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TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL

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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 representative of the following State non-member of the Trusteeship Council: Italy.

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

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

[Agenda item 12]

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that at its 408th meeting the Council had adopted resolution 426 (X) setting up a committee to consider the possibility of associating the inhabitants of the Trust Territories more closely with the work of the Council.
2. He proposed that El Salvador, France, Iraq, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States should be appointed members of the Committee.

*It was so decided.*

**Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the administration of the Trust Territory of Nauru (T/924, T/956) (continued)**

[Agenda item 3 (b)]

**REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE (T/L.244 and Corr.1, T/L.250)**

3. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) pointed out that there was an error in document T/L.244/Corr.1, in the sub-section entitled "Public finance," in the section on economic advancement; the words "Capitation Repeal Tax Ordinance" should be "Capitation Tax Repeal Ordinance".
4. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stated that his delegation could not accept the documents before the Council; the working paper on conditions in Nauru prepared by the Secretariat (T/L.244 and Corr.1) had been drawn up exclusively on the basis of information provided by the Administering Authority and did not take into account the remarks made by the members of the Council and especially by the USSR delegation during the examination of the annual report.
5. Similarly, the recommendations in the report of the Drafting Committee (T/L.250) ignored the real position in the Territory and especially the hard lot of the population; they also said nothing about the Soviet Union delegation's recommendations during the examination of the annual report, although the purpose of those recommendations had been precisely to emphasize the difficult position of the indigenous inhabi-

tants had to cause the Administering Authority to observe the provisions of the Charter on the International Trusteeship System.

6. The USSR delegation would therefore be unable to accept the documents and the proposals they contained; in certain cases it would vote against them; and in other cases it would abstain.

7. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the working paper on conditions in Nauru prepared by the Secretariat (T/L.244 and Corr.1).

*The working paper was adopted by 9 votes to 1.*

8. The PRESIDENT then put to the vote the draft recommendations contained in the Drafting Committee's report (T/L.250).

*Recommendation 1 was adopted by 9 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.*

*Recommendation 2 was adopted by 10 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.*

*Recommendation 3 was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

*Recommendation 4 was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

*Recommendation 5 was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.*

9. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed the deletion of the word "further" from recommendation 6; the Administering Authority had not yet done anything to improve the very bad conditions of the Chinese workers.

*The USSR amendment was rejected by 8 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.*

*Recommendation 6 was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.*

*Recommendation 7 was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

*Recommendation 8 was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

*Recommendation 9 was adopted by 8 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.*

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

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

[Agenda items 11 and 20]

#### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VISITING MISSIONS (T/L.249)**

10. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom), Chairman of the Committee on Visiting Missions, expressed the Committee's regret that it had not been possible for it to have summary records of its meetings; that fact was the more regrettable since some very interesting remarks had been made in the Committee by former chairmen and members of visiting missions and by Secretariat officials who had taken part in the work

of the missions. The Committee on Visiting Missions therefore wished to draw the Trusteeship Council's attention to the question and to suggest that the Committee on General Procedure might consider the desirability of providing summary records for the committees of the Council other than standing committees.

11. The report of the Committee on Visiting Missions contained no observations on the role of the Secretariat in visiting missions. The members of the Committee were generally satisfied with the manner in which the Secretariat had hitherto served the missions, and especially with the procedure of appointing an expert official for each Territory. The Secretary-General was finally responsible for the organization of secretarial services for visiting missions and would no doubt take the opinions expressed by members of the Committee into account.

12. General Assembly resolution 553 (VI) did not explicitly call upon the Council to report to the Assembly on what it had done to give effect to the resolution; nevertheless, the Committee considered that the Council's report to the General Assembly should contain an account of measures it had taken in that respect and a complete presentation of the report of the Committee on Visiting Missions.

13. He drew attention to paragraph 7 of the report, concerning the duration of visits and the number of Territories visited; in that connexion, he wished to emphasize that the Council should always bear the financial implications of its decisions in mind.

14. There was an error in the last sentence of paragraph 28 of the report; the phrase "as the mission has already indicated" should read "as the Committee has already indicated".

15. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) thought that the report submitted to the Council was of considerable importance to the development of the International Trusteeship System, in view of the valuable assistance it would give the Council in sending visiting missions to all Trust Territories.

16. The United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1951, had submitted to the Council a report (T/951) on the essential problems confronting visiting missions; as Chairman of that mission, he expressed his gratitude to the members of the Committee, who had considered the report with great care and understanding.

17. The Committee's recognition of the importance of the provisions of Article 87 of the Charter concerning periodic visits to Trust Territories was praiseworthy. Indeed, the missions were the Council's best method of carrying out the responsibilities entrusted to it. In his opinion, visiting missions and petitions represented the very basis of the International Trusteeship System. In that connexion, he hoped that the Standing Committee on Petitions would take note of the remarks in paragraph 30 of the report, on the many communications addressed to visiting missions by the inhabitants of the Trust Territories.

18. He wished to thank the various persons mentioned in the report; their valuable collaboration had made it possible to draw up that document. In partic-

ular, he thanked Mr. Mathieson, who had shown great competence as Chairman of the Committee. He asked that Miss Bernardino, who was a member of the Commission on the Status of Women, might be allowed to make a statement on that part of the report which referred to the appointment of women as members of visiting missions.

19. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) stated her delegation's conviction that it would be desirable to appoint women as members of visiting missions. In some Trust Territories, the customs and traditions which gave women a status inferior to that of men had the force of law, and such a situation could not but hamper the advancement of women in Trust Territories. Moreover, the Charter provided that one of the purposes of the International Trusteeship System was to promote the progressive development of all the inhabitants of the Trust Territories, without distinction as to sex. She was convinced that the work of visiting missions on the status of women in Trust Territories would be greatly facilitated if women were allowed to participate in it. She therefore appealed to members of the Council to adopt the part of the report which dealt with that question (T/L.249, para. 21).

20. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that his delegation could not accept the principle that countries which were not members of the Trusteeship Council might be asked to appoint representatives to take part in the work of visiting missions.

21. Moreover, taken as a whole, the report contained no concrete proposal that would improve the organization and functioning of visiting missions. Specifically, the Committee should have emphasized the need for the Council to give careful attention to the terms of reference of the various visiting missions.

22. He would therefore abstain from voting on the Committee's report.

23. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) considered the report submitted to the Council a very useful document, which might serve as guidance for visiting missions.

24. He fully shared Miss Bernardino's views as to the participation of women in the work of visiting missions. It was a fact that, in many Trust Territories, women performed the most strenuous tasks, particularly agricultural labour, and yet equality of men and women was not recognized. It could not be denied that the presence of women on the visiting missions would contribute substantially to the emancipation of women in the Trust Territories.

25. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) pointed out that the report was especially significant because the chairmen of the visiting missions which had gone to some Trust Territories—two of whom represented Administering Authorities and two non-administering Powers—had been asked to present their views and suggestions regarding the organization and functioning of visiting missions to the Committee.

26. With regard to paragraph 14 of the report, it was clear that only visiting missions were in a position to make an impartial comparison of the progress of the various Trust Territories.

27. He agreed with the USSR representative that visiting missions should be given more precise instructions, but pointed out that the Committee had not overlooked that aspect of the matter, as paragraph 23 of the report showed.

28. Lastly, the reason why women had to do the most strenuous tasks, especially agricultural labour, in some Trust Territories was that, before the coming of the white man, the activities of the community had been divided so that while the women were working in the fields, the men were concerned with protecting them. At the present time, there were no longer wars among tribes, but the social structure could not be expected to change totally overnight for that reason alone. Moreover, it should be recalled that male labourers only were employed to carry out the Administering Authorities' programme.

29. Mr. PIGNON (France) and Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand) congratulated the Committee on its excellent work.

30. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) thanked the representatives of the Dominican Republic and Iraq and pointed out that Mr. de Marchena had made a major contribution to the Committee's work, both by his comments during meetings and by his part in the preparation of the special report of the Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa. He also thanked the other former chairmen of visiting missions and the Assistant Secretary-General for their valuable assistance to the Committee.

31. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolution set forth in the annex to the Committee's report (T/L.249).

*That resolution was adopted by 11 votes to none, with one abstention.*

#### **Arrangements for a periodic visiting mission to Trust Territories in West Africa (*continued*)**

[Agenda item 5]

32. The PRESIDENT recalled the terms of resolution 424 (X), adopted by the Council at its 389th meeting, concerning the visiting mission which was to go to Togoland under French administration and Togoland under British administration.

33. He asked the Council to consider whether the same mission should also visit the Cameroons under French administration and the Cameroons under British administration or whether a second mission should be sent to those Territories. The Council also had to decide the composition of one or both missions and how long the mission should stay in the two Cameroons.

34. Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand) proposed that the Council should send only one mission to West Africa and that it should visit the two Togolands and the two Cameroons.

*The proposal was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

35. Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand) proposed that the mission should be composed of rep-

representatives of Australia, Belgium, China and El Salvador.

36. At the request of Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), the PRESIDENT called for a separate vote on each of the candidates.

*Australia was appointed a member of the visiting mission by 10 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.*

*Belgium was appointed a member of the visiting mission by 11 votes to 1.*

*China was appointed a member of the visiting mission by 10 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.*

*El Salvador was appointed a member of the visiting mission by 11 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

37. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he had voted against the appointment of Australia and Belgium because his delegation believed that in principle visiting missions should be composed of representatives of non-administering Powers. He had voted against the appointment of China because there was no legitimate representative of that country in the Trusteeship Council.

38. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) had voted in favour of the appointment of Belgium to show that his Government accepted the mission entrusted to it by the Trusteeship Council.

39. In reply to the USSR representative's remarks, it could be argued that the representatives of Administering Authorities were better suited than other for membership of visiting missions because of their wide knowledge of the Territories. Nevertheless, he had voted for the appointment of China and El Salvador because he felt that all States members of the Trusteeship Council should be placed on a basis of absolute equality.

40. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) had voted for the representatives of Administering Authorities because he

saw no reason to depart from the tradition that seats on the various organs of the Council should be distributed equally between representatives of Administering Authorities and representatives of other Powers.

41. In reply to the USSR representative's remarks about the representation of China, he wished to protest against Mr. Soldatov's attitude in refusing to adhere to a decision which the Trusteeship Council had adopted at the 386th meeting by an overwhelming majority.

42. The PRESIDENT confirmed that the visiting mission to Trust Territories in West Africa would be composed of the representatives of Australia, Belgium, China and El Salvador. The Governments concerned would appoint those representatives and submit their names for the approval of the Trusteeship Council at its eleventh session.

43. He suggested that the terms of reference of the visiting mission should be decided by the Council at that session.

*It was so decided.*

44. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom), commenting on the length of the mission's visit to the Cameroons, proposed that the delegations of the four States named should consult among themselves, with the Administering Authorities of those Territories and with the Secretariat with a view to submitting a proposal to the Council before the close of the current session.

45. Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand) supported that proposal.

46. The PRESIDENT proposed that the results of the consultations should be communicated to the Council at its meeting on Monday, 31 March.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.