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C O N T E N T S

Agenda item 13:

Report of the Trusteeship Council (*continued*)..... 277

Chairman: Mr. Rafik ASHA (Syria).

AGENDA ITEM 13

Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2680, A/C.4/277, A/C.4/L.332/Rev.1, A/C.4/L.364, A/C.4/L.365/Rev.1, A/C.4/L.366, A/C.4/L.367, A/C.4/L.368, A/C.4/L.369) (*continued*)

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) said that the problem of the Trust Territories had a long history on the basis of which a full appraisal of the present situation could and should be made. The Members of the United Nations had the right and the duty to ask to what extent the situation of the indigenous peoples inhabiting the Trust Territories had improved since the inception of the mandates system, to what extent colonial exploitation of the indigenous peoples had been eliminated and whether those peoples were now assured of full recognition of their national rights and aspirations. He did not intend to discuss in detail the basis and achievements of the mandates system of the League of Nations. The provisions of that system with respect to the indigenous inhabitants had been limited, but even those relatively limited safeguards had been violated in practice. The mandates system had merely fortified the colonial regimes; it had not eliminated colonial exploitation. The fact that several mandated territories had attained independence had been entirely due to their political development and the struggles of their inhabitants. The Trusteeship System established by the United Nations went much further in setting forth as its basic objective the paramount principle of the interests of the indigenous peoples.

2. The political situation prevailing in the Trust Territories was a matter of crucial importance and should always be followed with the closest attention. That fact had been taken into account by the General Assembly in resolutions 558 (VI) and 752 (VIII). In compliance with General Assembly resolution 752 (VIII), part III of the current report (A/2680) contained many interesting details indicating the degree to which the political provisions of the Charter had been put into practice in different Territories. It was only regrettable that the Trusteeship Council had not had time to draw all the proper conclusions resulting from such a balance sheet.

3. The conclusions drawn by the Polish delegation were not reassuring. It could not be said that the Trusteeship System was leading the Trust Territories towards the ultimate aim for their political development provided in the Charter.

4. For example, in Tanganyika the 8 million indigenous inhabitants were still deprived of the right to vote. All executive and legislative powers continued to rest with the appointed Governor. The Executive and Legislative Councils filled some advisory functions but all their members were appointed and both Councils were dominated by European members. As could be seen from the report of the Administering Authority,¹ some constitutional reforms had been suggested, but in substance they consisted of strengthening European supremacy in the governmental organs of the Territory. The discrimination against the African population in the Government and in public administration only reflected the discriminatory practices prevailing in the remaining areas of Tanganyikan life. Indigenous workers were not protected by labour legislation and were very much underpaid. Severe penalties were still imposed for breaches of contract, despite the Trusteeship Council's recommendation that such penalties should be abolished (A/2680, p. 63). Article 32 of the Criminal Procedure Code gave legal sanction to any European to accuse and arrest Africans. When the Administering Authority had made its report, there had been only ten African doctors for a population of 8 million. About 28 times as much was spent on the education of European children as on that of African children. It had been estimated that even after 1956 more than half the children of school age would be unable to attend school because of the lack of facilities.

5. In Ruanda-Urundi, also, political development was severely handicapped by the system of colonial administration prevailing there. It was clear from the reports of the Administering Authority that no attempt had been made even to promise any changes in the present situation, in which the whole government and administration of the country rested with the Europeans. The people had no right to vote. Indigenous inhabitants were employed only at the lowest levels of the public service and could not influence the destiny of their country.

6. In Somaliland under Italian administration, municipal elections had been held in March 1954, but only a small percentage of the indigenous population had participated in them. The elections had taken place in an atmosphere of police repression and several petitions had drawn attention to irregularities in the conduct of the elections. The Territorial Council of Somaliland, composed mainly of tribal chiefs, had only advisory

¹ See Report by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of Tanganyika under United Kingdom Trusteeship for the Year 1952, London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office 1953, Colonial No. 293.

functions. It could not be regarded as a body representing the interests and aspirations of the people, because its members had not been democratically elected.

7. In New Guinea, under the new law governing elections to the Legislative Council indigenous inhabitants were excluded from the right to vote. Moreover, the only elected members of the Legislative Council were two non-official non-indigenous New Guinea members; the rest were appointed. The indigenous population had the right to vote in the election of members to Native village councils, but so far only six such councils had been established. The standard of living of the indigenous people was pitifully low and expenditure for educational facilities for the indigenous peoples had actually decreased.

8. In Togoland and in the Cameroons under French administration, there was no universal adult suffrage. Without any consultation of the indigenous population, those Territories had been included in the French Union and the French Constitution had been established there. The right to vote in the election of central metropolitan legislative organs was, however, restricted to certain categories of the population as specified by the extremely complicated law. Representatives of those Territories elected to the metropolitan organs had no opportunity of defending the interests of the indigenous peoples. In each of the two Territories there was a Territorial Assembly which was dominated by Europeans and was not permitted to discuss political matters; those Assemblies were purely advisory, since authority and the power of decision rested with the Governor.

9. In the Cameroons and Togoland under British administration, the situation had been aggravated as a result of the administrative dismemberment of those Territories and their attachment to Nigeria and the Gold Coast respectively. In the Cameroons all the legislative and executive functions lay with the Governor. Only two indigenous officials had been promoted to high rank. The indigenous inhabitants of Togoland under British administration had no influence on the realization of constitutional reforms in the Gold Coast, into which Togoland had been incorporated without any consultation of its inhabitants.

10. The frontiers of all the Trust Territories were remnants of the old colonial system; they broke up the economic unity of the respective Territories, divided areas inhabited by the same peoples and obstructed the forward movement of peoples united by a common tradition and a common language towards national unity. The tragedy of the Ewe nation was a glaring example of such a situation.

11. Furthermore, the Administering Authorities had subordinated the Trust Territories to the administrative organs of the neighbouring Non-Self-Governing Territories, which, according to the Charter, should be administered on a different basis. The Standing Committee on Administrative Unions and the Trusteeship Council itself had taken no specific decisions to put an end to a situation which was contrary to the aims of the Trusteeship System and the interests of the indigenous peoples.

12. The Administering Authorities placed many obstacles in the way of the formation of indigenous political opinion and indigenous political organizations. That fact was clear from a study of the petitions presented by the indigenous inhabitants. Petitions could not and should not be left unanswered. They expressed not only the opinions of the peoples entrusted to the

care of the United Nations, but also their confidence and trust in the Organization. The Polish delegation endorsed the criticisms that had been expressed of the bureaucratic and often soulless approach of the majority of the Trusteeship Council in dealing with petitions.

13. The United Nations was under an obligation to safeguard the right of petition, which had been violated in some Trust Territories. The United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1951, had stated in its report that representatives of the indigenous population of Ruanda-Urundi had expressed a fear that by stating their views or grievances they might expose themselves to direct or indirect reprisals by the Administration (T/1031, para. 89). The Trusteeship Council at its eleventh session had urged the Administering Authority to take appropriate steps to prevent such a state of affairs (A/2150, p. 81). A recent petition (T/PET.3/73), however, indicated that the indigenous inhabitants again felt intimidated in exercising their right of petition. Similar grievances had been expressed by petitioners from Togoland and the Cameroons under French administration and from Somaliland under Italian administration.

14. The justifiable desire to create harmony between the representatives of the Administering Authorities and those of the non-administering Powers should not go so far as to lose sight of the ultimate purpose of the Committee's deliberations, namely, improving conditions in the Trust Territories.

15. General Assembly resolution 558 (VI) had invited the Administering Authorities to give a rough estimate of the time needed for the attainment by the Trust Territories of the objective of self-government or independence, but no specific answers had yet been received. The Trusteeship Council in its next report should analyse and specify the existing shortcomings in that respect. It should be the aim of the United Nations to set a definite time limit for the political independence of the Trust Territories in the not too distant future. The representatives of the Administering Authorities usually argued that the Trust Territories had not the basic conditions for independent existence or that the indigenous peoples were not yet ready to assume full responsibility for their own affairs. Those arguments had become somewhat threadbare and had been refuted many times. Furthermore, the conditions in the Trust Territories after thirty-five years of international protection were due to the attitude of the Administering Authorities.

16. There could not be any genuine political independence without economic independence. In the Trust Territories, as in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, all natural resources were in the hands of Europeans, not in those of the indigenous peoples. Indigenous labour was discriminated against and exploited. Many petitions had been received on the alienation of land, often the best land. The situation in that respect had not changed since the Seventh Session, when the Fourth Committee had discussed (286th to 291st meetings) the complaint of the Wa-Meru people.

17. The Trusteeship Council's report showed the many deficiencies of the educational systems and the lack of any proper measures to overcome them. The majority of indigenous children did not attend school; often as many as 90 per cent of the inhabitants were illiterate. Education was frequently left to missionary schools, despite the well-known fact that they had the lowest standards. The lack of secondary education was

common to all the Trust Territories. Little or nothing was being done to raise cultural standards.

18. A programme to accelerate the advancement of the Trust Territories toward self-government or independence must take into account the fundamental objectives of Article 76 of the Charter. The methods of colonial exploitation must be eliminated once and for all. The living standards of the indigenous peoples must be raised and their access to natural resources safeguarded. Economic development must be based on broad industrialization. Such a programme would never be realized, however, unless the Administering Authorities changed their attitude and adhered more closely to the provisions of the Charter and the decisions of the General Assembly. During the period of operation of the Trusteeship System, the United Nations had seen clearly the problems confronting them and had given the Administering Authorities many recommendations for changing and improving the prevailing state of affairs. Those recommendations had been almost entirely ignored by the Administering Authorities. It could be said that in the matter of progress towards self-government or independence, the Trust Territories were in a state of almost complete stagnation.

19. The Government and people of Poland felt the deepest sympathy for the aspirations of the indigenous people towards independence. The Polish delegation would support, as in the past, any just recommendations aimed at improving the situation in the Trust Territories and the conditions under which the indigenous peoples lived.

20. The current report of the Trusteeship Council summarized administrative methods and political conditions, and made certain criticisms. It would be well, however, for the Council to present more concrete, more precise and more resolute recommendations to the Administering Authorities. The Polish delegation would like future reports to reflect more fully the conditions under which the indigenous inhabitants lived, and to be imbued only with concern for the welfare of the peoples entrusted by the Charter to the care of the United Nations. His delegation would therefore be unable to support any resolutions which might imply restriction on the reporting of facts and observations on all the Trust Territories in general and on individual Territories in particular. It was also its considered opinion that representatives of the indigenous inhabitants should be more closely associated with the work of the United Nations on trusteeship matters by being enabled to participate fully in the activities of the Trusteeship Council. Resolutions directed towards that end would always meet with its support.

21. The inhabitants of the Trust Territories, like those of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, showed a trend toward playing an independent role in the history of their continents despite the obstacles placed in their way by the present system of administration of those Territories. It was the duty of the United Nations to assist them in their aspirations. He hoped that the current session would make new and useful recommendations to the Administering Authorities.

22. It was of course true that merely to adopt resolutions would achieve nothing; much, if not all, depended on their implementation. Nevertheless, United Nations resolutions had in many instances performed the useful role of influencing world public opinion, which could not be disregarded by the Administering Authorities.

23. The spirit and letter of the Charter and the trusteeship agreements expressed paramount concern for the well-being of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories. It was in that spirit that the Polish delegation had taken part in the debate and that it would form its attitude towards the proposed resolutions.

24. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Pakistan) stressed the vital importance of the International Trusteeship System. Within the framework of the general purposes embodied in the Preamble to the Charter, the International Trusteeship System had been set up with the specific objectives enumerated in Article 76 and more particularly in paragraphs b and c of that Article. The administration of the Trust Territories had been entrusted to various advanced nations and the Trusteeship Council had been established to supervise their activities, which should all tend towards the ultimate objective of self-government or independence.

25. Certain conditions were essential to the attainment of self-government or independence: complete freedom of association, speech and meeting; democratic institutions based on universal suffrage; and institutions and practices to ensure respect for human rights and equality. Medieval, undemocratic superstitions should be eliminated. The indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories should have full confidence in the good faith of the Administering Authorities and feel that the administration was being conducted in their interests, to train them for self-government.

26. A study of conditions in the Trust Territories, however, revealed quite a different situation. In Tanganyika, government was entirely in the hands of the Administering Authority. The Legislative Council was nominated, the official members being in the majority; it had no legislative powers and it did not provide for representation on the basis of numerical strength. The proposed constitutional development placed 7,850,000 Africans on the same representational footing as not quite 18,500 Europeans. There was racial discrimination in wages, educational facilities, and other aspects of life. Tanganyika was a rich country but its inhabitants were poor; the economy was controlled by non-indigenous people. Medieval tribal institutions, which stood in the way of progress and the development of democratic institutions, were encouraged.

27. A similar situation prevailed in the Cameroons under French administration. There was a dual electoral system based on racial discrimination; "democracy" was limited to the notables; tribal institutions were encouraged; the Territorial Assembly had no power to legislate or discuss political questions; the number of European administrative personnel had increased since 1949; passports were being refused for political reasons; and the school facilities were inadequate. The numerous petitions received by the Trusteeship Council contained complaints of forced labour, oppression by the chiefs, the banning of political meetings, the prevention of the circulation of political pamphlets, unjust imprisonment, persecution by village chiefs, unjust land alienation and other abuses. The World Federation of Trade Unions had complained (T/PET.5/215) that its publications were prohibited.

28. Somaliland under Italian administration was in a special position owing to the early date set for its independence. The frontier problem between Ethiopia and the Trust Territory of Somaliland was a cause of hardship to the Somali people in the frontier zone and adversely affected the general economy of the Trust

Territory. Attempts to settle the dispute by direct negotiation had so far proved fruitless and the United Nations should now set a time limit for settling the dispute by that means, after which it should propose mediation and arbitration.

29. He drew attention to the Administering Authority's proposals for expanding the Territorial Council (A/2680, p. 100). Since the great majority of the members would be chosen by indirect election from the nomadic areas which were more or less under the control of the Administering Authority's agents, the new "elected" Territorial Council would in fact be dominated by men hand-picked by the Administering Authority and could scarcely be called a democratic body. Moreover, it was clear from the report of the Colombian delegation on the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration (T/1116) that the Administering Authority had assumed the right to recognize and suspend associations. There was no provision for any appeal to the courts in the case of an abuse of that power. The Administration also reserved the right to disperse any public meeting if there were demonstrations or shouting. In democratic countries, it was normal for intruders to be dispersed and for the authorities to protect the meeting rather than to disperse it at the first shout or demonstration from any quarter. Such ordinances could scarcely be regarded as compatible with freedom of association and assembly or as a step towards educating the Somalis in self-government. In a number of other respects, conditions in Somaliland were unsatisfactory. The Administering Authority had introduced identity cards for the indigenous population. Racial discrimination in wages prevailed. There was a great shortage of water and consequent suffering, but measures for the development of ground water resources did not seem very encouraging. The judiciary was not yet fully independent of the executive. Lastly, there were no higher educational institutions in the Territory.

30. The superior knowledge of the advanced nations should not be used to enslave the peoples of the Trust Territories and exploit their resources for colonial interests. He reminded the Administering Authorities that international trusteeship was a sacred trust of civilization and not veiled annexation or conquest draped in the veil of morality. The methods adopted by one administering Power in its North African possessions could not be tolerated in the Trust Territories.

31. The political, economic, educational, social and public health conditions in the Trust Territories gave little indication of when those Territories would be fit for self-government. He reminded the Committee of the terms of General Assembly resolutions 558 (VI) and 752 (VIII). It was unfortunate that none of the Administering Authorities had seen fit to indicate in their reports the estimated period of time needed for preparing the Trust Territories for self-government. In the circumstances, it would be wise for the United Nations to consider sending a special mission to the Trust Territories to make a detailed examination of conditions in order to ascertain how much time must elapse before the self-government could be attained. The United Nations had pledged itself to lead the dependent peoples to self-government; it must redeem that pledge.

32. In conclusion, he sounded a note of warning to the Administering Authorities. Unless the administration of the Trust Territories improved and the indige-

nous inhabitants were convinced of the good faith of the Administering Authorities, the Trust Territories would be lost to the free world. His delegation looked forward to the day in the near future when those Territories would take their seats as sovereign independent Members of the United Nations.

33. Mr. KAISR (Czechoslovakia) hoped that the Administering Authorities would receive his remarks in the constructive spirit in which they were offered.

34. Somaliland under Italian administration deserved the Committee's particular attention. It was the only Trust Territory under the administration of a non-member State and the only Trust Territory for which a time limit for the attainment of independence had been set. Barely six years remained before 1960, a date which the United Nations and the Administering Authority must respect, unless they wished to provoke very unfavourable reactions in Somaliland and all the other Trust Territories. It would not be true to say that the Administering Authority had done nothing in Somaliland, but the rate of development had not been sufficiently fast if the approach of the year 1960 was borne in mind. Municipal elections had been held in Somaliland in 1953 but the manner in which they had been conducted was not in conformity with the spirit and principles of General Assembly resolution 755 (VIII). Furthermore, numerous petitions from widely separated areas showed that the elections had not been completely free from discrimination against the indigenous population, and particularly certain sectors of it. His delegation endorsed the Council's recommendation that "immediate steps should be taken for the greater association of Somalis in all the organs of the administration, and their appointment to posts of higher responsibility" (A/2680, page 99).

35. The economic development plan prepared by the Administering Authority took partially into account the economic structure of the country and some of the recommendations made by the Trusteeship Council at its twelfth session. The important point, however, was that, in carrying out the plan, the Administering Authority should consistently bear in mind the paramount interests of the indigenous inhabitants and co-operate closely with the Advisory Council for Somaliland and all sections of the indigenous population; the greatest possible use should be made of all the Territory's economic resources.

36. In the coming year, the Advisory Council would be confronted with great responsibilities not only in connexion with the implementation of the economic development plan but also with the delimitation of the frontier between Ethiopia and Somaliland. The urgency of the frontier problem had been stressed by the Trusteeship Council, the Colombian representative and a number of other speakers. If any satisfactory solution was to be reached, the opinion of the Somali people, particularly in the frontier areas, must necessarily be ascertained. Before any resolution or recommendation was adopted, all the political representatives of the people, regardless of their political affiliations, should be consulted.

37. Under Article 76 b of the Charter, independence was the ultimate objective for the other ten Trust Territories, too. The principal task of the Administering Authorities was to hasten the attainment of independence and the Members of the United Nations should help them to abide by that undertaking. The ten years that had elapsed since the San Francisco Confer-

ence were a long enough period to make it possible to view any progress towards independence in its true perspective. Self-government and independence were the just aspirations of all colonial and dependent peoples. The great movement for national liberation was one of the most characteristic features of the modern world and the motive power behind all advancement in the colonial and dependent Territories.

38. In resolution 558 (VI), the General Assembly had invited all the Administering Authorities, except Italy, to include in their annual reports a rough estimate of the time which might be needed for the attainment of the objective of self-government or independence. Resolution 752 (VIII) had reaffirmed that resolution and specifically stated the tasks deriving from it. His delegation welcomed the new part III of the Trusteeship Council's report concerning measures intended to lead the Trust Territories to self-government or independence. On the other hand, the picture painted in part III gave no great cause for optimism. None of the relevant annual reports had contained any specific reference to resolution 558 (VI) or any information directly related to the estimate of the time needed for the attainment of self-government or independence. There were various possible explanations of the Administering Authorities' unwillingness to indicate such a date even approximately, but his delegation was not prepared to accept any of them for the time being, because it hoped that the Administering Authorities would reconsider their position and recognize that their attitude was unfounded.

39. Another important aspect of the problem was the steps which were being taken or should be taken by the Administering Authorities to ensure the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the administrative and legislative bodies in their respective Territories. In that connexion, the picture given in part III of the Council's report was far from satisfactory. After ten years of trusteeship, the Administering Authorities retained almost all the legislative, executive and judicial powers exclusively in their hands. There was very little difference between the situation in Tanganyika, Ruanda-Urundi, the two Cameroons, the two Togolands or Nauru. In those Territories where there was a legislative body, such as the Legislative Council in New Guinea, Government officials formed a majority and the legislative decisions were subject to formal assent by or on behalf of the Administering Authorities. That state of affairs should be remedied immediately. The Administering Authorities should establish true legislative bodies based on universal suffrage for all without discrimination and they should greatly increase the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in all branches of the administration.

40. There was growing criticism of the unsatisfactory way in which petitions were examined. The Committee and the Trusteeship Council should draw up some procedure to ensure the detailed and conscientious examination of all petitions. Petitions were one of the most important direct contacts between the Council and the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories; they provided additional information on conditions in the Territories and reflected public opinion there to an increasing extent, as for example in the petition from the population of the Marshall Islands (T/PET.10/28), which was particularly important.

41. The principle of self-determination was the key-stone of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights and it should be the guiding principle in the political development of the Trust Territories. The indigenous peoples exercised their right to self-determination in different ways. One of the most significant was the attempt of nations and tribes which had been divided between different Territories and different Administering Authorities by artificial frontiers, as in the Cameroons and Togoland, to achieve integration and unification. The Administering Authorities' resistance to such justified attempts ran counter to the principle of self-determination and the principles of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

42. The same principles were violated by the so-called administrative unions which had been so frequently criticized and condemned in the Committee. In almost every case, those unions had been transformed into political unions, which implied the danger of annexation and seriously impeded the advancement of the Trust Territories towards self-government or independence. The Administering Authorities of the Trust Territories of Tanganyika, New Guinea, Ruanda-Urundi, the two Togolands and the two Cameroons should take decisive steps to establish true legislative organs in the Trust Territories and to ensure that the legislative and executive organs there were not subordinate to any bodies in the neighbouring colonies with which those Territories were united in so-called administrative unions.

43. Mrs. MENON (India) said that the report of the Trusteeship Council showed that some progress was being made in the Trust Territories, but that the rate was lamentably slow. Most of the Trust Territories had been under the same administration for more than thirty years, but few radical changes had been made nor any substantial progress. She realized the many genuine difficulties facing the Administering Authorities but regretted that the pace should be so unsatisfactory. Even if progress was made in one direction, it often lagged in others. One reason for the inadequate rate of advancement was the fact that no time limit had been fixed for the full independence of the Trust Territories, save in the special case of Somaliland. She felt that the Trusteeship Council should give the matter careful study and should fix a definite date for the independence of each Territory, depending on its circumstances and stage of development. Uncertainty as to their future fate increased the sense of insecurity among the indigenous inhabitants. She was sure that the fixing of a target date for independence would inspire them with strength and would show that the alleged apathy of subject peoples was merely a myth.

44. She noted with regret that the representative of France had energetically opposed the draft resolution on the participation of indigenous inhabitants in the work of the Trusteeship Council (A/C.4/L.332/Rev.1). She felt that in some cases the Administering Authorities tended to forget their clear responsibility to the United Nations in the case of the Trust Territories, which were indisputably the wards of the international community. Differences in background and tradition among the Administering Authorities should not be allowed to delay progress in the Trust Territories. Unfortunately, the report of the Trusteeship Council showed widely differing and irreconcilable patterns of development in the Trust Territories, bearing little or no relation to the principles of the Charter. There was no uniform policy in any administrative field. In the Territories under British administration, for example, great ad-

vances had been made in political training and in the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the administration. Unfortunately, owing to a reluctance to tamper with native custom, there was a tendency to leave social problems unsolved and to be content with a slow rate of progress in education. In Territories under French administration, on the other hand, educational facilities were greater owing to the fact that the peoples of those Territories were to be absorbed into the French Union as French citizens. She drew attention to different practices in regard to such social problems as polygamy in Territories under Belgian, British and French administration. There were similar discrepancies in all aspects of administration. The Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly should study the problem of evolving a common pattern of development for all Trust Territories, so that conditions would not be so diverse as they appeared in the report under discussion.

45. There was a growing tendency to regard the Trust Territories which had been brought into administrative union with neighbouring Non-Self-Governing Territories as being politically integrated into those Non-Self-Governing Territories. The people in the Trust Territories led happier lives because they always enjoyed the hope that the United Nations would protect their interests. The chief impression conveyed by the petitions was the petitioners' faith in the United Nations. The French representative had referred somewhat sarcastically to the Fourth Committee's eagerness to listen to petitioners. She herself looked forward to the day when there would be no Fourth Committee, because all the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories had achieved their independence. In the meantime, she sought to bring that day nearer by making suggestions for improved procedures. Since the time for the possible revision of the Charter was drawing close, the General Assembly should review its position with regard to the Trust Territories and means of accelerating their progress. She therefore agreed with the representative of Yugoslavia that the question of administrative unions which involved political integration should go to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion.

46. She also supported the suggestion of the representative of Indonesia that there should be no discussion on the problem of the frontier between Somaliland under Italian administration and Ethiopia until the report to be submitted by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1954, had been considered. In the last resort, frontier difficulties could be settled only at the human level, and she felt that the problem would solve itself when an independent Somaliland could negotiate with Ethiopia on an equal footing.

47. She reserved the right to speak on the draft resolutions which had been submitted at a later stage.

48. Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) appealed to the remaining speakers on the list for the general debate on the report of the Trusteeship Council to speak at the earliest opportunity, in order to leave the Committee time to hear the many petitioners who had asked to speak on the items of the agenda relating to Togoland. He noted that there were also several complicated resolutions to be debated and voted upon. In order to speed up the Committee's work, he proposed that 1 p.m. on Friday, 26 November 1954, should be made the time limit for the submission of draft resolutions on the report.

49. Mr. AZIZ (Afghanistan) supported the Venezuelan proposal.

50. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) proposed in addition that the same time should be made a limit for the submission of written amendments to draft resolutions already handed in.

51. The CHAIRMAN said that it would be understood that the adoption of such a decision would not prevent representatives from making oral amendments at a later stage, or sponsors of draft resolutions from altering them in the light of subsequent discussions.

52. Mr. ITANI (Lebanon) requested that the two proposals should be voted upon separately.

The Venezuelan proposal was adopted by 41 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The Belgian proposal was adopted by 18 votes to 7, with 17 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.