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President: Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Present:

The representatives of the following States members of the Trusteeship Council: Australia, Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Iraq, New Zealand, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

General procedure of the Trusteeship Council (General Assembly resolution 432 (V)) (*continued*)

[Agenda item 9]

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that at the previous meeting the Council had decided to enlarge the Committee on General Procedure from two to four members. Iraq and the United States were the present members of the Committee. He proposed that China and France should be added.

2. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked that the President's proposal should be put to the vote.

3. The PRESIDENT proceeded to take separate votes upon the appointment of the two representatives proposed as members of the Committee on General Procedure.

The appointment of China was approved by 9 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

The appointment of France was approved by 9 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

4. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that he had voted against the appointment of China, since the USSR delegation could not support the candidature of a representative who did not truly represent the Chinese people.

Dissemination of information on the United Nations and on the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories (General Assembly resolution 556 (VI)) (T/L.236) (*continued*)

[Agenda item 14]

5. Mr. HENRIQUEZ UREÑA (Dominican Republic) recalled that discussion of the draft resolution submitted by his delegation (T/L.236) had, at his request, been postponed from the previous meeting

in order to give him time to consider the comments made by various representatives.

6. Under rule 65 of its rules of procedure, the Council must consider the expenditure involved in any of its recommendations; he therefore proposed that discussion of the draft resolution should be further postponed until the Secretariat had provided the necessary information on the probable expenditure involved in the dissemination of information. He asked the Assistant Secretary-General for a report on that matter.

That proposal was adopted.

Educational advancement in Trust Territories (General Assembly resolution 557 (VI))

[Agenda item 15]

7. The PRESIDENT drew attention to General Assembly resolution 557 (VI), on educational advancement in Trust Territories. He suggested that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of the operative part of that resolution, the Council should request the Secretary-General to report to the current session on the arrangements which he proposed to make to ensure the efficient administration of all offers of scholarships, fellowships and internships for inhabitants of Trust Territories. The Council could take a final decision on the matter after considering that report.

It was so decided.

8. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) suggested that the Secretariat might also be asked to inform the Council whether any offers of scholarships had been received in response to the General Assembly resolution.

It was so decided.

Report of the Trusteeship Council (General Assembly resolution 559 (VI))

[Agenda item 16]

9. The PRESIDENT drew attention to General Assembly resolution 559 (VI). He assumed that, in accordance with its usual practice, the Council would wish to take note of that resolution and take the General Assembly's comments into consideration during its discussion of the problems concerned.

It was so decided.

Information on the implementation of Trusteeship Council and General Assembly resolutions relating to Trust Territories (General Assembly resolution 560 (VI))

[Agenda item 17]

10. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) explained that the draft resolution submitted by his delegation (T/L.235) was a natural sequel to General Assembly resolution 560 (VI).

11. The Council would note that the wording of paragraph 1 of the operative part of the Chinese draft resolution was almost identical with the wording of paragraph 5, the most important paragraph, of the

General Assembly resolution. Paragraph 2 of the draft resolution was merely a logical and necessary outcome of paragraph 1. He did not feel that there could be any objection to the draft resolution and he hoped that it would be adopted by the Council.

12. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation would not participate in the voting on the draft resolution because it had been submitted by the illegal Chinese representative on the Council.

13. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) strongly objected to the USSR representative's remark, which was contrary to the decision already reached by the Council and not in keeping with the ruling made by the President at the 386th meeting.

14. The PRESIDENT put the Chinese draft resolution (T/L.235) to the vote.

The resolution was adopted by 11 votes to none.

Nomination and appointment of women as members of visiting missions (Economic and Social Council resolution 385 E (XIII))

[Agenda item 20]

15. The PRESIDENT drew attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 385 E (XIII), adopted on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women. He suggested that the Council need only take note of that resolution and bring it to the attention of the members of the committee responsible for appointing the members of the visiting missions.

16. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) emphasized that his delegation attached great importance to the appointment of women as members of visiting missions, although it fully realized the difficulties involved in sending women to remote areas. He had not expected the Council to discuss that question quite so soon, however, and he requested that further discussion of it should be postponed in order to enable him to consult other delegations, with a view to preparing a draft resolution.

17. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) explaining that she had been the original sponsor of the resolution in the Commission on the Status of Women, thanked the representative of Iraq for his interest in the matter and supported his request that the discussion should be adjourned. All the visiting missions had done all expected of them; at the same time, the inclusion of women members would enable them to make a thorough study of the status of women in the Trust Territories. When the discussion was resumed, she would submit a number of suggestions to the Council.

18. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) also supported the Iraqi request for the discussion to be postponed.

19. He further suggested that a small committee might be set up to consider not only the question of the appointment of women as members of visiting missions but also General Assembly resolution 553 (VI), on the organization and methods of functioning of visiting missions, and the special report (T/951) of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust

Territories in East Africa, 1951, containing observations on the same question since all three documents dealt with interlocking problems.

20. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) had been surprised that, in view of the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council had considered it necessary to adopt a special resolution advocating the appointment of women members of visiting missions. His delegation, for one, would certainly not discriminate on the grounds of sex or, for that matter, race or religion, in considering the composition of visiting missions. Not only would any resolution by the Trusteeship Council be pointless, therefore; in his opinion it would also be an insult to the female sex.

21. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) was glad to note that the members of the Council, and in particular the representative of Belgium, ascribed mandatory force to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, though in fact that Declaration had moral force alone.

22. The PRESIDENT considered that the United States suggestion regarding the establishment of a special committee might more appropriately be considered in connexion with the next items on the agenda. He therefore proposed that the Iraqi representative's suggestion to postpone discussion of the Economic and Social Council resolution should be adopted.

It was so decided.

Arrangements for a periodic visiting mission to Trust Territories in West Africa

Organization and methods of functioning of visiting missions (General Assembly resolution 553 (VI))

The Ewe and Togoland unification problem (General Assembly resolution 555 (VI))

[Agenda items 5, 11 and 13]

23. The PRESIDENT stated that, in normal circumstances, the Council would arrange for the dispatch of a visiting mission to the four Trust Territories in West Africa in the latter part of the year. Nevertheless, in the case in point, the Council must take into consideration the recommendations on the organization and methods of functioning of visiting missions contained in General Assembly resolution 553 (VI), the desiderata expressed in resolution 555 (VI) with regard to the Ewe and Togoland unification problem, and the interesting special report by the Visiting Mission to East Africa (T/951). He therefore suggested that the three documents to which he had referred should be considered at the same time as the arrangements for a periodic visiting mission to Trust Territories in West Africa.

It was so decided.

24. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom), referring to paragraph 8 of the operative part of General Assembly resolution 555 (VI), observed that in deciding the date of the visiting mission's departure, the Council should take into consideration the question of how

soon it would be possible for the mission to examine the functioning of the joint council for Togoland affairs, consisting of representatives of the two Togolands, which the Administering Authorities proposed to establish.

25. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the operative part of the General Assembly resolution also affected the question. In accordance with those paragraphs, before the joint council could be set up the Administering Authorities would have to examine its terms of reference and adjust or extend them as might seem proper in order to conform to the General Assembly resolution, in consultation with the representatives of the peoples concerned. As the United Kingdom delegation had said in the Fourth Committee,¹ it considered the joint council's existing terms of reference to be such as to enable it to consider all aspects of the Ewe and Togoland unification problem and to make recommendations thereon. In the light of the dissident views expressed in the Fourth Committee, however, the United Kingdom Government, in consultation with the French Government, was reconsidering the matter. The representatives of the peoples concerned would also have to be consulted when the means of doing so had been decided by the Administering Authorities.

26. Moreover, the Administering Authorities would have to consult the various parties and groups concerned with a view to devising satisfactory procedures for the election of representatives to the joint council. Members of the Trusteeship Council would recall that the two Administering Authorities had informed the Fourth Committee that they proposed to establish the joint council in January 1952. If that proposal had been accepted, the joint council would already have been in operation, but some doubts had been expressed and the Administering Authorities had been requested to re-examine the procedures for election in consultation with the groups and parties concerned. That would have to be done before arrangements for the elections could be made, and the Administering Authorities were at present considering what methods should be adopted in carrying out those consultations.

27. The foregoing remarks applied both to Togoland under British administration and Togoland under French administration. With specific reference to the situation in Togoland under British administration, he recalled that at the ninth session of the Trusteeship Council the United Kingdom delegation had reported a substantial advance in the democratization of the central Government of the Gold Coast and Togoland under British administration following general elections which had resulted in the establishment of an almost completely African government. That important and successful experiment had required a great effort of public education and administration, and the Administering Authority was now about to embark on the complementary process of developing parallel democratic measures of local and regional self-government. In the past year there had been great changes in the machinery and operation of the central Government; the principle of universal representation already put into effect in elections to the central Government was

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Fourth Committee, 226th meeting.*

being extended to local government organs, and local government elections based on universal suffrage were expected to take place throughout the country in April, May and June. At first sight that might appear rather lengthy, but the reason was that for the first time a number of people were engaging in a somewhat novel political exercise; before the actual elections, which would be in several stages, could take place, a vast programme of public education would have to be put into effect. The arrangements for that programme were almost complete. Teams had been despatched to the villages to instruct the people by films, pamphlets and other means in the procedure of electing their own representatives. The people were taking a difficult political step and it was vitally important that they should understand exactly what was happening.

28. The people of Togoland would be considering a proposal which meant the absorption of the existing Southern Togoland Council in a Trans-Volta Southern Togoland Council which would for the first time bring the Ewes of the Gold Coast and those of Southern Togoland into working partnership. That was part of the development of regional government in West Africa, and it was anticipated that it would be warmly welcomed by the peoples of the Trust Territory, who would find greater opportunities in a larger unit for progressive participation in the direction of their own affairs at the regional level. As a result of the dissolution of the Southern Togoland Council some new method of election or confirmation in office of the Togoland members of the Central Legislative Assembly would have to be devised. There would have to be new legislation dealing with the executive side of local government, the establishment of state councils and the development of the Native Authorities into more modern forms of local administration.

29. In all those circumstances the United Kingdom Government would be extremely reluctant to complicate the already complicated issue by holding simultaneous elections to other bodies. Each of the innovations mentioned was a practical step in political advancement and would tax to the limit the ability of the people to participate. There would be great danger of confusion if an attempt were made to superimpose another set of elections, and the whole effect of the political changes now being made might well be stultified. In 1950 there had been considerable confusion because the elections to the central Government and those to the Enlarged Anglo-French Standing Consultative Commission for Togoland Affairs had been held simultaneously.

30. The United Kingdom was therefore unable to hold out any prospect that the election to the joint council would be held before the end of June or, more likely, some time in July. The joint council could not therefore be in operation before the end of July or early August, and the end of August or early September appeared to be the earliest date at which it would be practicable or useful for the visiting mission to examine its functioning.

31. Furthermore, if the visiting mission were to arrive in Togoland during the Trusteeship Council's summer session, the special representatives for Togoland, who were the officers who made all the arrangements for the visiting missions, would be in New York.

It seemed unlikely that they would be able to leave New York before the end of July at the earliest.

32. For all those reasons the United Kingdom Government considered that the visiting mission could not profitably arrive in West Africa before 1 September.

33. Moreover, the rainy season in Togoland was from June to September and travelling in the country was hardly practicable before mid-October.

34. The previous United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa had left New York at the end of October. By advancing the date two months the Council would already be making a serious effort to comply with the General Assembly resolution in so far as was compatible with the actual situation.

35. Mr. PIGNON (France) said that on 30 March 1952, in accordance with a recently adopted law, elections to the Representative Assembly of the Territory would be held in Togoland under French administration on a new principle, i.e., that of a single electoral college. For the time being, therefore, it was impossible for the Administration, as suggested in the General Assembly resolution, to consult the representatives of the peoples concerned. After 30 March they would be able, with some chance of success, to start negotiations with the representatives of the different political parties.

36. He entirely supported the suggestions made by the United Kingdom representative, which were the only practical ones in the light of the geographical and political factors involved.

37. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) said his delegation had hoped that a special mission would be able to leave New York for West Africa shortly after the beginning of the current session of the Trusteeship Council, but apparently there were difficulties in the way. If the majority of the members of the Council agreed to postpone sending the visiting mission, he would not oppose their decision, on the clear understanding that the delay was in part due to the General Assembly's desire that the new joint council for Togoland affairs should be seen in actual operation. Moreover, the Trusteeship Council should be careful not to prejudice the new governmental system in the Gold Coast, even though that territory did not come within its purview, or to hinder the setting up of the joint council for Togoland affairs, which had been agreed to by the Trusteeship Council at its ninth session (resolution 345 (IX)).

38. One condition, he felt, must be made and that was that enough time should be allowed both the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly to study the report of the visiting mission thoroughly before a decision was taken at the next session of the General Assembly.

39. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) had been much impressed by the considerations put forward by the United Kingdom representative and was sure that the Council would not wish any action to be taken that might in any way prejudice the experiment in progressive democracy that was going forward on the Gold Coast.

40. The following suggestion, however, might meet the case: the visiting mission could leave New York not later than mid-August of 1952, arriving in Togo-

land by 1 September, ready to begin its investigations. It should spend a full month in Togoland, write its report there and dispatch it to New York by mid-October, in time for consideration by the Council at an adjourned part of its eleventh session, opening in early November. That would enable the Council to make its report to the seventh session of the General Assembly, in accordance with the General Assembly resolution.

41. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) was most interested in the United States representative's suggestion, which reconciled the needs of the situation with compliance with the General Assembly resolution.

42. He wondered whether the United States representative intended that there should be one single visiting mission, which, having made its study of Togoland and the Ewe problem and written and dispatched its report, would proceed forthwith to the Cameroons, or whether he envisaged two separate missions, one for Togoland and the other for the Cameroons.

43. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) thought it would be more practical for the same mission to visit both Territories, in view of the possible difficulty of finding members of the Trusteeship Council available to serve on visiting missions.

44. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) asked if the Secretariat could prepare a working paper showing the financial implications of the proposal, for consideration before the Council made its decision.

45. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) thought that the financial question was part of the more general question of the organization and functioning of visiting missions, which had yet to be discussed.

46. The PRESIDENT stressed the desirability of the Council's deciding without delay the date of departure of the visiting mission that was to investigate the Togoland and Ewe question.

47. Mr. HOO (Assistant Secretary-General) pointed out that there might be considerable difficulty if the adjourned part of the Trusteeship Council's session were to coincide with the General Assembly, for all the Secretariat which normally serviced the meetings of the Council would be concentrated upon the General Assembly. It might be possible, of course, to engage temporary help, but that would necessitate additional credits.

48. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) added that it would also be impossible for the Trusteeship Council and the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly to meet simultaneously.

49. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether, in view of the fact that the United States proposal entailed the adjournment of part of the Council's eleventh session, which would raise other difficulties, the Council could postpone decision upon the proposal until its following meeting.

The Council agreed to postpone further consideration of the United States proposal until its following meeting, when the proposal would be circulated in writing.

50. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) recalled that when resolution 555 (VI) had been voted upon in the Gen-

eral Assembly he had abstained, since he had considered that it was quite unrealistic to expect that the Administering Authorities could do all that was required of them in paragraphs 5 and 6, that a visiting mission could be sent to study the question and to report on it to the Trusteeship Council, and that the Council could meet to discuss that report and prepare its own report, all in time for the seventh session of the General Assembly.

51. While he was ready to support any formula acceptable to the Council as a whole, he felt bound to express strong reservations with regard to the value of a report drawn up under those conditions and of the work the Council would be able to perform if it met while the General Assembly was in session.

52. The PRESIDENT recalled the United States representative's proposal that a small committee should be set up to consider the question of the appointment of women as members of visiting missions, the organization and methods of functioning of visiting missions and the report of the 1951 Visiting Mission to East Africa. He proposed that the committee should consist of the representatives of the Dominican Republic, New Zealand, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

53. Upon the proposal of Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand), the PRESIDENT amended his proposal, suggesting the Australian representative in place of the New Zealand representative.

54. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked for a separate vote to be taken upon each member proposed for the committee.

55. The PRESIDENT proceeded to take separate votes upon the appointment of the four representatives proposed to form the committee.

The appointment of Australia was approved by 10 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The appointment of the Dominican Republic was approved by 11 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The appointment of Thailand was approved by 11 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The appointment of the United Kingdom was approved by 10 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

56. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) explained that he had voted in favour both of representatives of States that were not Administering Authorities and of those of Administering Authorities, for he thought that all members of the Trusteeship Council were equally qualified to serve on its committees.

57. In reply to a question by Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), the PRESIDENT confirmed that the question of the terms of reference of visiting missions would be taken up by the Council itself and not by the Committee.

Participation of the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories in the work of the Trusteeship Council (General Assembly resolution 554 (VI))

[Agenda item 12]

58. Mr. PIGNON (France) proposed that the discussion of the question of the participation of the in-

digenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories in the work of the Trusteeship Council, which was one of the most important items on the Council's agenda, should be postponed to a future meeting. He, for one, was anxious to take part in the discussion but was not quite ready to do so at the moment.

59. The PRESIDENT put the French representative's proposal to the vote.

The proposal was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.