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Chairman: Mr. Santiago PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela).

**Question of South West Africa: report of the
Ad Hoc Committee on South West Africa (A/
2475 and Add.1 and 2) (*concluded*)**

[Item 36]*

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOUTH WEST
AFRICA (*concluded*)**

1. Mr. DE HOLTE CASTELLO (Colombia) said that he had been informed that the members of the Committee on South West Africa had been appointed at the 467th plenary meeting of the General Assembly. At the Committee's 382nd meeting, he had reserved his delegation's right to speak on that issue in the General Assembly, but the members of the Fourth Committee had not been advised that the question would be discussed nor had they been present. While he was sure that the members appointed to the Committee on South West Africa would serve the United Nations well, he deprecated the many manoeuvres that had taken place in that connexion. He would like to hear the Chairman's opinion on the matter.

2. The CHAIRMAN replied that he had no information on the matter.

**Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2427)
(*continued*)**

[Item 13]*

**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TO
THE COMMITTEE (A/C.4/L.319, A/C.4/L.320,
A/C.4/L.321 and Add.1, A/C.4/L.322, A/C.4/
L.323 and Rev.1, A/C.4/L.324, A/C.4/L.325/
Rev.1, A/C.4/L.326, A/C.4/L.327 and Corr.1)
(*continued*)**

3. Mr. L. S. BOKHARI (Pakistan) said that the main object of the draft resolution of which he was a co-sponsor (A/C.4/L.324) was to prevent friction and allow the Trusteeship Council to study the question of appointing a United Nations representative to the Trust Territories and then to advise the Committee on the matter. The negative reaction of some members of the Trusteeship Council was possibly somewhat premature. He would clarify certain points

raised in connexion with the draft resolution at the end of the debate.

4. Mr. DE HOLTE CASTELLO (Colombia), referring to the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration, set up under General Assembly resolution 289 A (IV) to represent the United Nations in Somaliland, drew attention to the interpretation of certain articles of the Trusteeship Agreement concerning the Advisory Council's terms of reference with regard to relations with the population and with the Administering Authority that he had advanced at the ninth session of the Trusteeship Council (348th meeting), when he had been speaking as Chairman of the Advisory Council. In the light of his statement at that time, the Committee would realize his delegation's concern at draft resolution A/C.4/L.323. The sponsors of the draft resolution, including Egypt and the Philippines who were also members of the Advisory Council, were doubtless inspired by the best intentions, but the draft resolution might adversely affect the prestige and authority of the Advisory Council by making the General Assembly comment directly on matters more properly within the competence of the Advisory Council. Had the draft resolution said that, in view of certain difficulties, the General Assembly was terminating the Advisory Council, he could have voted for it. As it stood, however, he would be compelled to vote against it.

5. The term "full legislative powers" in operative paragraph 1, sub-paragraph (a), was not very clear. In Colombia, the President had the power of veto subject to an overriding vote by the legislature. Moreover any citizen was entitled to claim that a given law was unconstitutional.

6. The phrase "universal adult suffrage", in the same sub-paragraph, led him to wonder whether the General Assembly would inform the Administering Authority what criteria, such as literacy on the attainment of a certain age, were to be adopted or whether that would be left to the Administering Authority itself. To extend the suffrage indiscriminately, particularly in a country where many of the population were nomadic, would be very difficult and detrimental to the prestige of such advanced political parties as the Somali Youth League.

7. The representative of the Dominican Republic had already queried the term "administrative autonomy", in sub-paragraph (b), and the Belgian representative had drawn attention to the contradiction between sub-paragraphs (d) and (f). Furthermore, the statement in sub-paragraph (f) that "just and equitable labour legislation should be enacted" implied that the existing labour legislation was not just and equitable. If the sponsors of the draft resolution modified it to take such criticisms into account, his delegation might reconsider its position.

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

8. Mr. MENDOZA (Guatemala) said that his delegation had been among the original sponsors of the draft resolution on the revision of the Questionnaire submitted at the previous session of the General Assembly (A/C.4/L.253) and was now a co-sponsor of the same draft resolution which was submitted again at the present session (A/C.4/L.319). As a matter of principle, the provisions of Article 88 of the Charter should be implemented. Separate questionnaires would make for a more thorough study of the conditions in each Territory.

9. He wondered whether the sub-committee envisaged in the Belgian amendments (A/C.4/L.325/Rev.1) would be a sub-committee of the General Assembly or of the Trusteeship Council. If the former, it was odd that only members of the Trusteeship Council should be appointed to it; and if the latter, it was odd that it should be appointed by the Assembly. In any event the amendment would deprive the sub-committee of the co-operation and experience of the Administering Authorities, which would be essential if detailed questions on each Trust Territory were to be drawn up.

10. His delegation was also one of the sponsors of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/L.320. It was not the intention of the sponsors that the Administering Authorities should immediately fix immutable dates or time-limits for achieving the purposes of Article 76 of the Charter in each and every Trust Territory. Operative paragraph 3 was the most important feature of the draft resolution. It was intended to ensure that specific information concerning the implementation of the draft resolution and of resolution 558 (VI) was included each year in the Council's report to the General Assembly. It would even be helpful if the Trusteeship Council could, stating its reasons, inform the Assembly that it was not yet possible to foresee any date for the achievement of self-government or independence by a given Trust Territory. The Assembly could then study those reasons.

11. The draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/L.322 was acceptable to his delegation, though he would be glad if the representative of the Dominican Republic could agree to the amendment suggested by the Yugoslav representative at the 389th meeting.

12. His delegation was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution on Somaliland (A/C.4/L.323) which should meet with the approval of all Member States, since it was designed to implement General Assembly resolution 289 A (IV). While the sponsors of the draft resolution recognized the efforts of the Administering Authority, they were concerned at the present situation in Somaliland and felt that existing difficulties must be overcome if Somaliland was to attain its independence by 1960. If the recommendations contained in the draft resolution were carried out, in seven years' time Somaliland would have the minimum requirements necessary to attain independence. He emphasized that there was nothing in the draft resolution to indicate that the Italian Government was not fulfilling or willing to fulfil its Charter obligations. Nevertheless in view of the comments of certain delegations on the draft resolution, the sponsors were submitting a revised text which would make the draft resolution more flexible without changing its substance or intention. The new text took into full

account the Colombian representative's point regarding the functions of the Advisory Council. The sponsors of the draft resolution had not intended to infringe the functions of the Advisory Council or contest its usefulness. He hoped his explanations and the revised text would meet the points raised by the Colombian representative.

13. His delegation was in favour of the idea underlying the draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/L.324 and would vote in favour of it, since it was not a final recommendation but merely a suggestion for study by the Trusteeship Council, with which the ultimate decision would rest. It would also vote in favour of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.4/L.326 and A/C.4/L.327 and Corr.1. The solution suggested in the latter draft resolution seemed quite appropriate in view of what the French representative had said on the matter and he hoped that the problem would be solved to the petitioners' satisfaction.

14. Mrs. MENON (India) felt that certain representatives were rather inconsistent. When a time-limit had to be fixed for the attainment of self-government or independence, they contended that conditions varied so much from one Territory to another that that was impossible; but when separate questionnaires were proposed they thought that conditions in the various Territories were not so different after all. A time-limit for the attainment of independence should be set not only for Somaliland under Italian administration but for all the Trust Territories, including New Guinea. It would serve as a stimulus to the Administering Authorities.

15. Operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution on educational advancement (A/C.4/L.321 and Add. 1) had been included because the statements by petitioners had shown that scholarship offers to students from the Trust Territories were given inadequate publicity and that it had proved difficult to find sufficient candidates to accept such offers. In some cases the Member States offering scholarships had left the candidates free to select any university in any country. Some of the difficulties might be overcome if candidates could apply directly to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as to the Administering Authorities. The draft resolution was not an attempt to derogate from the authority of the Administering Authorities, which would have the final choice of candidates.

16. Her delegation would abstain in the vote on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/L.324. The Administering Authorities should be left to administer their Trust Territories entirely by themselves. An International Trusteeship System working on the basis of mutual suspicion and supervision would be impossible. The Committee's task was already complicated by the fact that it had to decide between the divergent views of the Administering Authorities, the visiting missions and the petitioners. If the reports on the Trust Territory or the statements of petitioners showed the need for investigating a specific situation, then a visiting mission could be sent to the Trust Territory for that purpose; otherwise, visiting missions might be eliminated. The Trusteeship Council had converted the optional provisions of Article 87 of the Charter into something mandatory.

17. In conclusion, she asked the Secretariat whether the preparation of separate questionnaires for each Trust Territory would facilitate its work in summarizing the information supplied by the Administering Authorities.

18. Mr. HOO (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) said that he did not feel that that was a question which the Secretariat could answer.

19. Mr. LANNUNG (Denmark) explained that the draft resolution on the report of the Trusteeship Council (A/C.4/L.326) corresponded to similar resolutions adopted at previous sessions. The General Assembly would take formal action on various aspects of the Trusteeship Council's report (A/2427) but the Trusteeship Council should always bear in mind the opinions expressed in the Fourth Committee. He hoped that the draft resolution would obtain a wide measure of support.

20. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) regretted that such a large number of draft resolutions had been submitted at the end of the session when there was no time to give them the careful study they deserved. Some of the draft resolutions appeared to indicate a lack of confidence in the Trusteeship Council and even in the fulfilment by the Administering Authorities of their obligations under the Charter and the trusteeship agreements. He hoped he was mistaken in that impression.

21. The draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/L.319 was unrealistic. The preparation of the revised Questionnaire adopted two years previously had been a formidable task, and the time and energy required to prepare eleven separate questionnaires would far outweigh any possible advantages. None of the sponsors of the draft resolution had yet suggested a single additional question which might be put with regard to any specific Trust Territory. Some representatives had attempted to justify the draft resolution on the grounds that more information should be forthcoming on the political development of certain Trust Territories, in particular Somaliland. Members of the Trusteeship Council could, and frequently did, ask questions to elicit additional information. In the case of Somaliland, the Trusteeship Council could also obtain information from the Advisory Council and the various international agencies that were assisting the Administering Authority. He would support the Belgian amendments (A/C.4/L.325/Rev.1) to the draft resolution. If the countries suggested as members of the sub-committee were unwilling to implement their own proposals, they should withdraw the draft resolution they had sponsored. If the Belgian amendments were not adopted, he would vote against the draft resolution.

22. Turning to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/L.320, he said that he appreciated the motives of the sponsors of the draft resolution in drawing attention to Western Samoa and was grateful for the recognition given to the New Zealand Government. Nevertheless, his delegation's position on the draft resolution as a whole was determined by operative paragraph 1. His delegation had voted against General Assembly resolution 558 (VI) because it felt that it was neither useful nor possible for the Administering Authorities to set a time-limit for the attainment

of independence. That was still its position. So far as the application of the time-limit to Western Samoa was concerned, his Government would be unable to implement resolution 558 (VI) until it had considered the views of the Samoan people on their future. He would therefore vote against the draft resolution.

23. The draft resolution on educational advancement (A/C.4/L.321 and Add.1) was in general acceptable, but he would vote against operative paragraph 6, if that paragraph were put to a separate vote. He had understood from the Assistant Secretary-General at the previous meeting that the Secretary-General would merely serve as a conduit between the Trust Territories and Member States offering scholarship facilities and would not undertake the selection of candidates. Hence, those Member States would have to select the candidates themselves and they could do that only in consultation with the Administering Authorities. In the long run, therefore, the procedure suggested in operative paragraph 6 would merely be a far more complicated version of the present procedure whereby the Administering Authorities selected the candidates directly.

24. His delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution submitted by the Dominican Republic (A/C.4/L.322). He understood from the interpretation of operative paragraph 3 given by the sponsor of the draft resolution that the Secretary-General would provide information through the channels suggested by the Administering Authorities and that, in deciding on the information suitable to each Trust Territory, he would consult the Administering Authority concerned. He could not agree with the Yugoslav representative's suggestion.

25. He felt that the draft resolution on Somaliland (A/C.4/L.323) was unnecessarily mandatory in tone and contained certain manifest inconsistencies. He hoped the revised text would be more permissive and remove the incongruity between sub-paragraph (d) on the one hand and sub-paragraphs (e) and (f) on the other. The detailed recommendations in paragraph 1 should have been left to the Trusteeship Council, where they would receive a more realistic appraisal. He hoped that the statement by the Ethiopian representative at the 388th meeting did not indicate the Ethiopian Government's unwillingness to recognize the need for an early settlement of the frontier difficulties between Ethiopia and Somaliland.

26. While he sincerely appreciated the sincere intention of the Pakistan representative and the other sponsors of document A/C.4/L.324, the principle underlying that draft resolution was open to grave doubts, which would not be resolved by the proposed study by the Trusteeship Council. In view of the misgivings his delegation felt on practical and legal grounds, he doubted whether it would be able to vote in favour of the draft resolution; but in view of the Pakistan representative's statement at the beginning of the meeting, it would reserve its decision. It would be essential to know to what authority the United Nations representative would be responsible. Presumably he would be answerable to some superior authority; if that authority were the General Assembly, would his policy be determined by the majority of members and had the majority of members a defined policy with regard to the day-to-day questions

of administration in the Trust Territories? Many representatives would view with concern the appointment of a United Nations observer responsible to no one. He did not visualize a representative appointed by and responsible to the Secretary-General, since that would lead the Secretary-General to abandon his objective attitude to the administration of the Trust Territories.

27. At the 382nd and 387th meetings, he had listened sympathetically to the petitioner from Ngao-Ekéle Community and was glad that he would not return to his people empty-handed. His delegation's final attitude on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.4/L.327 and Corr.1 would be determined by any further remarks that the French representative might make.

28. In conclusion he said that he was happy to support the Danish draft resolution (A/C.4/L.326).

29. Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) said that a sign of progress in the Trust Territories was the growth of divergencies between different national entities and the differentiation of interests resulting therefrom. The machinery of trusteeship should also be in constant evolution. The draft resolutions before the Committee were designed to that end.

30. It was sometimes asserted that the Fourth Committee's resolutions were based on insufficient knowledge. If true, the reason for that situation was the style and structure of the Trusteeship Council's reports on which the Assembly's recommendations were based. It was the function of the Trusteeship Council to obtain detailed information from the reports of the Administering Authorities. The scope of the Council's functions was extending every year and it required more and more information regarding the problems of the Trust Territories. Such information was best obtained by asking precise questions, and it was for that reason that draft resolution A/C.4/L.319 had been submitted. No doubt time would be required to prepare the separate questionnaires asked for; the Council might be obliged at its next session to set up a study group, and the question might have to be postponed for further work.

31. He was not opposed to the Belgian amendments (A/C.4/L.325/Rev.1) but agreed with the representative of Guatemala that representatives of some of the Administering Authorities ought to be included in the proposed sub-committee. He suggested adding Belgium and New Zealand to the list of countries named in the Belgian amendment.

32. Draft resolutions A/C.4/L.321 and Add.1 and A/C.4/L.322 were closely connected, inasmuch as they were both designed to prepare the peoples of the Trust Territories to make better use of their capacities. If both were implemented, the effect would be reflected in the quality of the petitions submitted; there might be fewer individual petitions and more collective petitions. That would be the real remedy for the problem of oral hearings. Paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.4/L.321 and Add.1 in particular was a practical proposal.

33. The proposal contained in draft resolution A/C.4/L.324 should not be rejected without due consideration. No doubt there would be financial, technical and legal difficulties, but the difficulties had presumably been taken into account by the sponsors. The draft resolution merely requested the Trusteeship Council to study the proposal. The delegation of Venezuela would vote in favour of it.

34. With reference to draft resolution A/C.4/L.320, similar objections had been raised to resolution 558 (VI), but despite that fact the delegation of Venezuela had voted in favour of it. He felt that, besides eliciting information, the draft resolution would give the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council a basis for positive action with regard to the Trust Territories. In the last analysis the responsibility for the Trust Territories lay with the United Nations, and the Organization should have some indication of when the Territories were likely to be ready for self-government or independence. He would vote in favour of the draft resolution.

35. He would also vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.4/L.323, a revised version of which would be circulated shortly.

36. He agreed with the New Zealand representative's remarks in connexion with draft resolution A/C.4/L.327 and Corr.1 and would vote for it. He would also vote for the Danish draft resolution (A/C.4/L.326).

37. Mr. TARCICI (Yemen) said that since the Administering Authorities had a sacred trust to fulfil in the Trust Territories, it was natural that the General Assembly should ask them to give an account of their activities. The delegation of Yemen had joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.4/L.320 and would vote for it and for all the other draft resolutions before the Committee and any other proposal which might enable the peoples of the Trust Territories to attain self-government or independence with the least possible delay.

38. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation had assisted in the preparation of the Questionnaire, and it was due to the delegation of the Dominican Republic that it contained questions concerning the status of women, the improvement of which was one of its main concerns. The preparation of a questionnaire was no easy task; the work proposed in draft resolution A/C.4/L.319 would take at least three years, by which time the date of Somali independence would be near. Nevertheless, he would vote in favour of the draft resolution if the Belgian amendments were incorporated.

39. The Dominican delegation had voted in favour of resolution 558 (VI), but in view of subsequent developments it would abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.4/L.320. Paragraph 3 of the operative part was inconsistent with the principles of the trusteeship agreements. In connexion with sub-paragraph 3 (b), he pointed out that the Trusteeship Council had rejected a number of similar proposals emanating from the delegation of the USSR, since it felt that such recommendations would be premature without first having a complete picture of the political progress of the Territory. For example, it would be quite impossible for Australia to name any date at which New Guinea might be ready for independence, in view of the backwardness of the people of that Territory. Nauru posed a very different problem since it would have virtually disappeared in about seventy years. Again, Ruanda-Urundi consisted of two feudal kingdoms. The General Assembly could not ask the Administering Authority to destroy those two kingdoms, which were the people's natural system of government, in order to set up a democratic régime. The resolution was inapplicable to Tanganyika, where no national consciousness existed.

40. In his opinion, draft resolution A/C.4/L.321 and Add.1 was one of the best resolutions submitted to the Committee for some years. He was always prepared

to support any proposal for the promotion of educational advancement. He supported the request for a separate vote on paragraph 6 of the operative part, on which he would abstain. He would vote for the draft resolution as a whole.

41. With reference to draft resolution A/C.4/L.322, he was unable to support the Yugoslav proposal to change "and" to "or" in paragraph 3 of the operative part. With that wording the draft resolution would tend to prevent the flow of information from the United Nations to the Trust Territories. He appealed to the Yugoslav representative not to press the proposed amendment.

42. Referring to draft resolution A/C.4/L.323, paragraph 1 (*d*), he emphasized that Somaliland was not self-supporting, but depended on Italy's help. If Italy withdrew its financial assistance to Somaliland, the responsibility for supporting the Territory would fall on the United Nations, which had a moral obligation in the matter. With reference to paragraph 1 (*b*), he understood that "administrative autonomy" was intended to mean the Somalization of the public services. His delegation had always been in favour of such a measure, and would support the paragraph if the wording could be improved.

43. He would abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.4/L.324. He appreciated the motives that had inspired the proposal, but felt that so many questions were involved that it was premature. He appealed to the sponsors to withdraw it.

44. He had no objection to draft resolution A/C.4/L.326.

45. With reference to draft resolution A/C.4/L.327 and Corr.1, he suggested that paragraph 5 of the operative part should be amended to read: "Invites the Trusteeship Council to examine this question in the light of this resolution and to include in its report to the General Assembly the results of its examination." Subject to that amendment, he would vote in favour of the draft resolution.

46. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) said that he would vote in favour of the draft resolution on the revision of the questionnaire (A/C.4/L.319). He agreed with the representative of the Dominican Republic that the revision would take time, but he felt that the Council would be able to finish the task in one or two years. In carrying out that revision, the Council would be living up to its express obligations under the Charter. He would also vote in favour of the Belgian amendments (A/C.4/L.325/Rev.1), although he reserved the right to reconsider his attitude if the amendments were changed in any way.

47. The purpose of the draft resolution on the attainment by the Trust Territories of the objective of self-government or independence (A/C.4/L.320), of which Yugoslavia was a co-sponsor, had already been explained by the representative of Guatemala. He noted in that connexion, however, that at the 389th meeting, the French representative had objected that subsequent developments might render any prediction on the attainment of self-government or independence invalid. Nevertheless, it would be quite possible to make an estimate and change it in the light of events.

48. Yugoslavia was also a sponsor of the draft resolution on educational advancement in Trust Territories, regarding offers by Member States of study and training facilities (A/C.4/L.321 and Add.1). He noted,

in reply to the Belgian representative, that the draft resolution was not intended to correct the defects of the earlier resolution 557 (VI) on offers of fellowships to students from the Trust Territories. That resolution had been based on information supplied by the Administering Authorities, regarding the educational facilities available in the Trust Territories. The Administering Authorities now claimed that there were not enough students capable of profiting from offers of higher education. The sponsors of the draft resolution accepted that statement, and did not criticize their efforts, but concentrated instead on urging Member States to make every effort to help the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories to acquire post-primary and technical education and other practical training.

49. In connexion with the draft resolution proposed by the Dominican Republic (A/C.4/L.322), he noted that the change in operative paragraph 3 which he had suggested at the 389th meeting did not mean that co-operation between the Administering Authorities and the Secretary-General in the dissemination of information was not necessary. However, he did feel that it was desirable to define the prerogatives of the Administering Authorities and of the Secretary-General in that field. The Administering Authorities were under an obligation to allow information on the United Nations to penetrate the Trust Territories. It was also the responsibility of the Secretary-General and his prerogative under the Charter to take steps to disseminate information on the United Nations to all peoples of the world. The General Assembly had adopted resolution 556 (VI), to the effect that it was essential that the peoples of the Trust Territories, in view of their special relation with the United Nations, should receive adequate information on its purposes and activities. He noted, with regret, that the Trusteeship Council had merely taken note of the report submitted to it by the Secretary-General on the position in regard to the dissemination of information in the Trust Territories (T/1073). The Secretary-General was in a position, through the facilities of the Department of Public Information and special budget appropriations, to disseminate information among the inhabitants of the Trust Territories. The Yugoslav delegation was sure that when requests for information had been received from organizations, political parties or trade unions in the Trust Territories, the Secretary-General had, in the course of his duties, provided such information and documentation; indeed, if he had not done so, he would have exposed himself to attack from several members of the Fourth Committee.

50. Trusteeship Council resolution 36 (III), inviting the Administering Authorities to provide lists of officials in the Trust Territories to whom suitable material should be sent and make suggestions as to the appropriate channels through which information could be communicated to the general public, had not been properly implemented; otherwise there would have been no need for the Dominican draft resolution. Operative paragraph 3 of that draft requested the Secretary-General to initiate a direct flow of information to the general public in the Trust Territories on the basis of suggestions furnished by the Administering Authorities and his own knowledge of appropriate information channels. In connexion with the Yugoslav suggestion that the word "and" should be changed to "or", he asked whether those members of the Committee who disagreed with his suggestion felt that the Secretary-

General should be governed in his duty to inform the general public by the consent of the Administering Authorities. He agreed that there should be co-operation between the Administering Authorities and the Secretary-General, but felt strongly that the Secretary-General ought to be empowered to send such information direct. He could not withdraw the suggestion, although he was willing to change "or" to "and/or". He reserved the right to propose a formal amendment to that effect, after hearing the views of other representatives.

51. He did not intend to comment on the draft resolution on the attainment of independence by Somaliland under Italian administration by 1960 (A/C.4/L.323), apart from pointing out to the Belgian representative that educational facilities could be improved and the territorial budget still be balanced by decreasing expenditure on the civil service and the military and granting a larger appropriation for educational purposes. He would vote in favour of the draft resolution.

52. He would also vote in favour of the draft resolution on means towards improving the functioning of the International Trusteeship System (A/C.4/L.324), on the understanding that its intention was that the question should be studied by the Trusteeship Council. He wondered whether the Administering Authorities had experienced any conflict of competence between their own administering organs and United Nations organs already established in, or sent to, the Trust Territories under their administration.

53. He would gladly vote for the draft resolution proposed by Denmark on the report of the Trusteeship Council (A/C.4/L.326), although he had had occasion to criticize the report. He would also vote in favour of the draft resolution on the petition from the Ngao-Ekéle Community (A/C.4/L.327 and Corr.1).

54. In conclusion, he pointed out in connexion with the reference to the Trust Territory of Western Samoa in the draft resolution on the attainment by the Trust Territories of the objective of self-government or independence (A/C.4/L.320) that when the previous resolution on that topic, resolution 558 (VI), had been adopted, it had not been realized that Western Samoa was making such excellent progress. He felt sure that if it had been asked at the time whether the people of Western Samoa would be in a position to formulate proposals for the establishment of a self-governing State in 1954, it would have been generally assumed that they were not.

Mr. Rifai (Syria), Rapporteur, took the Chair.

55. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) said that his delegation would support any proposal on questions of trusteeship which it felt to be helpful, practical and necessary. In connexion with the point made by the Indian representative, he noted that the United Kingdom's position was consistent. It maintained that prevailing conditions which governed progress in the Trust Territories did in fact vary substantially. The United Kingdom was therefore somewhat attracted by the idea of separate questionnaires for each Trust Territory, as explained by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/L.319 and the representative of India in particular. The representative of the United Kingdom serving on the committee which had produced the revised Questionnaire (T/1010) had noted at the time that a number of the questions in the Questionnaire did not apply

to a number of Trust Territories. However, changes in the Questionnaire should not be made lightly. The officials who prepared the annual reports to the General Assembly had done so for some years on the basis of the Provisional Questionnaire, and were now using the revised Questionnaire. The changes made had required the establishment of new systems of compiling information, collecting statistics, etc., and it would be difficult and expensive to change those systems yet again. A more reasonable solution would seem to be simply not to answer questions which did not apply to the Territory concerned. He felt that such a course would meet the aim of the sponsors of the draft resolution. Moreover, even if separate questionnaires were established for the individual Territories, the questions themselves would need frequent revision, for questions which were inapplicable at one stage often became applicable after further development. He felt, therefore, that it would be best to leave the Questionnaire as it stood and for the Administering Authorities to take account in their replies to the Questionnaire of the views that had been expressed in the Fourth Committee. The United Kingdom delegation would therefore not vote in favour of the Belgian amendments to the draft resolution (A/C.4/L.325/Rev.1), or of the draft resolution itself, whether or not it was amended.

56. In connexion with the draft resolution on the attainment by the Trust Territories of self-government or independence (A/C.4/L.320), he drew attention to the third paragraph of the preamble. Resolution 558 (VI) also asked for indications of the progress made in various fields of administration towards the objectives of the Trusteeship System. He felt that the annual reports sent in by the Administering Authorities in fact constituted an account of the steps taken to approach those objectives, so that the sweeping generalization in the third paragraph of the preamble was unfair to the Administering Authorities. He would oppose operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution because it reaffirmed a resolution which the United Kingdom had opposed in 1951. If the Trusteeship Council adopted the procedure proposed in operative paragraph 3, it would need reports from the Administering Authority covering the separate points listed. The representative of the Dominican Republic had illustrated from his own experience on visiting missions the difficulties which the Administering Authorities would encounter in providing the material asked for. He himself could also illustrate from his experience the difficulties which, for example, would face the Australian Government in New Guinea, in carrying out the consultations with the inhabitants of the Trust Territory referred to in subparagraph 3 (a) and to give a programme, with dates, for their attainment of self-government. The Committee must realize that in most parts of New Guinea it would be difficult, if not impossible, to consult the indigenous inhabitants on anything which was so far removed from their daily lives. The shortcomings of Pidgin English as a means of communication made it difficult to convey to them such abstract ideas as the advantages of centralized organs of government. That was why the Administering Authority was concentrating its present efforts on promoting democratic organs of local government among the New Guinea tribes. Nevertheless, despite the great efforts of the Administering Authority, even the problem of local government had hardly been touched, and it would thus be equally impossible for the Australian Government to deal with

sub-paragraph 3 (b) satisfactorily. Operative paragraph 2 commended the example of the Administering Authority of Western Samoa. The United Kingdom delegation fully appreciated the achievements of New Zealand in Western Samoa, but nevertheless the circumstances there were conducive to progress. Moreover, if the Administering Authority of Western Samoa were asked to specify the measures taken in respect of the development of universal adult suffrage in that Territory (as asked for in operative paragraph 3 (c)), it would be unable to do so. The population of Western Samoa regarded the notion of universal adult suffrage as suspect, and would be unlikely to include it in their proposals for the establishment of a self-governing State. Those illustrations would indicate the manifold difficulties which the Administering Authorities would encounter in seeking to implement draft resolution A/C.4/L.320. The United Kingdom delegation would vote against the draft resolution.

57. His delegation would be able to vote for the draft resolution on offers by Member States of study and training facilities (A/C.4/L.321 and Add.1), provided that operative paragraph 6 was clarified and possibly amended. The Indian representative had said that the Administering Authorities would still hold final authority with regard to the selection of candidates. The United Kingdom had been successful in finding candidates for the scholarships offered and hoped to be able to find more. However, there were many difficulties in the way of taking up such offers on a larger scale. Operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution met the difficult problem of language to some extent, as did the wise initiative taken by the Government of Indonesia in making one of the scholarships offered by that country available for an institution suggested by the Administering Authority or the student himself. However, the student might need advice with regard to the choice of an institution, and the United Kingdom would therefore prefer the applications to go through the Administering Authority. However, in view of the fact that the prospective students might reside outside the Trust Territories, it might be convenient for them to apply direct to the Secretary-General, provided that it was understood that the Secretary-General would consult the Administering Authority on the application.

58. The United Kingdom delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution proposed by the Dominican Republic (A/C.4/L.322). However, the real meaning of the words "and his own knowledge of appropriate information channels" in operative paragraph 3 was not yet clear. The United Kingdom would not support the Yugoslav interpretation that the Secretary-General was not necessarily obliged to consult the Administering Authority. It was also not clear whether it would be left entirely to the Secretary-General to decide whether information channels were appropriate. The United Kingdom had had a happy experience of co-operating with the United Nations in promoting the spread of information and it hoped to continue that co-operation, on the understanding that the Secretary-General would continue to consult the Administering Authorities in that respect.

59. The United Kingdom delegation would reserve its comments on draft resolution A/C.4/L.323, until the

revised text was available for study. He hoped that the revision would cover the apparent conflict between sub-paragraph (d) of operative paragraph 1 and some of the other sub-paragraphs. It was, in fact, doubtful whether a detailed resolution of that kind was very suitable for the Fourth Committee, and he hoped that the revision would take that into account also. Sub-paragraph (f) of operative paragraph 1 amounted almost to the direct administration of the Trust Territory by the Fourth Committee. He hoped that it would be reduced in scope to a simple indication of policy. He noted also that operative paragraph 2 depended to some extent on the views of the two delegations directly concerned as to whether the paragraph would be helpful at the present time.

60. The United Kingdom's position with regard to draft resolution A/C.4/L.324 was somewhat difficult. It fully appreciated the good intentions of the representative of Pakistan and the wisdom of the suggestion that the proposal should be studied by the Trusteeship Council rather than adopted by the Fourth Committee immediately. However, the representatives of France and New Zealand had pointed out certain real difficulties which might be raised by operative paragraph 1, and the United Kingdom delegation shared many of their doubts. It would like to hear the final views of the representative of Pakistan before it decided how to cast its vote. There seemed to be a real danger of creating a dual administration in the Trust Territories, which would hardly be conducive to the welfare of the peoples concerned.

61. The United Kingdom delegation would gladly vote in favour of the Danish draft resolution on the report of the Trusteeship Council (A/C.4/L.326). Its attitude in regard to the draft resolution on the petition of the Ngoa-Ekéle Community (A/C.4/L.327 and Corr.1) would depend on the observations of the Administering Authority.

62. Mr. ALLOUNI (Syria) thought that since all the prospective members of the sub-committee proposed in the Belgian amendments to draft resolution A/C.4/L.319 (A/C.4/L.325/Rev.1) were members of the Trusteeship Council, the proposal might be made more appropriately in the Trusteeship Council when the resolution in document A/C.4/L.319 came before it, as it would if it was adopted.

63. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) said that the position of Yugoslavia in regard to the question of language, which came up in connexion with the provision of scholarships, was very definite. He noted that to many of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories French and English were also foreign languages.

64. In connexion with draft resolution A/C.4/L.322, he asked the representative of the United Kingdom whether the Administering Authorities would use their authority to prevent the Secretary-General from sending information to organizations or publications which requested it, or to prevent what they regarded as inappropriate channels from publishing information on the United Nations.

65. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) replied in the negative.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.