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**Chairman: Mr. Santiago PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela).**

**Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2427)  
 (continued)**  
 [Item 13]\*

**HEARING OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EVOLUTION  
 SOCIAL CAMEROUNAISE**

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Bissek, representative of the Evolution sociale camerounaise, took a place at the Committee table.*

1. Mr. BISSEK (Evolution sociale camerounaise)<sup>1</sup> expressed his gratitude to France, which had spared no effort to train the people of the Cameroons to deal with the political, economic, social and moral problems confronting any group of people wishing to set itself up as a State; and towards the United Nations, which had tried to obtain fuller information on the aspirations and desires of the Cameroons before considering its fate.

2. A few preliminary remarks would enable the Committee to understand the immediate reforms which the Evolution sociale camerounaise wished to introduce, as well as its position on the chief problems in the Territory. Ethnically, the Cameroons was extraordinarily heterogeneous; the country, which lay between the Sudanese and Bantu civilizations, contained over 136 tribes differing to varying degrees in their languages, traditions and customs. Geographically too, the Cameroons was not homogeneous; large-scale migrations were prevented or deflected by mountains, forests and swift-flowing rivers. In the course of its very eventful history, the Cameroons had undergone numerous invasions and conquests and had been torn by constant rivalries between tribes seeking access to the sea. It was only with the signing of the treaty between the German explorer Nachtigal and King Douala Bell, on 14 July 1884, that the era of pacification had begun. The tribes had then begun to define their rights to their pasture lands and hunting grounds; rich crops had opened up the Cameroons for international trade. The country had continued to develop after the 1914-1918 war: roads had been built, schools opened, the indigenous inhabitants had learned European languages, contacts between Europeans and Africans had

increased and Cameroonians of different races had drawn together as a result of the greater freedom of movement throughout the country.

3. After the First World War, part of the Cameroons had been placed under French mandate; in 1939, the French Cameroons had expressed the desire to be incorporated in the French Empire. During the Second World War, the Cameroons had stood shoulder to shoulder with France, from which it had gained so many advantages; later, the Cameroons had become an associated territory within the framework of the French Union. Then the Trusteeship Agreement under which metropolitan France was to administer the Cameroons as an integral part of its territory had been discussed and signed.

4. The development of the Cameroons had now reached a very high level, as shown, for example, by the fact that Cameroonians not only conducted public affairs in the country, but sat in the French National Assembly, the Council of the Republic and the Assembly of the French Union. In its report (T/1043), the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1952, had drawn attention to the rapid and constant progress made in all fields in the Cameroons under French administration: the country was criss-crossed by an excellent network of roads; agriculture was being modernized; hospitals, dispensaries, nursing homes and schools were being inaugurated or modernized; the population was steadily increasing. Those varied achievements had aroused new ambitions in the Cameroonians, a longing to take part in modern life in all its forms, and a keen desire for reform so as to maintain the progress of the country and to enable its people to become fully self-governing. Therefore the political party of which Mr. Bissek was the spokesman had prepared plans of reform which had been long and carefully discussed; in particular at the general congress of ESOCAM in August-September 1952, at its special congresses of September 1953 and at many meetings of party branches. Those plans represented the deepest aspirations of the great majority of Cameroonians, who felt that, in order to reach its full development, the Cameroons must seek, as far as the degree of education of its masses and *élite* permitted, to establish the best possible internal conditions and to define its relationship with the Administering Authority.

5. Judging from the remarks of the various representatives of Cameroonian organizations who had appeared before the Committee, the most urgent and important problems of the Territory were unification of the two Cameroons and independence.

6. Yet, as the visiting mission itself had admitted, the unification of the two Cameroons was not an acute problem in the Cameroons under French administration; the masses of the people were indifferent to the question. Moreover, neither the people of the Cameroons under French administration nor the people of the Cameroons under British administration had any desire

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

<sup>1</sup> The full text of Mr. Bissek's statement is set forth in document A/C.4/257.

to unite in a political community. Owing to the present trends in the Cameroons under French administration and in the Cameroons under British administration, each Territory would be able to develop much more rapidly alone. Under unification, administrative procedures would have to be assimilated, the people would need to know both French and English, the economies would have to be regrouped, the communications systems reorganized—all measures which would slow down the pace of development of the two combined Territories to that of the less developed Territory. The two Cameroons would unite only when facts or the unanimous desire of the peoples made it necessary. The reunification of the two Cameroons could not be justified on the basis of the racial ties between certain groups in the two zones; some of the tribes of the Eastern Cameroons extended into French Equatorial Africa, others as far as Lake Chad. Accordingly, if the unification of the two Cameroons were contemplated, the integration of all those divided communities must also be discussed.

7. On the other hand, the Cameroonians were asking that the frontier between the two Cameroons should not be allowed to hamper the passage of goods and of persons. It was only fair to acknowledge that the two Administering Authorities had already brought about a marked improvement in the situation. Mr. Bissek's party hoped that their policy would be continued, so long as it did not unbalance the budget of the Cameroons under French administration. It would also like the two Administering Authorities to arrange to co-ordinate their construction projects, especially with regard to road-building.

8. Independence was a much more complicated and difficult problem than unification. Judging by the intellectual and political *élite* of the Cameroons, it would be fair to conclude that the country was ripe for independence. On the other hand, taking into account the uneducated masses, it was clear that the institutions of the Territory were in advance of its development in depth, especially considering its tribal character, and that therefore the Cameroons could not rise to the level of a nation and make a democratic State. Relations between the various races and tribes living side by side in the Cameroons were still deeply marked by rivalry inherited from centuries of tribal wars: for example, officials from the Southern Cameroons were reluctant to accept posts in the north despite the fact that they would receive a special allowance, and there was actual segregation between the various races in the towns; even within the same administrative region, the people belonging to one subdivision treated the people of the next subdivision as foreigners. Independence would not be practicable so long as the Cameroons was not yet either one nation or one people. It was not likely to bestow the benefits of a modern state or to guarantee the people against sickness, want or even misfortune. It would be more likely merely to serve the interests and ambitions of a few intellectuals and adventurers, to undo what had been achieved and to lead to some kind of dictatorship.

9. It was precisely because ESOCAM wanted real, and not theoretical, independence, that it considered full self-government to be impracticable at the present time. The independence to which the party aspired with all its strength and for which it was working so energetically postulated political maturity; enough skilled officials; economic, industrial and agricultural

equipment; a currency; technical skill; and also a collective psychology and a community spirit. It should guarantee security and survival now and rapid and constant progress in future, with respect for the genuine individuality and the inalienable rights of all the racial groups which made up the Cameroons. ESOCAM wanted the Cameroons to climb methodically, steadily and rapidly all the steps which would inevitably lead it to real and practical self-government. That was why it asked both the Administering Authority and the United Nations to take all the necessary measures to expedite the independence of the Territory.

10. Furthermore, the Cameroons' attainment of real independence must not enclose the country in a narrow nationalism and so condemn it to isolation. Independence should be achieved within the framework of the French Union, thus enabling the Cameroons to have a part in current world-wide international trade and to participate in the extra-national economic, technical or military associations which had taken the place of alliances in the world of today. At a time when the oldest and the most modern nations were together trying to set up a supra-national legislative and executive authority, it would be paradoxical for the Cameroons to turn away from the French Union and risk a mediocre and doubtful future alone. As supporters of the French Union, ESOCAM wanted the widest possible measure of self-government within that Union. In order to eliminate the many obstacles still barring the way to self-government, it asked for certain reforms which seemed necessary both in view of the progress already achieved and of local conditions.

11. The first reform would be to convert the Territorial Assembly into a legislative assembly with sovereign powers to act on all matters which did not affect the French Union as a whole: all matters pertaining to the Cameroons, such as personal status and social security problems, for example. The Assembly of the French Union would legislate on all matters concerning both France and the Cameroons, such as land tenure, mining, the general interests of the French Union, fundamental freedoms, the defence of the Union, etc. The National Assembly would legislate on all questions concerning the French community in any part of the French Union, such as personal status, social security, French culture. Finally, the Council of the Republic would have to be consulted on all matters governed by the Assembly of the French Union and on some other matters, to be defined precisely in the new constitution, which were within the competence of the Territorial Assembly and the National Assembly. Thus, in matters concerning them, the Cameroonians, like the French, would enact the laws and establish the institutions they considered best for themselves, while in matters of common concern to the French and the Cameroonians the law would be discussed between them on an equal footing. The number of sessions of the Territorial Assembly should also be increased, and the complete independence of its members ensured by granting them parliamentary immunity and an adequate salary, so that the poorest classes could have a hand in the administration of the country.

12. Secondly, in order to help the Territorial Assembly to discharge the new functions entrusted to it, provincial councils should be set up which would embrace several regions of a similar economic character and would provide the necessary administrative link between the municipal councils and the Territorial

Assembly. Those provincial councils would study the economic and financial problems peculiar to their province as a whole and would supervise the budgets of the rural communities. He submitted to the Committee several projects for dividing the Cameroons into four or five provinces; each project took full account of the economic conditions, ways of communication, main outlets and developments of the areas included.

13. Setting up the provincial councils alone was not enough; the number of rural and urban communes must be increased, for communal experience gave the Cameroonians valuable training in the administration of public affairs. There should be rural communes within each subdivision, *communes de plein exercice* at Douala and Yaoundé, and *communes de moyen exercice* in all the chief centres of the region. The new administrative structure of the Cameroons might be supplemented by a council of government, where Cameroonians would learn the responsibilities of government by taking an effective part in the local administration.

14. ESOCAM further asked that the best Cameroonians doctors who had been trained at the Dakar school should be admitted to French universities on the basis of competitive examinations and without having to hold the *baccalauréat*; similarly, Cameroonian nurses and midwives should be allowed to attend courses in French laboratories and large hospitals on the basis of competitive examinations. Further, the most highly qualified instructors should be permitted to attend teachers' training courses in France, and fellowships in France should be granted to girls and young women so as to enable them to make a full contribution to the moral and social development of the country. He hoped that the Committee would request the Administering Authority of the Cameroons to grant the additional financial assistance necessary to satisfy those requests.

15. Mr. Bissek then turned to the question of the reorganization of traditional indigenous society. The ESOCAM believed that the traditional system of chiefdoms was inseparable from the future of the Cameroons, and would like the chiefs henceforth to resume their true status as the representatives of their people. A chief was by tradition the instrument through which the decisions of the various constituent assemblies of the village and the tribe were carried out. The chiefs' status should be altered so that their position no longer gave rise to confusion and so that the village and tribal constituent assemblies and the customary courts might be legally recognized. By acceding to that request, France would furnish tangible proof of its desire to promote the advancement of the Cameroons, as provided in the Charter, the French Constitution and the Trusteeship Agreement. The measure most likely to increase the prestige of the chiefs and stimulate their interest would be to grant them a remuneration high enough to obviate any danger of corruption; to that end, the budgets of the provinces to whose establishment he had just referred might include an indigenous administration tax from which the chiefs would be paid. Furthermore, at the present time any son of a chief called upon to succeed his father need only furnish proof that he had been educated at least to the standard of the *certificat d'études primaires*. It was intolerable that hereditary chiefs with little or no education should be allowed to exercise authority over more highly educated persons in their village or their group; it was a serious threat to order and an incitement to subversive propaganda. The opening of a school for the sons of chiefs

in the Cameroons would enable future chiefs to prepare themselves properly for their office and to be worthy of it. On 23 September 1953 the Executive Committee of ESOCAM had declared that the traditional chiefs should be capable of codifying the customs, developing and possibly standardizing them so that the Cameroons might have a single, revised and coherent body of custom which would serve as its legal code. To do that the chiefs must be educated and properly trained and familiar with the art of command, with law and with the principles of the civilizing Power, and be able to reconcile them with the principles of custom. That important question of the chiefs should be thoroughly studied by the United Nations and the Administering Authority.

16. Another of ESOCAM's aspirations was to see government posts filled by Africans. At present administrative power was concentrated in the hands of the High Commissioner and French officials and most of the key posts were held by Europeans. Recent experience had shown that indigenous officials were perfectly capable of holding important posts; there was no reason therefore why Cameroonians should not be given progressively more general access to executive positions (deputies to chiefs of subdivisions, directors' posts, and the like). The indigenous officials would be better equipped to hold higher posts if, by competitive examination, they were admitted as trainees to the *Ecole nationale de la France d'Outre-mer*, where they could learn the technique of administration.

17. Lastly, ESOCAM urged that the Administering Authority's financial contribution to the equipment of the Cameroons and the operation of its services should be continued and increased. True, the Administering Authority already provided considerable financial assistance to the Territory; the French State paid the salaries of administrators, magistrates, meteorologists, the *gendarmerie*, and the staff of the scientific research stations of Overseas France. The metropolitan country also contributed to the *Fonds d'investissement et de développement économique et social* for the Territory, thus making possible many important economic and social projects. In 1952, a total of 330 million francs had been allocated for works and installations for civil aviation; the construction, equipment and maintenance of air bases and meteorological stations; the building of law courts; the operation of the geographical services; the installation, operation and repair of maritime signals establishments, etc. Lastly, the metropolitan country had granted the Territory numerous subsidies which had totalled over 13,000 million francs in 1950. The continuation of that effort would be the best contribution that France could make to the development of the Cameroons towards self-government within the French Union, since it would make available installations of all kinds such as were characteristic of a modern country and promote the emergence in the Territory of economic and financial strength which would provide a material basis for its political and social evolution.

18. The satisfaction of the various demands he had put forward would not only contribute to the prosperity of the Cameroons, but would strengthen and consolidate the greatness of the French Union, which would then become a union of nations and peoples combining their resources and their efforts in order to develop their common civilization and to guarantee their security in human dignity and equality. It would be a stage in the slow and difficult but inevitable progress

of the human race towards the consciousness of world unity and peace.

19. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) suggested that the questioning of the petitioner should be postponed until the representative of the Union des populations du Cameroun arrived. The petitioners could then be questioned simultaneously.

*It was so decided.*

Mr. Bissek, representative of the *Evolution sociale camerounaise*, withdrew.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE (A/C.4/L.319, A/C.4/L.320, A/C.4/L.321, A/C.4/L.322, A/C.4/L.323, A/C.4/L.324)

20. The CHAIRMAN called on the members of the Committee to consider the various draft resolutions that had been submitted to it.

21. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) recalled that at the seventh session of the General Assembly his delegation, together with those of El Salvador, Guatemala, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria, had sponsored a draft resolution relating to the revision of the questionnaire (A/C.4/L.253). At its 299th meeting, the Committee had decided to defer consideration of that draft resolution to the eighth session. The delegations of Burma, India, Liberia, Mexico and Uruguay had joined those he had previously named in sponsoring the draft resolution, which now bore the symbol A/C.4/L.319.

22. Article 88 of the Charter clearly stated that a questionnaire should be formulated for each Trust Territory. The Preparatory Commission in 1945 had accepted that interpretation. Rule 33 of the provisional rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council adopted by the Preparatory Commission (T/1) laid down that the Council should formulate comprehensive and detailed questionnaires on the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of each Trust Territory, and rules 34 and 35 referred to "questionnaires" in the plural.

23. The Trusteeship Council at its first session had let it be clearly understood that special questionnaires could be formulated for each Territory.

24. General Assembly resolution 656 (VII) requested the Trusteeship Council to consider the desirability of preparing a special questionnaire for Somaliland under Italian administration. The Trusteeship Council had considered the matter and had come to the conclusion that a separate questionnaire was unnecessary for several reasons, including the following: the scope of the revised questionnaire adopted by the Council (T/1010), so framed as to cover all Trust Territories; the detailed information furnished by the Administering Authorities; and the supplementary information supplied by them in the form of observations on petitions or replies to oral questions.

25. While it was true that the revised questionnaire contained a number of questions applicable as far as possible to all the Trust Territories, each Territory did have its own individual problems. No general questionnaire could cover all those problems in all their aspects. A separate questionnaire would have fewer drawbacks from the point of view of the Administering Authority concerned, inasmuch as it would be adapted to the special conditions of each Territory. The preparation of its annual reports would thus be greatly facilitated. Furthermore, since at the present time the reports were based on the revised questionnaire, which was of

a general nature, the information they contained was insufficient and did not allow the General Assembly satisfactorily to exercise its supervisory functions. In accordance with Article 88 of the Charter, those annual reports were made to the General Assembly and were examined by the Trusteeship Council under its authority. The General Assembly was thus entitled to decide what form the reports should take. Each annual report was a separate entity and should contain all the information required, based on separate questionnaires. It should not be left to the members of the Council to ask questions to elucidate the problems relating to the administration of the Trust Territories. The General Assembly should not perpetuate a practice which entailed serious disadvantages.

26. He was quite aware that it would be impossible to prepare all the questionnaires at once. They should be formulated methodically, one at a time. The questionnaire relating to Somaliland should be the first, since that Territory was due to achieve independence in 1960 and, in the absence of comprehensive information on political, economic, social and educational conditions in the Territory, the United Nations would not be in a position to fulfil its obligations in respect to the Territory.

27. He felt that little or no surprise would be occasioned by the draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/L.320, for with one or two exceptions, the Administering Authorities had paid little heed to the question of the attainment by the Trust Territories of the objective of self-government or independence. At the sixth session of the Fourth Committee (239th meeting) his delegation had drawn attention to the danger of procrastination in that respect. The events of the past two years had tragically illustrated the truth of that warning.

28. The Committee should be grateful to the United States Government for the information, albeit incomplete, that it had supplied in accordance with General Assembly resolution 558 (VI). It should also be grateful to the New Zealand Government for its declaration concerning the consultations it intended to hold in 1954 with the representatives of the Trust Territory of Western Samoa with a view to the establishment of a self-governing State. With regard to the other Trust Territories, however, the situation was less satisfactory. In particular the Belgian Government appeared determined to take no action in the matter.

29. The joint draft resolution (A/C.4/L.320) was based on the appeal addressed to the Administering Authorities by the Haitian delegation at the 380th meeting. He hoped that it would receive general support in the Committee.

30. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) said that, after much work, the Trusteeship Council had established a general questionnaire dealing with every aspect of political, economic, social and educational life in the Trust Territories. A report based on that questionnaire would give a comprehensive picture of the activities of any State, sovereign or dependent. The Trusteeship Council had been unable to adapt the questionnaire to every Territory, but had felt that it was superfluous to do so since the general questionnaire would enable it to judge the situation of each Territory.

31. At each session of the General Assembly there were demands for the establishment of separate questionnaires for the various Trust Territories. At the 377th meeting a petitioner from Somaliland under

Italian administration had reiterated that request, but had been unable to give any convincing reply when asked at the 379th meeting what should be added to or deleted from the questionnaire in order to make it more applicable to Somaliland.

32. He was submitting two amendments (A/C.4/L.325) to the joint draft resolution on the revision of the questionnaire (A/C.4/L.319).

33. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) submitted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/L.322. Information about the United Nations was being disseminated in the schools and cultural centres of Member States and it was vitally important for the inhabitants of the Trust Territories to have such information and to understand the International Trusteeship System.

34. Two resolutions had been adopted on the dissemination of information for the peoples of the Trust Territories Trusteeship Council resolution 36 (III) and General Assembly resolution 556 (VI). Though the Administering Authorities were doing everything in their power to comply with those resolutions, such factors as the simplicity of the social structure and the differing dialects and languages characteristic of many of the Trust Territories presented special problems.

35. As he had said at the 381st meeting, he was convinced that many of the principal difficulties met with in the day-to-day functioning of the International Trusteeship System had their origin in ignorance. Such difficulties could gradually be eliminated if the peoples of the Trust Territories were correctly informed of the provisions of the Charter and the trusteeship agreements, the work of the United Nations and the Administering Authorities, and the right of petition. The wider dissemination of such information would eliminate many elements of confusion and lead to a more practical approach to achieving the objectives of the Charter.

36. His delegation's draft resolution should be read in conjunction with the Secretary-General's report (T/1073) on the implementation of Trusteeship Council resolution 36 (III). That report listed the information material available and gave a detailed picture of the situation in each Trust Territory. Summarizing the impressions of the visiting missions, Mr. de Marchena said that in Somaliland under Italian administration, owing to the presence of the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland and of the United Nations Information Centre, and also to the efforts of the Italian Administration, the United Nations was very well-known. The same was true of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and Western Samoa. In the West African Trust Territories and Ruanda-Urundi the information material should be more simply worded, more visual material should be included and films would be welcome. Insufficient information was transmitted to the schools in Nauru. A collection of General Assembly summary records and pamphlets about the United Nations was displayed in the Nauruan Local Government Council building, but more information should be available to the youth of the island. In New Guinea little was known about the United Nations owing to practical geographical and social difficulties. The use of Pidgin English was a further confusing element which could, however, be eliminated in time. As the report stated, no Administering Authority had formally made any specific suggestion to the Secretary-General with regard to the appropriate channels through which informa-

tion concerning the United Nations might be communicated to the general public. Such information was usually transmitted to officials of the various administrations, but not even a summary of the resolutions, records and other documents of the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council reached even the most important chiefs. That might be explained by ignorance or lack of interest on the part of the general public or by the fact that the channels for disseminating such information were inadequate.

37. The draft resolution was intended to re-emphasize the main point of paragraph 2 of resolution 36 (III), namely, the flow of information to the general public. Its adoption would redound to the benefit of the Administering Authorities and of the International Trusteeship System as a whole. He hoped that the majority of the members of the Committee would vote in favour of it.

38. Mr. ABOU-AFIA (Egypt) said that the draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/L.321 had been submitted because his delegation and the other co-sponsors had understood from the Trusteeship Council's report (A/2427) that it had been impossible to take full advantage in the Trust Territories of the scholarships offered by certain Member States for the following reasons: first, the scholarships often related to a field of study higher than the level of education prevailing in the Trust Territory; secondly, candidates would be required to pursue their studies in a language different from the language of instruction in the Trust Territory; and, thirdly, inadequate publicity was given to such offers. The draft resolution suggested certain ways in which the Administering Authorities and the students from the Trust Territories could overcome those difficulties.

39. His delegation had also co-sponsored the draft resolution on the attainment of independence in 1960 by Somaliland under Italian administration (A/C.4/L.323). It should be noted that the draft resolution expressed appreciation of the Administering Authority's efforts to bring Somaliland to independence within the time specified and then made certain suggestions for future action by the Administering Authority. He drew particular attention to paragraphs 1 (a) and (b) of the operative part. He wished to make clear that he was speaking only on behalf of his delegation and not on behalf of all the sponsors of the draft resolution.

40. Ato Katama ABEBE (Ethiopia) said that his Government had voted against General Assembly resolution 289 A (IV) by which Somaliland had been placed under Italian administration, and on its adoption had notified the Secretary-General that it did not recognize Italy as the Administering Authority. It still held the same views, and accordingly when the draft resolution in document A/C.4/L.323 was put to the vote, Ethiopia would not participate. However, Ethiopia hoped that the Territory of Somaliland would find a way out from the hands of its former colonizers, to whom it had been returned under the guise of a Trust Territory.

41. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) was glad to see that the Belgian representative, in his first amendment (A/C.4/L.325, para. 1) to the joint draft resolution in document A/C.4/L.319, was proposing that the General Assembly should appoint a body of a type the Belgian delegation usually maintained ought to be appointed by the Trusteeship Council.

42. He felt that it might be better to have a larger sub-committee than the one the Belgian representative had suggested.

43. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) wished to know the precise meaning of the "administrative autonomy" referred to in operative paragraph 1 (b) of the joint draft resolution in document A/C.4/L.323. At the end of operative paragraph 1 (d) of that draft resolution, it might be advisable to add some such phrase as "without detriment to the requirements of public order and security".

44. Mr. ABOU-AFIA (Egypt) explained that by "administrative autonomy" the sponsors of the draft resolution meant the appointment of Somalis to all posts in the administration. The words "to the indispensable minimum" in paragraph 1 (d) made unnecessary the addition of the phrase suggested.

45. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) said that the various draft resolutions required further study. He had, however, some preliminary comments to make on joint draft resolution A/C.4/L.323, which seemed to have been drafted rather hastily.

46. When the organ with full legislative powers referred to in operative paragraph 1 (a) was created, the Administering Authority would presumably be left without any function. It would surely be better to recommend, therefore, that the Administering Authority should make the necessary preparations for the organ to come into being on the date when Somaliland was due to become independent.

47. Since the General Assembly had not yet examined the Technical Assistance Missions' recommendations, it would be preferable to recommend, in paragraph 1, (c), that the general economic plan should be completed taking the recommendations into account, rather than "on the basis" of the recommendations.

48. Speedy balancing of the territorial budget, such as was recommended in paragraph 1 (d), was out of the question. It would be better to ask the Administering Authority to continue to give its help towards balancing the budget. The recommendations in paragraph 1 (e) were hardly consistent with the balancing of the budget called for in the preceding sub-paragraph.

49. In reply to a question by Mr. PIGNON (France) regarding operative paragraph 3 of the Dominican draft resolution (A/C.4/L.322), Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) said that the Secretary-General

and the Administering Authorities would co-operate to decide on the appropriate channels through which to communicate information on the United Nations. The information would be communicated exclusively through the channels so decided upon, and it would be confined to information the Secretary-General considered "suitable", in accordance with Trusteeship Council resolution 36 (III).

50. In reply to a question by Mr. PIGNON (France) concerning operative paragraph 3 (e) of joint draft resolution A/C.4/L.320, co-sponsored by the Philippines, Mr. INGLES (Philippines) observed that a self-governing country had to be self-supporting, and to be self-supporting it required, *inter alia*, a sound fiscal system. Successive Trusteeship Council recommendations calling for the abolition of the poll tax in the Trust Territories in favour of a tax based on the taxpayer's ability to pay, had still not been fully implemented. The implementation of that recommendation provided an example of the "measures taken in respect of . . . the development of adequate public revenue", which the sub-paragraph in question requested the Trusteeship Council to deal with in its future reports.

51. He pointed out to the Belgian representative, in connexion with operative paragraph 1 (a) of joint draft resolution A/C.4/L.323, also co-sponsored by the Philippines, that between the time when the organ with full legislative powers was set up in Somaliland and the time the Territory attained independence, the Administrator would remain in the Territory and presumably retain executive powers, including the right to initiate and veto legislation. Hence, the granting of full legislative powers to the Territorial Council of Somaliland need not await the time when the Territory became independent.

52. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) wished to know whether the sponsors of joint draft resolution A/C.4/L.324 had any particular type of persons in mind to become the United Nations representatives for the Trust Territories, and whether they had considered the question of the representatives' international status, the consistency of their proposal with the provisions of Article 87 of the Charter, what the juridical and political relations between the representatives and the Administering Authorities would be, and what the financial implications of the proposal were.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.