in question.

9. Turning to the racial question which arose in most Territories, he agreed with the Salvadorian representative's statement to the Trusteeship Council at the fifteenth session (595th meeting) that the idea of a multi-racial society was negative when the aim was to establish an integrated nation in which all the inhabitants felt that they shared the same nationality.

10. He would not analyse economic, social and cultural conditions; there might be factors explaining the backwardness of Territories in those respects and although the right programmes for the solution of the problems had not been prepared in every case, some Administering Authorities had done a great deal and it was only fair to acknowledge that fact. Nevertheless the problems must be faced in order to realize how much still remained to be done before the peoples of Africa were ready to participate in their own emancipation.

11. He shared the anxiety of the Visiting Missions and the Trusteeship Council about the differences between the standards of living, housing, health, diet and education of the African masses and the non-African communities. The differences, particularly striking in the social field, arose because the various strata of the population had not all achieved the same degree of economic progress. Administering Authorities should take measures to eliminate racial inequality. If all the Territories were soon to achieve independence, the privileged groups which had accumulated property through the advantages they enjoyed at present might become minorities exploiting the African masses.

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25. The Trusteeship Council ought to pay more attention to the administrative unions and ensure that they did not become political unions, which would expose the Trust Territories to the danger of annexation. New legislative and executive bodies should be set up in the Territories which would be independent of the corresponding bodies in neighbouring colonies and capable of subsequent development into completely sovereign organs of the Territories. That was why the Czechoslovak delegation regretted that the Trusteeship Council had failed, at its 641st meeting, to adopt the USSR draft resolutions on the administrative union between the Cameroons under British administration and Nigeria (T/L.603) and on the administrative union between New Guinea and Papua (T/L.580).

26. The Council should also use more care in considering petitions. Page 6 of the report revealed that 475, or more than half, of the 874 petitions submitted to the Council had not been examined. It must not be forgotten that petitions were an important and essential link between the indigenous people of the Trust Territories and the United Nations. The Council and the Fourth Committee should therefore make some considerable improvement in their procedure for examining petitions, as the Czechoslovak delegation had been urging for years. It was also important that the Administering Authorities should respect and promote the free use of the right of petition in the Trust Territories as being a sacred and inalienable right enshrined in the Charter, in particular in Article 76, sub-paragraph b. Several civil servants had complained that they had suffered persecution and reprisals for using the right of petition.

27. With regard to the offers of study and training facilities to promote educational advancement in the Trust Territories, he announced that on 20 October 1955, his country had offered ten fellowships for the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories as part of its contribution to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. As the Czechoslovak offer pertained to the academic year 1956-57, it would be well for the Secretary-General to give it the necessary publicity.

28. With regard to part II of the Council's report, the annual reports of the Administering Authorities ought to be as full as possible, and should provide up-to-date information on conditions in the Trust Territories. While the report on Somaliland under Italian administration covered the year 1954 and the first four months of 1955, the report on Western Samoa covered only 1954, those on New Guinea, Nauru and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands dealt only with the first half of 1954, and that on Ruanda-Urundi merely described conditions in the Territory in 1953. The Administering Authorities should also comply with Trusteeship Council resolution 997 (XIV) relating to supplementary information which might not otherwise have been reported to the Council.

29. From the reports of the Administering Authorities and of the Council, it was clear that some economic and social advancement had been achieved in certain Territories. But it must not be forgotten that political, economic and social advancement were indivisible. The development of the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, for instance, was unbalanced. The Council had noted with satisfaction a certain degree of economic advancement in that Territory. But his delegation did not share the Council's views on that subject. As long as economic advancement took the form of

high profits for Belgian and foreign companies rather than of a rise in the economic and social standards of the indigenous population the Administering Authority could hardly be congratulated. He accordingly agreed with the views of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1954, as recorded on page 77 of the Council's report. He could quote other similar examples.

30. Peaceful development in the conditions of the indigenous inhabitants was necessary for advancement. But in some Trust Territories there had been unfortunate incidents affecting the interests of the indigenous population. That was the reason why there were so many petitioners complaining of the oppression under which the indigenous inhabitants of the Cameroons under French administration were suffering.

31. About 40 per cent of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories lived in Tanganyika, the largest and most thickly populated of the eleven Trust Territories. Ninety-nine per cent of the population in Tanganyika were Africans. In its report on that Territory (T/1142) the 1954 Visiting Mission had noted that the Administering Authority's lack of a definite policy was at the root of the grievances and uncertainties which were agitating the minds of Africans. His delegation agreed with the Visiting Mission that no stability in the future development of the Territory was possible unless it was made clear that the goal was the government of the country mainly by Africans. Such an announcement would mark a step forward, but the Administering Authority must take the necessary action and speed up measures for a gradual transfer of the executive and legislative power to the indigenous population. At the present stage of development in Tanganyika, as in all the Trust Territories, universal and democratic suffrage should be instituted, and the indigenous inhabitants given increased opportunities to participate in the operations of the legislative and executive organs, without distinction as to race, sex, religion, social class or national minority.

32. Such a measure was even more urgently necessary in the case of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, which was to attain its independence in 1960. The Administering Authority had already enacted some valuable legislation, but it had not yet done enough. Although the Territorial Council had been established, the Somali population still did not have access to higher administrative bodies in the Territory, as the Italian Administration had not yet set up executive organs in which the Somalis could occupy senior posts in order to learn how to administer the future Somali State.

33. In all other Trust Territories, the standards of living and the social conditions of the indigenous peoples still left much to be desired, owing to the economic policy of the Administering Authorities. The sole means of subsistence for most of the indigenous population was agriculture. They must accordingly be guaranteed the possession of their land against all forms of expropriation and alienation.

34. The development of the dependent and Trust Territories was closely connected with the international political situation in general. Peace was indivisible, and the peaceful development of the Trust Territories was in keeping with the wishes of all nations desirous of achieving a lasting peace. The primary and fundamental obligation of all the Administering Authorities was accordingly that laid down in Article 76 a of the Charter.

35. Mr. FRACASSI (Observer of Italy to the United Nations), referring to the statement made at the 515th meeting by the representative of Ethiopia with regard to the question of the frontier between Ethiopia and the Trust Territory of Somaliland, wanted to make it clear that his Government was, as it had always been, ready to proceed with direct negotiations with Ethiopia if the General Assembly so desired. Italy noted with satisfaction that the Ethiopian Government had now agreed to the inclusion of Somali experts in the Italian delegation. That decision did away with the principal obstacle to the opening of the talks between the two delegations.

36. According to the representative of Ethiopia, negotiations could not start until the parties had reached agreement on the interpretation of the Convention signed by Italy and Ethiopia on 16 May 1908. He pointed out that the purpose of the talks was to see that experts undertook the task of examining the problem as a whole, taking into account all the relevant aspects of the question in order to decide on the points of disagreement and to try to settle them. That constructive method was in conformity with the recommendations of the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council.

37. His delegation would give the closest attention to any suggestion that might help to solve the problem. If the Assembly decided that the best means of settlement would be to have recourse to mediation, the Italian Government would of course be prepared to agree to that method.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.