



CONTENTS

Page

Examination of the annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration for the year 1952 (T/1048, T/1053, T/1059, T/1061 and Add.1, T/1062 and Add.1, T/1064) (*continued*)

Statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Council for Somaliland concerning the agenda of the twelfth session 53

Questions concerning the Trust Territory and replies of the special representative (*continued*).....

General Assembly resolution 656 (VII): hearing of petitions from the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration 58

Examination of the annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration for the year 1952 (T/1048, T/1053, T/1059, T/1061 and Add.1, T/1062 and Add.1, T/1064) (*continued*)

General debate 63

President: Mr. Leslie Knox MUNRO (New Zealand).

Present:

The representatives of the following States members of the Trusteeship Council: Australia, Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, New Zealand, Syria, 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 representative of the following specialized agency: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Examination of the annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration for the year 1952 (T/1048, T/1053, T/1059, T/1061 and Add.1, T/1062 and Add.1, T/1064) (*continued*)

[Agenda item 4 (a)]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. de Holte Castello (Colombia), Mr. Hammad (Egypt) and Mr. Pas-trana (Philippines), representatives of States members of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration, and Mr. Spinelli, special representative of the Adminis-tering Authority for the Trust Territory, took places at the Council table.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SOMALILAND CONCERNING THE AGENDA OF THE TWELFTH SESSION

1. Mr. HAMMAD (Egypt): I should like to be permitted to say a few words about the document distributed today, dated 19 June, the agenda of the Trusteeship Council [T/1060]. We of the Advisory Council for Somaliland had hoped that the initial failure to mention our report [T/1048] in the provisional agenda [T/1050] in a clear way, as is specifically indicated in

the rules of procedure, would be corrected by the addition to the number of our report of at least a sentence to indicate the source of the report. Three days ago [462nd meeting], when the question of the participation of Mr. Issa in the work of the Council was examined, we had a lengthy discussion in which many members of the Trusteeship Council were eager to see a very strict application of the rules of procedure. Moreover, I must, to my regret, state that I addressed to the President, in my capacity as Chairman of the Advisory Council, a letter about the matter before this session. Up to the present, not even an acknowledgement of receipt has been sent to us.

2. If the Trusteeship Council judges that numbers of documents are a sufficient indication in the agenda, why is not the whole agenda composed only of numbers? That would certainly meet the claims for economy so highly desired by the Fifth Committee since 1946 and highly desired by my Colombian colleague and by me in the Fifth Committee.

3. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Egypt and the Chairman of the Advisory Council. I shall discuss this matter with the Secretariat this afternoon.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY AND REPLIES OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE (*continued*)

4. The PRESIDENT: We shall continue our examination of the annual report.¹ Are there any questions on the section dealing with education?

5. Mr. KHOMAN (Thailand): In the report it is stated that the budget for education amounts to 6,700,000 somalos. Can the special representative tell us roughly the breakdown of this amount; that is to say, what are approximately the amounts allotted for the various branches of education — primary, secondary, vocational and the other branches, if any?

6. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): I do not have the exact figures with me, so I cannot apportion the approximately one million dollars we are spending for education among the different branches of the educational organizations of the Territory; however, I would not be far from the real figure if I said that about 60 to 65 per cent of the total amount goes to primary education. Professional education is included in primary education. The rest is divided between secondary education and training for school teachers.

7. Mr. KHOMAN (Thailand): Is it the Adminis-tering Authority's policy to lay special stress on certain branches of education? Does it intend to lay a certain stress on the primary branch of education or does it prefer to lay stress on vocational or other branches of education?

8. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): When we arrived in the Territory, there were

¹ See *Rapport du Gouvernement italien à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration de tutelle de la Somalie, 1952*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome, 1953.

only about 2,000 pupils in the elementary schools. After two years' experience, we came to the conclusion that the real possibility open to us was to organize elementary education on a sound basis. We hope that at the end of a ten-year period we shall have 1,000 or 2,000 pupils in secondary schools. However, we cannot hope in so short a time — that is by 1960 — to have a good secondary school education system established; however, we shall do our best to achieve at that time an efficient and large elementary school organization. I think that that is the most we can hope for in such a limited period. At the same time we are working to develop the professional schools. When we arrived in Somaliland in 1950, there were no more than two or three professional schools. Now we have dozens of schools and professional courses. If we include the military and police schools, I think that altogether we have about fifty or sixty; thus, while we are concentrating our efforts on elementary education, we hope by the end of the period to have every child in the country, in the towns and in the villages of the Territory, attending elementary schools from the ages of 6 or 7 to 12 or 13. We shall also not spare any effort towards a good organization of professional and secondary schools.

9. Mr. ZONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): In section 243 of the Administering Authority's report, it is stated that 16,625 children attended school in 1952, while in section 248 it is stated that there were in all 190,000 children of school age in the country, of whom 45,000 belonged to the settled population. I should like to ask the special representative to inform us whether these figures are correct and whether it is true that only 16,000 children out of the total number of 190,000 children of school age attended school last year.

10. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): I think that we have discussed Somaliland sufficiently up to this moment to know that what we found in Somaliland in 1950 is a reality that we cannot change in ten or twenty years, let alone three years. Thus, in giving figures of the general school-age population, it is better to say something which is precise.

11. Naturally, if there are 1,200,000 people in Somaliland, there is a scholastic population of 150,000 if we consider the children from the ages of 6 to 12 or 13. I think I have said at least twenty times during the last few days that about 70 per cent of the population lives in the bush. That part of the population is nomadic, and we have not as yet been able to reach it for educational purposes. I would not imagine that the Soviet Union representative expects us to perform miracles. We have, after all, been administering the Territory for only three years, and during this first period we must confine our activities in the educational field to the settled population, which is composed of about 300,000 persons, or a school-age population of about 35,000. Three years ago 2,800 children were attending school. Last year there were 16,000 children attending school, and for the next school year — that is, the period beginning in about five or six weeks — we expect the figure to be from 22,000 to 24,000. I think these figures indicate that we have done our best.

12. Mr. ZONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): I had not expected such a circumstantial answer from the special representative. I merely wished to ask how far the figures which I have before me (in the Russian text of the report) are correct. I should like to say to the special representative that the USSR delegation does not expect miracles from the Administering Authority. We have no reason to believe that

miracles are possible in this matter. What I am concerned with is not miracles, but a concrete question and receiving a concrete answer to it.

13. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): I gave the figures. I said that, as regards the entire population, there were 150,000 persons of school age and that, as regards the settled population, there were 35,000 persons of school age, 16,000 of whom were actually attending school last year. I also said that we were expecting from 22,000 to 24,000 members of the settled population to attend school during the next school year.

14. Mr. ZONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): In that case the figures do not tally. In section 248 I see the following figures: a total of 190,000 children of school age and 45,000 children of school age among the settled populations; whereas the special representative has mentioned 150,000 and 35,000. I should like to know which of these figures are correct.

15. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): Of course, one cannot give exact figures in connexion with a country which does not have a census. In giving figures of this kind, one must first of all make clear whether one is speaking of primary schools, secondary schools and so forth. In my last reply to the Soviet Union representative, I was speaking of the six-year term of the primary schools.

16. I might add in this connexion that the percentage of school-age population will not vary too much from country to country. There are, of course, small differences, but even a person not familiar with the Territory could calculate the percentage of school-age persons in a population of, say, 1,200,000.

17. Mr. TARAZI (Syria): In section 243, page 209, of the annual report there is a mention of the Somali language and the report indicates that Somali has no written alphabet. Elsewhere in the report we learn that there are several Somali dialects. What are these dialects? Has anything been done to establish an alphabet or to replace the dialects by another language?

18. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): Somaliland is a very large country, and there is a considerable number of dialects. I do not know any of the dialects, but I have heard from many persons during my long stay in the country that every Somali can understand almost all the dialects.

19. The problem in this connexion is not so much which dialect to choose but which alphabet to choose. I understand that almost all the Somalis agree that the dialect from the Mudugh, with some modifications taken from the language of the big centres like Mogadiscio, could serve as the basis of the official Somali language.

20. On the other hand, there is no agreement at all on the choice of an alphabet, as I said before. Persons who have studied the problem of choosing an alphabet for the written language have different ideas. There are some who think that the Osmani alphabet, which was invented by a Somali from the northern part of Somaliland — a man by the name of Osman — about twenty-five years ago, could be accepted, with some modification, as the best alphabet. There are others who think that perhaps the Latin alphabet would be the best. Others are inclined toward the Arabic alphabet, and still others toward the international phonetic alphabet. At the present stage, I think that is the main difficulty that confronts us in regard to establishing a written Somali language.

21. Mr. TARAZI (Syria): There is a reference in section 245, page 212, of the report, to the permanent members of the Central Educational Council, which is an advisory organ of the Department of Public Education. One of the members of the Board listed is the representative of the Apostolic Vicariate. Is the Apostolic Vicariate regarded as an official authority in Somaliland? If so, I should like to know why.
22. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): When we began our work in Somaliland, we realized that the big problem was to find teachers for the schools. We had there about fifty or sixty members of the Catholic missions — or perhaps more if we include the nuns who were there — who knew Somaliland quite well and who had been teaching in their private schools. We decided to take them into the Administration's educational organization. I do not know the exact number, but we now have quite a great many priests and nuns teaching in our schools. That is why there is a representative of the Apostolic Vicariate. He more or less represents all these Catholic teachers, who constitute about one-fifth or one-sixth of all the teachers of the Territory.
23. Mr. TARAZI (Syria): In section 247, the last paragraph on page 213, there is a mention of private schools "reserved for the members of the political parties which have set up and own the schools". Do the political parties have their own schools and, if so, are the schools controlled by the Administration?
24. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): The political parties in Somaliland have quite a number of schools; there are ten or twelve altogether, I think. I cannot say that there is direct control by the Administration, because we passed a law last year according to which anybody in Somaliland has the right to open a school as long as certain conditions are fulfilled. In that law, we did not establish any direct control over the schools, because we felt that if we exercised control over them, most of the schools would have to be closed since their standards, as regards curriculum, are very low. Except for one school in Mogadiscio, which is quite well organized by a political party, all the other schools of this type have such low standards that really they should all be closed. However, since we feel, as I said before, that the need for educational instruction in Somaliland is so great that we should not discourage any initiative, we did not establish in the law that we passed last year any direct control over the schools.
25. Mr. TARAZI (Syria): In the last paragraph of section 251, on page 218, it is stated that the credits allocated for education in 1952 represent 10 per cent of the total civil expenditures. Since, as Danton said, education is, next to bread, the first need of the people, I should like to ask the special representative why only 10 per cent of Somaliland's total budget is spent on it.
26. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): I agree with the representative of Syria that 10 per cent is not the percentage that should be spent for education. However, in the last two years — that is, since 1951 — we have increased our educational expenditures quite substantially. According to our plan for the development of education, the percentage spent for education should be increased by 1956-1957 — that is, in five scholastic years from now — by quite a good deal. I do not know the exact figure, but I think it will approach 17 or 18 per cent of the total expenditures of the Territory.
27. Mr. TARAZI (Syria): On page 222, in section 254, reference is made to a "certain lack of continued interest and lack of awareness of the importance of schooling on the part of many parents". This attitude on the part of the parents is considered an obstacle to regular school attendance. Has the Administration taken any measures to encourage the parents to send their children to school and to make sure that they attend it regularly?
28. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): That is one of the biggest problems confronting us in the educational field. At the beginning of the scholastic year, we have quite a large number of boys attending school, then, after one or two or three months, many of them disappear. We have therefore organized in many centres, and are organizing in all places where there are schools, school committees on which all sections of the population are represented, and in some places the effects of the work of these school committees have already been noticeable.
29. Mr. TARAZI (Syria): In section 255 of the report, page 227, dealing with the structure and the curricula of secondary schools, there is a reference to a school for aeronautical specialists. In fact, it is a school for radio operators and mechanics. Does the special representative think it proper to say that there is a school of aeronautics when in fact there are courses for radio operators and mechanics? There is no training course for pilots.
30. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): It is called a school of aeronautics because it was built by means of private contributions from the staff of the Italian Air Force in Somaliland, but its function is merely to prepare radio mechanics not only for aeronautic needs in Somaliland, but also for other needs. If I am not mistaken, the first radio operators who graduated from the school in 1951 were employed immediately by the postal and telegraphic organizations and by another organization as well. Until now, this school of aeronautics has not considered it necessary to give special courses for pilots, but I think that within the next year or two a course for pilots will be established by the air force in Somaliland.
31. Mr. TARAZI (Syria): In section 256, page 227, reference is made to the School of Political Administration, and it is explained that this is a first attempt to provide higher education. Does the Administration intend sooner or later to establish courses of higher education? The need for higher education remains constant.
32. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland) I believe this paragraph indicates that we consider this school as a college, or, rather, as something which will become a college in a few years' time. We do not think that within the next seven and a half years we shall be able to establish more than a college of that type. As I said a few moments ago, we are confronted with the vast problem of organizing in ten years — which is anything but an easy task, I can assure the Council — good primary schools which 70,000 or 80,000 pupils will be able to attend; but, as far as a college for political and administrative training is concerned, we really cannot dream of anything beyond the type that now exists. To think of building a medical college or a school of science actually would mean that we should be disregarding the reality of the situation in the country.

33. Mr. TARAZI (Syria): In the circumstances, and as Somaliland is to become a completely independent State within ten years, where will it find magistrates? The question bears thinking about.
34. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): By means of this School of Political Administration, which prepares students for work in both administrative and legal fields, we shall have a certain number of young Somalis who will be ready to function as judges. As a matter of fact, we expect to have from that school two or three judges in about four years from now.
35. There is also a school of Islamic science, which was opened last year and in which professors from El-Azhar University in Cairo are teaching. Of course, these judges will not have the high qualifications provided by attendance at a real university in Cairo or other Arab countries, but they will be much better prepared than the *cadis* who are today the judges in Somaliland.
36. Mr. TARAZI (Syria): In section 258 of the report, on page 230, dealing with the composition and qualifications of the teaching staff, it is stated that "in the private schools instruction is given, with only a few exceptions, by indigenous inhabitants who have not pursued regular studies and have no certificates or diplomas". The special representative has just told us that the Administration does not supervise these private schools or, at any rate, the private schools owned by the political parties. Do these private schools nevertheless follow a curriculum drawn up by the Administration or, at the very least, the same curriculum as is used in the official schools?
37. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): I am sorry that my previous answer was not sufficiently clear. Last year, when we discussed this problem we decided—and I believe the Territorial Council agreed with us—that we had not reached a point where we could refuse authorization to a school on the basis that its curriculum was not the same as that adopted by other schools. Therefore, for that reason, and because we do not wish to curtail any educational initiative in the country, we agreed for the time being not to exercise control over these schools as long as they did not offend morality and as long as the buildings and the location fulfilled the minimum requirements of public health. They are authorized to function even if their programmes are different from those of the public schools.
38. Mr. TARAZI (Syria): In section 259 reference is made to the teacher's salaries. I should like to know whether there has been an ordinance or regulation on the status of the teachers—particularly Somali teachers—and whether provision has been made for their further study. Can they have periods of study abroad or augment their knowledge so as to be more and more useful to their pupils?
39. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): Unfortunately, up to now we do not have in Somaliland any autochthonous elementary school teachers with a real diploma. That is the reason why they are paid less than the others. But in the new draft which we are preparing for the employees of the Administration in general, it will be established that all the persons who are engaged in the Territory, regardless of their nationality—that is, whether they are indigenous inhabitants or foreigners—will receive the same salary and the same treatment. They will be treated in the same way. Naturally, there will always be a difference as far as the persons who work for the government and who have been engaged abroad are concerned. As a matter of fact, I think there are one or two teachers from Syria who are working in Somaliland. Naturally, they are paid in the same way as the Italians or the Libyans. But that is due to the fact that nobody, unless he is assured of a good salary, is ready to leave his own country to work in a different country where the climate and other conditions are not very favourable. They cannot be paid a salary which would really not encourage one to leave his country and come to Somaliland.
40. Mr. TARAZI (Syria): I wish to thank the special representative and to assure him that when I asked my last question, I did not have in mind the Syrian teachers in Somaliland. I was referring only to the Somalis.
41. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium): I have several questions to put to the special representative, but I believe that it will take less of the Council's time if I ask them when I make my comments on the report as a whole. I must warn the special representative now that one of my comments will be that I regret that the five-year plan for educational development [T/1064] does not include exact estimates of the needs with regard to construction, staff etc, as well as of the initial and maintenance expenditures involved in the execution of the programme. If the special representative had the necessary information, I would not ask him to reply to my observations immediately; he could do so when presenting his general comments at the end of our debate, and before the preparation of the Council's report.
42. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): If I am not mistaken, in the second edition of the five-year plan, at the end, we also gave the figures concerning the expenses which the plan called for. As the second edition of the plan was made at the end of 1951 and we were already implementing the plan, we realized that as far as 1952 the figures which were given were quite different from what we really needed in the first year. That is the reason why in this last edition of the plan we did not include the expenses for each year. But we have very carefully examined the problem and we have come to the conclusion that each year there will be an increase from 700,000 to 1 million shillings,² which means from about 100,000 to 130,000 dollars. Therefore, since we are now at 6,700,000 shillings, or somalos, which are the same as shillings, I think that in the last scholastic year of the plan we will reach around 11 million shillings, or about 1,500,000 dollars.
43. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): I am particularly interested in the problem of languages and education. This has been set out very plainly by UNESCO in document T/1062, section 2 of the chapter entitled "General remarks". It is a very large question. I did not wish to ask the special representative or even the representative of UNESCO to take time to give us more complete information on this difficult matter. There are just two questions which I should like to ask however. There is a reference in sub-paragraph (e) of section 2 to the need for graded reading material suitable for people of different mental ages. I should like to know what steps are being taken by the Administration to provide that material.

² East African shillings.

44. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): In 1951 we started to prepare the first readers for the Somali schools. At the same time, we have asked all the countries of the Near East and East Africa for all the material that has already been published for their schools. By studying this material that we have received in the course of the last twelve months, and also through the experience with our first readers, we now have a commission in Somaliland working on the scholastic books that we shall print beginning with next year.
45. It is quite a big problem because it is not easy to adapt our readers to those of the Sudan, for instance, or of Kenya or Egypt. It is also not easy to adapt the readers of those countries to the readers of Somaliland. We have found some difficulty in choosing the right subjects and illustrations for these readers. However, through the experiences that we have already had and that we shall have in the next years, before the end of this five-year plan, we hope to be able to have enough appropriate books for the schools of Somaliland.
46. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): I am very alive to the difficulties mentioned. I myself have experienced similar difficulties on the other side of Africa.
47. I should like to ask a question with reference to sub-paragraph (f) of that same section of UNESCO's comments. It states: "Encouragement must be given to the production of reading material of wider interest, ranging from newspapers to books..." When someone in Somaliland becomes literate, is there anything available for him to read? Are there sufficient books simple enough for him to understand?
48. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): We are now organizing some libraries in the different schools where we will have books for the pupils and also for the former pupils which are easy to read. At the same time, in Mogadiscio and in three or four of the most important centres, we have already an organization which is called the Social Institute. There are small libraries in its three or four branches, and they are open to everybody who wants to go and read the books.
49. Naturally, we go back to the same fundamental problem — that for a person who is no longer illiterate but can just read, it is not easy to find books that he would understand and enjoy. Therefore, in our programme for new books in Somaliland, we have that also in mind. We are planning to have booklets written in a very simple form so that everybody will be able to understand them. The next step we are going to take is to pass from the problem of education in a stabilized centre to education for the nomadic people.
50. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): I am very much obliged to the special representative for his answers. I realize very much indeed how difficult this problem is. However, I do think that it is a problem which is of vital importance to the future of Somaliland.
51. Mr. S. S. LIU (China): I have read the revised text of the five-year plan for education [T/1064]. It seems to me that I have found nothing said about the Somali language, which is such an important problem. If it is so important, and it is at the basis of so many of the Administration's difficulties in connexion with teaching, why is it not even mentioned in this plan? Can the special representative give me an explanation of this very conspicuous omission?
52. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): If I am not mistaken, when, in the plan, we talk about the *education de base*, we refer to the Somali language. As a matter of fact, we say that we do not consider it possible to start any educational plan for the nomadic people in a language other than the Somali language. If I am mistaken, then there must be a mistake in the plan.
53. I should like to add that this five-year plan refers only to what we consider to be the most urgent problems in the educational field. As I have said before, the problem of the Somali language is a very complicated one. There are so many disagreements which have a scientific or a political basis that we really feel that we cannot solve this problem from one day to another. Therefore, at the time we decided to make the plan, we thought that it was better not to be stopped by these complications. Instead of trying to solve them in a short time — something which was to us quite impossible — we preferred to face the problem of education also through languages which are not the national language of the country but which are more or less understood by a large part of the stabilized population.
54. Mr. S. S. LIU (China): Is the reference which the special representative had in mind the one sentence at the bottom of page 3 of the plan, which says that in the elementary rural schools, instruction will be given to the largest extent possible in the Somali language? That is the only sentence I can find in the plan.
55. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): Yes, but at the same time at the end of page 17, the following is said: "*L'enseignement, surtout oral, sera donné en somali*".
56. Mr. S. S. LIU (China): It is disappointing to me that the report does not envisage any plan for the development of the language, which naturally is expected by all of us.
57. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): I have a question which is closely related to that which has just been asked by the representative of China and to which reference has been made by the representatives of the United Kingdom and of Syria. My question relates to the Somali language. I note that in the very full explanation given on pages 235-238 of the annual report it is stated that an expert from UNESCO is awaited in the Territory to give advice on this question of the drawing up of an alphabet for the Somali language. I am not sure whether I should address my question to the special representative or to the representative of UNESCO, but I should like to know whether there is anything further to report on this plan.
58. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): In connexion with the second phase of our planning on education, we have already asked UNESCO to send two experts to Somaliland, one to deal with educational problems connected with the Nomadic tribe and the other to deal with problems connected with *éducation de base*. Naturally, as is shown in the report and in the five-year plan, we do not envisage any possibility of starting a real programme of education among the Nomadic people except by the use of the Somali language. Therefore, the two experts from UNESCO, together with our own experts, will have to study that problem, one of the most important problems they will have to face, of establishing an alphabet in order that the Somali language may be made a written language.

59. Mr. DESTOMBES (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization): I have no remarks to make other than those which are contained in the comments of UNESCO in document T/1062, where the situation is very clearly shown. There are three possibilities; the Somali language can be written in Osmani or Arabic characters or the Latin alphabet can be used. These three possibilities, of course, have great implications with regard to the school texts, but there are no great technical difficulties involved. The only difficulty is that of making a choice between the three alternatives; and that is for the Administration to do.

60. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): On page 231 of the annual report reference is made to the institution by the Administering Authority of *Centres de Lecture*. Would the special representative be kind enough to tell me a little more about the functioning of these reading centres in the fourteen localities in which they have been established? For example, has the Administering Authority found that they have been well attended and that they are serving a useful purpose in the community, and, if so, can they be expanded in some way?

61. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): Since some of these centres were established in the middle of the year and many of them at the end of the scholastic year, we have not yet obtained sufficient results to give us a clear idea of what can be done in that direction. We have received a report from only one centre, and that was quite satisfactory. We shall receive further reports during the next twelve months, so that from 1954 onwards we shall be able to organize these reading centres according to the experience we have gained.

62. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): On the same point, I should like to ask the special representative whether it is intended to provide libraries which will be accessible to these reading centres. The special representative mentioned earlier that the Administering Authority intended to establish libraries in the schools in the Territory; he gave this reply in answer to a question by the representative of the United Kingdom. It would seem to me that these reading centres can be of value in affording an opportunity for people who are literate to get together and use the reading centres to maintain their facility in the language.

63. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): We cannot at present consider organizing reading centres outside the schools, so we are planning to have these reading centres in the same compounds as the schools and to have them throughout the Territory so that everybody, including persons who are not attending the schools, can go to the small libraries to read and to improve their education.

64. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): I have one last question, and it relates to the ability to read of the pupils who have completed the elementary schools. Can the special representative say whether these pupils can read the official gazette and the newspapers which are printed in the Territory?

65. Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland): All those who have finished their elementary school education can read any newspaper in the Territory. I believe that also those who have completed the third or fourth grade in the elementary school are able to read easily all the newspapers published in the Territory.

General Assembly resolution 656 (VII): hearing of petitioners from the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration

[Agenda item 15]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Abdulcadir Mohamed Aden, representative of the Hisbia Dighil and Mirifle, took a place at the Council table.

66. The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the Council I welcome Mr. Aden, and I assure him that the remarks he makes to the Council will be listened to with the closest attention.

67. Mr. ADEN (Hisbia Dighil and Mirifle): I thank the Trusteeship Council for allowing me to make this brief statement on a few questions concerning Somaliland, and I ask the Council's permission to avail myself of this opportunity to express the deep and sincere gratitude of my people towards the United Nations for all that that great Organization has done for us and for all it will do in the future. We know and we feel that we are children of the United Nations, and as such we wish to behave with true love for our parents, acting under the guidance of our tutor, Italy, to which you have entrusted us and which is devoting generous care to the achievement of our independence.

68. My task is very simple because I have only to clarify and to complete the remarks that Mr. Omar submitted to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on 19 December 1952 [313th meeting], which covered substantially three points: first, the maintenance of political peace in the Territory; secondly, the evolution of the tribal system; thirdly, the necessity of international financial aid.

69. Unfortunately, a tragic event took place only four weeks ago in Somaliland, which fully justified the serious preoccupation evidenced at the time by Mr. Omar when he illustrated the first point of his declaration to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly. In fact, as the Council knows, on 25 May, Territorial Councillor Osman Mohamed Hussein, one of the directors of my party, the Hisbia Dighil and Mirifle, was stabbed to death as he was about to leave for New York to appear before you. It is with great sadness that I substitute for him today.

70. I knew Councillor Osman Mohamed Hussein well, not only because we belonged to the same party but also because we attended together the School for Political Administration in Somaliland and because we laboured together and fought for the progress of our country. He was kind and beloved by all; he never provoked controversies or took part in them.

71. I have read in the Somali papers that the police have arrested and indicted the assassins — three men of no importance. But we Somalis already knew that he was killed for political reasons, just as we know that the real persons responsible have not yet been singled out by the authorities. This crime not only fostered resentment among the Somali people but also occasioned surprise, for it appeared to be utterly irresponsible and useless. At this time, in fact, all Somalis, regardless of race or political belief — men such as the late Osman Mohamed Hussein and also members of the other political parties — are taking advantage of the guidance of the Administering Authority in the Territory and are working together in schools and in offices of the Administration and also in organizations, both central and local, representing the population in order to contribute together to the formation of the new State of Somaliland.

72. What then was the cause of this cruel episode of violence? Not racial motives, because all political parties aim to eliminate racial conflicts. Not religious motives, because, thank God, the entire Somali population is fervently Moslem. Nor is there any motive of nationalistic difference, for it is well known that in Somaliland all parties have two principal and all-important aims: first, the independence of the Territory as a sovereign State; secondly, the progress of our population.

73. I do not know what political parties were referred to by the representative of the Somali Youth League in his letter addressed to the Chairman of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on 3 December 1952 (A/C.4/228) when he mentioned pro-Italian parties. But it is certain that—and I wish to testify to this now before this Council—no important party in Somaliland, such as those I have had the honour to name here and which represent the majority of the population, would ever renounce the essential aim, which is political independence. The difference between us and the other political group is that not only do we avail ourselves of the guidance of the Administering Authority, but that we consider it fair and useful to accept the benefits of the Administration and, when necessary, to offer our constructive criticism of the situation in order to contribute to its improvement. It is the other political group or, to be more specific, some members of such a group that endanger the interests of Somaliland, particularly with acts of violence which prove their political immaturity.

74. We have dedicated ourselves, our work and our personal sacrifice, to the two aims of the progress of our people and their independence; we have faith in their attainment and we know that success is assured even now by three things: first, the decision of the United Nations; secondly, the loyalty of Italy; thirdly, our love for our country.

75. My words may be the stronger today because I mourn the death of my friend, Osman Mohamed Hussein, and because I am very preoccupied by the damaging influence that the violence of a few irresponsible individuals might cause to the development of political activity in the Territory and consequently to the progress of our people. The people of Somaliland who have received from God the destiny of enjoying the fruits of civilization in their old age, and the young people who joyfully reach out with inexperienced hands towards those fruits are entitled to feel sure that no danger and no menace threaten them because they wish to learn the principles and ideas of modern democracy, to express their thoughts and feelings and to act according to the dictates of their consciences.

76. It is necessary, above all, that no political group and no political figure should even consider the possibility of enforcing totalitarian governmental methods and methods of violence in the Territory after its constitution as a State.

77. The opposition of the political group to which I have referred is in fact now based exclusively on an historical motive that stems in substance from the aims of that group before the Italian trusteeship administration. The above-mentioned group was organized and became operative during the war, with the specific purpose of strenuously opposing the granting of the trusteeship administration to Italy and with the official motivation (not, however, shared by the majority of the population) that it would continue in practice the colonial régime of the past,

78. There is no longer any justification for that motive of opposition. The members of the group know that as well as we do, because no one can sincerely doubt Italy's loyalty, and no one can deny the importance of the efforts so far made by the Italian Government. There are, however, some people in Somaliland who believe that the opposition to Italy by some members of the group stems from the fact that those members are still inclined to follow old projects drafted before the United Nations decision was taken, still inclined to endanger that which we hold most precious: our independence.

79. Before continuing my statement, I should like to specify that I have the honour of speaking to the Trusteeship Council in the name of the following parties: the Hisbia Dighil and Mirifle, organized in the central part of Somaliland, the largest and most populated region, situated between our two rivers; the Unione Africani della Somalia; the Lega Progressista Somala; the Unione Nazionale Somala; the Unione Giovani Benadir; the Associazione Gioventù Abgal; and the Hidajet Islam Scidle and Mobilen.

80. All of these parties are directing all their efforts, apart from the educational and welfare activities considered as necessary means of progress and social solidarity, towards attracting the greatest possible number of Somalis—not only from the cities, but also from the villages and nomadic tribes—in order to teach them the essential principles of modern democracy and, above all, to interest them concretely in political activities through direct participation in the organization and discussion of social and representative posts in the Territorial Council, and through election to such posts. That is the new political reality, and it is a well known fact that we have brought it about with enthusiasms and hard work.

81. In this connexion, I cannot fail to mention a very important problem, the object of the second principal point of Mr. Omar's declaration of December 1952—and let me say at once that that declaration appeared to us Somalis to be far less serious than has sometimes been implied. I refer to the problem of the existence of tribes and of the political and social systems of the tribes.

82. It is the opinion of my party, the Hisbia Dighil and Mirifle—and we have carefully pondered over this opinion and have established it as the fundamental point of our programme—that the tribes cannot be disbanded and a new system substituted in a few years. They must be guided and interested by means of appropriate measures, so that a gradual transformation takes place until, finally, social, economic and political progress has penetrated and been extended to the entire Territory, creating new living conditions. In other words, we believe, from a practical knowledge of the true state of affairs, that Somaliland's evolution will be the result of the following two concurrent movements, which are taking place with efficiency and continuity, under the direction of the Administering Authority and with the assistance of the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland: first, the development of the parties and of the various administrative and political organizations which the Administering Authority is establishing, particularly in the cities and other centres; secondly, the evolution of the tribes, as a result of the diffusion of new ideas and, above all, as a result of the change in the economic situation. The second point is very important.

83. I have said that this is the opinion of my party, but the other parties which I am now representing before this Council also agree.

84. To conclude our statement on this matter, I would say this: we believe that those who demand the rapid abolition of the tribes and criticize the present situation do so either out of ignorance of local conditions or merely out of political malevolence. For our part, we can only recommend that the problem should not be made more difficult than it actually is.

85. There are other serious and important problems in the economic field. These problems add up to a necessity to further as much as possible the Territory's economic progress.

86. It has always been said that Somaliland is a poor country. That is true, up to a certain point. Somaliland is poor mainly because of its scarcity of water. We are, however, convinced that many parts of the Territory along the Giuba and the Uebi Shebeli could become fertile and provide food, even for export, if the problem of the rational utilization of the waters of the two rivers were solved. So far, the population has used rudimentary and insufficient methods in this respect. Why should we not examine the possibility of constructing a few dams? This was done privately in the villages of Villabruzzi and Genale. It is indispensable for the zone between Audegle and Barire, where the river often overflows, destroying my people's farms instead of benefiting them. Anyone who has visited Somaliland knows that there are vast zones of good arable land, which become luxuriant with vegetation as soon as and when the rain falls — unfortunately for too brief a period to allow proper farming. The construction of a few dams, in the most appropriate places, could give our country the security brought by regular farming and an adequate food supply.

87. Moreover, Somaliland, needs — and will need for a long time to come — not only foreign technical assistance, such as we now receive from physicians, veterinarians, teachers, agronomists and engineers from Italy — with the contribution of United Nations specialized agencies — but also, and mainly, I believe, capital investments and the means to create the conditions necessary for the Territory's economic progress and the equipment of the population with adequate technical facilities.

88. Why should not the investment of foreign capital in our country's economic undertakings be encouraged? Why should we not encourage the intervention of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which has already subsidized other enterprises in Africa. Why cannot we obtain, under a programme of technical aid, an extraordinary assignment of funds and special agricultural and industrial equipment which would contribute to the solution of the more urgent problems in certain regions — for instance, by creating in the most needy zones, such as the territory inhabited by the Dighil and Mirifle, experimental centres of excavating the so-called *uars*, that is, water reservoirs built by the Somalis, with their bare hands in places where the drilling of wells is impossible or useless?

89. Somaliland is a daughter of the United Nations, and we trust that our great mother will also give us material sustenance in these difficult years of our formation.

90. For our part, we once again assure this Council of our deep feeling of devotion towards the United Nations, and we add that we solemnly engage to

contribute with our labour to the realization of all useful economic enterprises promoted in our Territory.

91. I beg the Council's permission to draw, from the declarations that I have had the honour of making, some conclusions and requests which I wish to submit to the benevolent attention of the United Nations: (1) indignation at the political violence of those few whose fanaticism endangers the political evolution of the Somali population towards democracy; (2) irrigation of certain zones of Somaliland by means of the construction of dams or other works for the canalization of the waters of the Giuba and the Uebi Shebeli; (3) investment of foreign capital in economic enterprises, to improve and exploit the Territory; (4) subsidy by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the most important work, such as the utilization of the waters of the two rivers; (5) assignment to Somaliland, as an extraordinary measure, of funds and equipment for experimental agriculture and industry in the regions that offer the greatest possibilities of economic exploitation; (6) advice to the Administration to regulate, by means of special provisions, the labour contracts in the Territory. This is a point that I did not raise in detail, in order not to take up too much of the Council's time.

92. I thank the President and all the members of the Council for having patiently listened to me. I am at their disposal for any questions they might like to ask me.

93. The PRESIDENT: Are there any questions which members of the Trusteeship Council or members of the Advisory Council wish to address to Mr. Aden? Since it appears that there are no questions, I wish to thank Mr. Aden on behalf of the Council for coming before us and for presenting his remarks with such care, and to assure him, as I did before he began to speak, that what he has said will receive our most careful attention.

Mr. Abdulcadir Mohamed Aden, representative of the Hisbia Dighil and Mirifle, withdrew.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Abdullaki, Issa, representative of the Somali Youth League, took a place at the Council table.

94. The PRESIDENT: I have pleasure in welcoming Mr. Issa here on behalf of the Council and I can assure him that the remarks which he is about to make to us will receive our closest attention.

95. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League): On behalf of the President and the members of the Central Committee of the Somali Youth League, I wish to express my deep thanks to the President and the members of the Trusteeship Council for granting me this opportunity to make an oral statement in connexion with the petitions submitted by the league.

96. The Somali Youth League is an indigenous political organization established in May 1943 and active since that time throughout Somaliland. The League's principal aim is the uniting of Somaliland, now divided into five parts, and the independence of a united Somaliland within the shortest possible time.

97. Despite the fact that the General Assembly of the United Nations has decided that the Trust Territory of Somaliland shall become independent by 1960, a large section of the politically-minded Somalis have publicly expressed their doubt that such a solemn decision will be successfully implemented within the time fixed. The main cause of the doubt and fear is the possibility that the Government of Italy might seek

and easily obtain an extension of the period so as to rule the Territory longer than envisaged in the original decision of the General Assembly. In addition, we have noticed that Somaliland is often described as an extremely poor country, the Somalis as a very primitive people, and so on. I quote from a speech recently delivered by one of the members of the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland, the very same Council set up by the General Assembly of the United Nations as the guardian of the paramount interests and welfare of the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory:

"If to the grinding poverty of the Territory we add the fact that nine-tenths of its inhabitants live under a tribal system dating from Biblical times and that, owing to the low standard of education, there is not a single university graduate in the whole Territory, this Council will share or at least understand, our doubts. We think that these doubts are shared in silence by everybody... [T/PV.463, para. 65].

It seems to us that the one and only purpose of capitalizing these and similar arguments is to retard the independence which our country is due to obtain in about seven years from now.

98. May I be permitted to point out that the same arguments were advanced at one time or another to delay the independence of several countries now Member States of this world body. If a joint resolution could be adopted by the Trusteeship Council and the representative of Italy reaffirming the General Assembly's decision that Somaliland shall become independent by 1960, it would contribute greatly to removing the suspicion and thus restoring the confidence of the Somali people in the United Nations, as well as in the Republic of Italy. I respectfully urge the representatives here to consider adopting such a resolution during the present session of the Council.

99. The present tendency to set up within the Trust Territory of Somaliland three separate tribal States, namely, the Dighil and Mirifle State, the State of Hawiya and the State of Darot, is equally alarming.

100. During the examination of petitions from Somaliland by the Standing Committee on Petitions the representative of the Administering Authority mentioned several times the infiltration of foreign elements into the districts of Baidoa and of Merca. Obviously, the foreign elements referred to are the Somalis from other regions within the Trust Territory who reside in the districts of Baidoa and of Merca, either temporarily or permanently. Undoubtedly this statement of the special representative will contribute to strengthening our suspicion that plans to this effect may be already under consideration. Should such plans be carried out, we should find ourselves in the most unhappy position of witnessing a further partition of our beloved country which, as I stated earlier, is already partitioned into five parts. Instead of uniting these five areas and thus achieving the legitimate aspirations of our people, Somaliland would be partitioned into eight parts. Needless to say, the creation of these separate States based on purely tribal lines would encourage the tendency of some ignorant elements who wish to maintain the traditional tribal and feudal system, which has delayed the progress of our country and our people for a long period. I respectfully request the President and the members of the Trusteeship Council to invite the special representative of the Administering

Authority to make clear the Administration's position in regard to this matter.

101. The Somali Youth League has submitted petitions concerning the political, economic, social and educational problems of the Trust Territory of Somaliland. A number of these contain complaints of political persecution against members of the League etc. These latter petitions were submitted at a time when the political temperature of the Territory was rather high. I have been informed that in recent months the temperature has dropped considerably and that the relations between the Italian Administration of the Territory and the Somali Youth League have improved. To contribute towards further improvement in such relations, the leaders of the League have instructed me officially not to press, during the current session of the Trusteeship Council, the complaints contained in some of the petitions which we submitted earlier. For the records of the Council, I wish to state that the specific complaints submitted by the Somali Youth League, particularly those concerning the serious incidents which took place in the Territory during 1951 and 1952, are based on facts.

102. The present Italian Administration in Somaliland was set up in April 1950. It is an undeniable fact that the legislation functioning at present in the Territory still consists mainly of royal decrees, departmental decrees, Italian laws and penal code, the old Somaliland judiciary system etc., all enacted during the pre-war colonial régime, plus a number of military proclamations passed by the war-time British military administration in Somaliland. This legislation, which is entirely inconsistent with the new status of the Territory, has undoubtedly caused most, if not all, of the numerous complaints received from Somaliland.

103. The Administering Authority should be urged to abrogate such legislation without further delay and replace it by enacting more appropriate and democratic legislation. At the same time, the Administering Authority should be invited to guarantee the absolute independence of the judiciary.

104. The Administering Authority should also be urged to abolish, without further delay, the system of Residents, commissioners, government-paid tribal chiefs, etc., inherited from the past colonial régime. A more democratic system, such as the setting up of city and district councils composed of qualified Somalis elected directly by the people, should replace it.

105. The Administering Authority has announced that plans concerning partial municipal elections to be held in some centres of the Territory are now under consideration. These plans seem to be rather complicated and confusing; nevertheless, it would be a great step forward to start introducing elections in the Territory. In consultation with both the Advisory Council for Somaliland and the Somali people, the Administering Authority should endeavour to complete, at the earliest possible time, the drafting of a simplified electoral law for the Territory's municipal councils, as well as for all other existing consultative organs, such as the Territorial Council, and all proposed bodies. Universal suffrage should be established and limitations requiring the possession of certain property or educational qualifications should be excluded in the proposed electoral law.

106. In connexion with elections, I wish to point out the fact that under the existing laws of the Territory, an electoral campaign — which is essential for elections

in every democratic country — is virtually impossible. The reason is that one of the provisions of Proclamation No. 4 of 1948 states that a group of five persons or more, gathered outside or standing in the streets, constitutes a public offence. Accordingly, persons forming such a group are liable to be arrested, convicted and imprisoned. Despite the recommendation of the 1951 United Nations Visiting Mission to East Africa, to the effect that that undemocratic proclamation should be abrogated,³ Proclamation No. 4 is in force at this date. The Administering Authority should be urged to repeal it before introducing the proposed elections in the Territory.

107. I wish to point out also that our branches throughout the Lower Giuba Province — one of the most important provinces of the Territory — have been banned since August of last year and that the Somali Youth League activities there are completely suspended. The Administering Authority should be wise enough to consider permitting us to reopen the S.Y.L. branches in that province—once the League's stronghold—and have it thus resume its normal activities before the elections. Despite the unfavourable position in which our organization finds itself, the Somali Youth League welcomes the immediate introduction of elections in Somaliland. The League is, and has always been, in favour of introducing the system of elections in our country, so that the Somali people would have a chance to choose, in a proper and democratic way, their true representatives.

108. At present the legislative powers of the Territory are entirely in the hands of the Administrator, who is also the chief executive of the Administration. The Administrator issues ordinances which are, in effect, the new laws, since Somaliland was placed under the International Trusteeship System more than three years ago. The Administering Authority should be invited to transfer the legislation powers to the Somalis without further delay, since the sovereignty of the Territory resides in its people. At the same time, the Administering Authority should be advised to set up, prior to the transfer of the legislative powers, proper legislative organs composed of qualified elements directly elected by the Somali people.

109. The Government of Italy, the Advisory Council for Somaliland, the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations should study ways and means to speed up the effective Somalization of the Administration. The Somalization of the Administration can and must be completed within the next three years at the latest, and immediately thereafter the Territory should be granted full self-government. This will enable the Somalis to acquire enough knowledge and experience to administer their country fairly by 1960, when the Territory is expected to gain its complete independence.

110. It is the expressed desire of our people to have a Somali national flag. This desire of the Somali people to have a national flag of their own should receive the sympathetic consideration it deserves. One of the members of the Advisory Council for Somaliland has recently stated:

“During the remaining years of the trusteeship administration the Somali people should be given the right to fly and otherwise display their national emblem . . . This would have a tremendous psycholo-

³ See the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1951, on Somaliland under Italian administration (T/947 and Corr.1, para. 133).

gical effect upon the rank and file of the indigenous population. It would be symbolic of the new and enlightened era in Somaliland, a constant reminder to all Somalis . . . that the day of their freedom and independence is near at hand and that, therefore, all should do their share of the labour. Moreover, it would constantly remind the people—for that is what the flag stands for — that they are one nation undivided, sharing one common aspiration, and that they should, therefore, begin to live and act as one, in terms of their national rather than their tribal, interests.” [T/PV.463, para.24].

111. I regret to remind the members of the Trusteeship Council of the lack of an over-all economic plan for the Trust Territory despite the fact that the Territory has been under United Nations supervision for the past three years. As I stated earlier, it has been over-emphasized that Somaliland is a poor country. The country is poor, and the reason is that it has never been exploited properly. In the opinion of the United Nations Technical Assistance Mission which visited the Territory in 1951,⁴ there are great possibilities of improving Somaliland's basic economy: agriculture and livestock. The Administering Authority should take into account the constructive recommendations submitted by the Technical Assistance Mission and spare no time to complete the Territory's over-all economic plan in the near future.

112. I also regret to state that the Somali people have neither been consulted nor informed of steps taken concerning important economic matters of the Territory such as the oil concessions given to two foreign private companies, despite the fact that this may affect the entire economic outlook of the country. If successful results are obtained from the current research operations, this vital question of oil concession should be reviewed and revised in accordance with the reasonable conditions existing in neighbouring countries. The legality of the Administering Authority's power to extend concessions, mineral or otherwise, beyond 1960 should be investigated.

113. Both the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations must take all necessary steps to safeguard the paramount interests of the indigenous inhabitants in the Trust Territory of Somaliland. The Council and Assembly must see to it that the new Somali State will not find itself in the unfortunate position of being deprived of its rights to grant such concessions within the borders of its own Territory. To avoid misunderstandings, I wish to state that the Somali Youth League recognizes the utmost necessity of inviting, and indeed encouraging in every way possible, private capital investments from abroad to contribute to the economic development of our country, particularly in regard of such enterprises as oil drilling, mining, establishment of industries etc. On the other hand, it is the sacred duty of the League to stand as the faithful guardian of the vital interests of Somaliland and the Somali people.

114. For your consideration, I humbly submit the following other recommendations concerning political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Trust Territory of Somaliland.

115. First, the promising industries such as hide and skin, livestock, textiles, fishing and fish canning, the

⁴ For the Mission's report, see document ST/TAA/K/Somaliland/1.

soap industry and others mentioned in the report of the United Nations Technical Assistance Mission should be fully developed. For this purpose, the creation of government-subsidized corporations in which the indigenous inhabitants have adequate representation should be considered.

116. Secondly, the United Nations and other appropriate international agencies should consider granting adequate aid to Somaliland to finance the Territory's development schemes concerning agriculture, livestock, trade and commerce, fishery, communications, education, medical and health, housing, mineral research, etc. The United Nations specialized agencies should be enabled to play a major role in the Territory's development schemes.

117. Thirdly, the Government of the United States should consider extending generously to Somaliland its technical and assistance programme known as the Point Four Programme.

118. Fourthly, loans and other financial facilities should be placed at the disposal of Somali farmers and traders at the earliest possible moment.

119. Fifthly, a study should be made of ways and means to settle the nomadic tribes in the interior. To achieve this, it is essential to provide enough water wells for these people and their livestock.

120. Sixthly, the standard of living of the Somalis should be improved and the problem of housing for the Somalis living both in the urban centres and in the rural villages should receive particular attention.

121. Seventhly, educational programmes in the public schools should be intensified and the number of schools, both elementary and higher, should be increased. The teaching of Arabic should play a major role within the educational system of the Territory. The training of Somali technicians and personnel should be given special consideration. Somali students should be awarded scholarships to acquire higher education abroad. Schools for adults should be increased, since this type of school is needed most.

122. Eighthly, hospitals and health centres should be increased and medical facilities should be provided for the inhabitants of every district of the Territory, including the suburban and the rural villages. Mobile medical units should be placed at the disposal of the nomadic population.

123. Ninthly, new roads should be constructed and old ones repaired. The important district of Alula and other isolated centres in Mijertein and Mudugh provinces should be given special consideration.

124. Tenthly, the construction of adequate harbours in the principal seaport centres of the Territory such as Mogadiscio, Merca, Brava, Chisimaio, Obbia, Eil, Hafun, Alula, Candala, Bender Cassim and others should receive urgent consideration.

125. Eleventhly, a special questionnaire should be drafted for the Territory during the current session of the Trusteeship Council, and a separate visiting mission of the United Nations should be sent to Somaliland at least every two years.

126. At the very outset of this statement of mine, I informed the Trusteeship Council of our desire to unify the five portions of Somaliland, namely, the Trust Territory of Somaliland, the Somaliland Protectorate under the United Kingdom, the northern frontier district of Kenya, also under the United Kingdom, the Somali territories under the Imperial Government of Ethiopia,

and French Somaliland. This is the expressed desire of all the Somalis throughout the country. Therefore, we humbly request the Trusteeship Council to study this matter carefully, especially since the question of the unification of dependent territories in West Africa has been studied before, both by the Trusteeship Council and by the General Assembly.

127. Before concluding this statement, I wish to state that the Somali Youth League does not ignore the tremendous difficulties facing the Government and the people of Italy in fulfilling their pledge to prepare our country and people for independence by 1960. I wish to assure the representative of Italy and the special representative of the Administration that the League sympathizes with the Government and the people of Italy, and it hopes that Italy will complete its task. While I am here, I wish to extend once again the honest and sincere co-operation of the Somali Youth League to the Administration in order to lead our country and our people into independence by 1960.

128. I wish once again to express my deep and sincere thanks to the President and to the members of the Council.

129. The PRESIDENT: I wish to thank Mr. Issa.

The meeting was suspended at 4.35 p.m. and was resumed at 4.50 p.m.

130. The PRESIDENT: Since no one wishes to ask Mr. Issa any questions, I wish on behalf of the Trusteeship Council to thank him for appearing before us and to assure him that we shall give careful attention to the remarks which he has made.

Mr. Abdullahi Issa, representative of the Somali Youth League, withdrew.

Examination of the annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration for the year 1952 (T/1048, T/1053, T/1059, T/1061 and Add.1, T/1062 and Add.1, T/1064) (continued)

[Agenda item 4 (a)]

GENERAL DEBATE

131. The PRESIDENT: Since we have concluded the questioning of the special representative and have heard the two petitioners, we may now proceed with general observations on the annual report.

132. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium): My delegation has reduced to a minimum the number of questions it has put to the special representative during that part of our proceedings which, according to a now well-established custom, is set aside for members of the Trusteeship Council to question the special representative. The Belgian delegation believes that the present method of examining annual reports is not the best. Members of the Council will certainly agree that the practice of putting questions to the special representative results in a considerable waste of time, for the questions which are put to him point-blank are of such a nature that, however competent he may be, he is not always in a position to answer them. They arise either because a member of the Council disagrees with the Administering Authority over some point or other, or because he has not found in the annual report certain information which seems of interest to him and which he would like to obtain. But if the information is not in the annual report, the special representative can often be excused if he is unable to answer the question. The Administration may

not have thought it necessary to compile such information for inclusion in the annual report. If, on the other hand, a delegation disagrees with the special representative over practices of the Administration, or if it disapproves of the Administering Authority's comments thereon in the annual report, it is likely that the question raised in this part of our deliberation will recur at a subsequent stage in the form of an observation.

133. The special representative's replies are often long, but not always entirely adequate, and for that he cannot be in any way blamed. The first question provokes others and a dialogue, as it were, ensues between the special representative and the delegation concerned. Then again, the special representative often has to repeat the same replies over and over again because several members of the Council ask virtually the same question. Here is a case in point: during the first part of our examination of the report on Somaliland, at least six of us asked a question about the Somali language. I remember questions being put by the Philippine representative on the Advisory Council and by the representatives of China, New Zealand, Syria and the United Kingdom. I should like to ask one myself. The special representative has to reply at the time the questions are asked, but as the questions are usually followed up by an observation in the next phase of our proceedings, he is obliged to reply again at the end of the debate.

134. I think that in most cases it would be sufficient to make it clear to the Administering Authority that such and such a question was of particular interest to such and such a delegation, which would be glad to find some information on the subject in the next annual report. If the special representative happens to be in a position to supply the requisite information then and there, and has the relevant documents, it would be enough for him to reply in the course of his final remarks. The drafting committee would simply have to bear in mind the delegation's observations and the special representative's final replies. If, however, he cannot reply immediately, and if the delegation concerned does not press for an early answer, the information asked for could be incorporated by the Administering Authority in its next annual report. If all those interested in the question of the Somali language had confined themselves to submitting their observations to the Administering Authority, the Administering Authority could have included a section describing in full the Administration's policy in this matter in next year's report — and indeed I hope it will do so. In that way we should have at our disposal much more complete information than the special representative could provide in reply to questions asked.

135. For my own part, I am not anxious for an immediate reply to the questions which interest me and which might, I think, interest other members of the Council. I shall be content if the Administering Authority will devote a paragraph to them in its next report. That is the spirit in which I shall make my observations; they will include certain questions to which I do not ask for an immediate reply from the special representative.

136. On the whole, I think the report shows that Italy has discharged its obligations faithfully during the year under review. We cannot do better in expressing our views on the matter than repeat the remarks made by the Philippine representative on the Advisory Council when he said at the 463rd meeting: "The truth is that Italy is fulfilling with fidelity the great trust reposed in it, in the sure knowledge that its good name is at

stake...". The three members of the Advisory Council who submitted their observations to the Trusteeship Council were of the same opinion. All three expressed the conviction that Italy had striven resolutely to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it by the United Nations. Italy has even gone further, for the Italian Government has allocated funds from its own budget to cover two-thirds of the Somali budget. I shall have more to say on the subject of that generous gesture during the discussion of public finances.

137. The Trusteeship Council will, I hope, express satisfaction at the improvement of relations with the political parties. In this respect, in the view of the Advisory Council or at any rate of some of its members, the improvement is due in part to the moderation and wisdom of the Somalis themselves. Today the Belgian delegation was happy to hear the representative of the Somali Youth League say that his organization would not insist on following up petitions which had been submitted to the Trusteeship Council at a time when the political situation was much more strained than it is today.

138. The improvement of relations, particularly with the opposition parties, has certainly been made easier by the participation of the people in the various councils, where their qualified representatives can learn to tackle the problems of the Territory. It has also undoubtedly been made easier by the happy relations prevailing between the Advisory Council and the Administering Authority. The people notice that the Advisory Council is working for a good understanding with the Administration. The Advisory Council is obviously above the suspicion of pursuing its own interests and so its good relations with the Administration serve in turn to improve relations between the Administering Authority and the indigenous people of Somaliland. These relations will be further improved by the establishment of procedures to be followed, in particular, when the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement require that the opinion of the Advisory Council should be sought on certain problems. The matter is of interest to both parties, who are working in good faith to bring about a positive result. But such results cannot be achieved except through study of particular cases, through discussion between the Council and the Administration. It is not a question for the Assembly, which simply set up the framework and laid down general principles, without specifying which questions could properly be dealt by the Advisory Council and which should be referred to it only for information. Procedures of that kind can only be established on the basis of particular cases and by discussion in good faith between the Advisory Council and the Administering Authority.

139. In his statement the special representative, or the representative of Italy, told us that the Administering Authority was ready to undertake negotiations of this kind with the Advisory Council. The Trusteeship Council will not doubt be gratified. It will also be pleased to have noted, on reading the reports, that liaison officers between the Advisory Council and the Administration have already been appointed in order to facilitate negotiation.

140. The Colombian representative on the Advisory Council rightly said that the General Assembly was expecting wonders from Italy. However, it must be realized that there are impossible wonders and that, in attempting the impossible, there is a risk of discovering to one's cost that it is better to leave well alone. Thus,

for instance, in the matter of the "Somalization" of the Territory, that is, the employment of Somalis in administrative posts, a suggestion has been put forward for a rapid process leading to the appointment of competent Somalis to all the principal administrative posts within seven years. Now I think, and I believe the Council will realize it, that such a hope is vain. It would of course be easy to replace all foreign officials by Somalis seven years from now. We can also do everything possible to train as many Somalis as possible to occupy important posts in place of foreigners seven years hence. What we cannot do is to guarantee that in seven years all the main administrative duties can be fulfilled by competent Somalis. That is something we cannot do because in seven years it is not possible to train persons to exercise certain high administrative powers.

141. It is of course desirable to give the Somalis responsibility in steadily increasing degree. Practice makes perfect, and it is quite true to say that the indigenous population will not learn to govern themselves unless they are put to work at it. They must have some responsibilities. But there is a happy mean, which it is very difficult to observe, and it must be remembered that prematurely to give a Somali an administrative post which he cannot satisfactorily fill is to slow down the development of the country and to injure its future prospects. It is probably better to fill a job with a Somali who can do it competently than to give that job to an Italian who might do it even more competently. But between a competent Italian and an incompetent Somali, it would be a mistake for the Administration, and a mistake harmful to the development of the country, to choose the incompetent Somali; not, of course, because he is a Somali, but because he cannot do the job which is offered.

142. Turning to economic affairs, here clearly is the black spot for Somaliland. Somaliland is a poor country and will remain so. Ambitions must be kept within bounds, and it must be borne in mind that Somaliland will never be a country with great natural resources, a country with a prosperous agriculture, where all or nearly all the land is arable, where there is a good proportion of forest, and so on. We cannot hope that Somaliland will ever attain a national income per head comparable with that of richer countries. At the present day Italy provides for two-thirds of Somaliland's budget, and the Colombian representative on the Advisory Council told us, at the 463rd meeting, to take care lest, when Somaliland achieves complete independence, two-thirds of Italy's creative effort during the trusteeship period should go completely to waste. This is a difficult problem, which faces us even now and which gives the United Nations a responsibility it should consider at once.

143. The Visiting Mission suggested that the Government of the Administering Authority should seek to determine the level of government services which the country could be expected to support from its own resources.⁵ It might as yet be too soon to carry out this study; the Administration might tell us that it cannot yet assess the future resources of the country, its future national income, and what that income will be after a programme of economic development has been put into operation; and that, until such an estimate can be made, it may be impossible to say what level of

administration the national income can support without assistance. But one fact is already clear. In a country where rainfall is in most regions very slight, where three-quarters of the population leads a nomadic life and must do so to exist at all; in a country of vast extent, and of scanty population amounting to about two and a half inhabitants per square mile or one per square kilometre, it is impossible to achieve, and the country's own resources could never support, a standard of living comparable with that of more developed countries, as expressed in the amount of expenditure on administration, the judicial system, medical services, roads and education. Clearly, the Administration must as soon as possible make a plan of economic and social development, carefully calculating the cost and deciding what the Administering Authority can bear, what it can provide from its own budget and what can be charged to the country's own resources.

144. One of the members of the Advisory Council said that international guarantees would have to be given to private investors, whose capital is essential to the full development of the country's resources, which incidentally are small. The seriousness of the problem is shown when we realize that one of the petitioners we have heard today disputed, or at least queried, the Administering Authority's right to grant concessions extending beyond the expiry of the trusteeship period, that is, beyond 1960. Anyone with business experience will understand clearly that there can be no thought of interesting foreign capital in long-term investment involving heavy risks unless that investment can be guaranteed an existence extending beyond the trusteeship period. Indeed, the Advisory Council has estimated that in order to attract foreign capital on acceptable conditions, the Administration would have to grant concessions of between thirty to fifty years in duration. It would be well to give an international guarantee to these investors in order to assure them that when the international administration ends and Somaliland becomes completely independent, they cannot be simply dispossessed of their holdings; if outside investors do not receive such a guarantee, they will not come forward. Flies are not caught with vinegar, and foreign capital is not attracted unless it has a reasonable prospect of adequate return.

145. Somaliland cannot possibly be economically independent by 1960. You have just heard one of the representatives of the main political parties in Somaliland setting forth his programme. It is quite clear that Somaliland will not be able to carry out with its own resources everything the representative of the Somali Youth League considers necessary for his country. Indeed he realizes this, since he has appealed both to the international Organization and even to a Member of the United Nations — it is not up to the Trusteeship Council to issue a directive on the subject to the latter — for a large amount of international aid for independent Somaliland.

146. The United Nations has decided to grant Somaliland political independence in 1960. Everyone realizes that such political independence will be illusory unless Somaliland can be assured economic aid. In order that plans may be made for the future, it is essential to know what aid can be expected in case of need. I think the United Nations would do well to attend to this matter now, to avoid being caught napping the day when the newly-independent Somaliland approaches the United Nations with the words, "Somaliland is your daughter,

⁵ See the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1951, on Somaliland under Italian administration (T/947 and Corr.1, para. 47).

you are our mother, come to our aid", and to find then that no forethought has been given to the problem which is bound to arise.

147. Still in the economic sphere — co-operatives are certainly going to play an important part in the country's development. I should like to find in next year's report more complete information about the working of the system of cotton co-operatives. Other delegations have expressed the same wish. Steps must be taken to ensure that this co-operative system operates to the best interest of the growers.

148. The special representative's opening statement [462nd meeting] dealt with sisal, which may provide a future crop for Somaliland as it needs far less rain than some other tropical or semi-tropical crops. I gather that millions of sisal buds have been distributed to the indigenous inhabitants. The Belgian delegation would like the next report to give the Administration's views on the operation of this sisal industry. From experience in East Africa, it appears that sisal requires the use of rather big areas under a single management, transport by tip-wagon, and the like. One cannot envisage sisal being grown by individual indigenous peasants on scattered plots of land. Obviously, one can visualize an indigenous village working a very large sisal plantation co-operatively, each man to his little plot, or the village cultivating a large area collectively. But the profitable cultivation of sisal apparently requires a plantation the optimum area of which would, if I am not mistaken, be set by the experts at about a thousand hectares. So we should like next year's report to include details of the Administration's plan with regard to this matter.

149. Turning to social progress, we have learned from the statements of members of the Advisory Council that fundamental freedoms are now guaranteed to all. That guarantee should be a great source of satisfaction to the Trusteeship Council.

150. Tribal organization has been discussed. Some, even among the Somalis themselves, favour its suppression; others believe that it should not be destroyed and that it is still essential, at least and above all for the nomadic population. The Belgian delegation firmly believes that care must be exercised in suppressing tribal institutions in a primitive society without being sure of replacing it by something better, in order not to destroy a social system which is appropriate to the stage of development reached by the people, and which at the very least has the virtue of being in operation and of holding society together. For instance, so far as the status of women and equality of the sexes are concerned, it would be a delusion to think that a system of sex equality comparable to that obtaining in regions of far more advanced civilization could be established among the nomadic populations of Somaliland from one day to the next.

151. As to the medical service, the Administration devotes to it a sum equal to one-quarter of the Territory's own resources. That is a very big contribution. Obviously, it is very far from satisfactory in principle. Obviously again, the provision of medical aid for about one million nomads would require an organization extremely expensive to perfect. Even so, in a few years of Italian administration we have seen the number of consultations increase from 700,000 to 2 millions, which demonstrates a noteworthy effort and is a result of which we can be justly proud. But here again conditions in the country must be taken into account. Under-nourishment, for instance, is, sad to say, a chronic pheno-

menon in a country where, as we have seen from the meteorological reports, the rainfall varies up to fourfold between one year and the next, and where lack of pasture may kill off half the livestock. Yet the population has no other resources.

152. Mass education and primary education, which teach the indigenous population elementary ideas of hygiene and child care, and in another field the extirpation of major endemic diseases — notably through vaccination — are measures which can give considerable results for a relatively low outlay. Better hygiene and anti-smallpox vaccination are inexpensive measures which bring a very considerable decrease in the mortality rate.

153. Let us turn now to the question of education. The five year plan [T/1064] we have before us is a remarkable work. In my view one of its main virtues is that it strives to be realistic. It does not promise the impossible. The aim is that at the end of the five-year period, there will be 22,000 children in the regular schools; and this figure does not cover all the children of school age in the population of fixed domicile. Similarly, the Administration makes no promise to establish secondary education during the operation of the plan, because that would be impossible. It takes twenty years to set up a worth-while system of primary education. It is true that a start had been made under the pre-war Italian Administration. But, starting from scratch, the first task is to train teachers. There can be no widespread primary education without indigenous teachers capable of instructing in the indigenous language. If an indigenous inhabitant is to be enabled to teach, he must first of all be supplied with instructors. If these instructors are to teach a Somali to teach in the Somali language, they must first learn that language themselves. Between the time when the first Italian instructors start learning Somali, the time when they open the first primary schools in which to equip children for entry into a training school, and the time when the first trained Somali teachers leave the training school, a generation must pass. With the best will in the world, this period cannot be shortened. If the grant for education is doubled, the number of classes can be doubled, but spending four times the amount will not halve the time taken to train a teacher.

154. I have said that the Italian Administration has shown itself modest in its ambitions. Some wonder whether it has not been too modest. I myself, however, wonder if the five-year plan is not too ambitious. I said earlier that I would ask the Italian representative to note the Belgian delegation's desire to see in next year's report a plan giving figures. At the moment the five-year plan carries no figures because the Administration realized that the figures given in the first versions of it no longer corresponded to the facts. In Belgium, however, we are experienced in planning. When the planner's attention turns to practical considerations, he realizes that a scholastic programme cannot deal only with schools and the classics, but that, besides building schools, he must house the teachers. Before housing the teachers, he must house the architect responsible for the plans. Of course, the house in which the architect is to live can be used later on for the headmaster of the school. I mention this merely to show that among other things planning must cover public works for the accommodation of the staff, which often cost far more than was envisaged at first, when only the building of schools was considered.

155. Similarly, a plan must take into account not only the non-recurring initial expenditures — once the money has been found and spent for these, that question is settled — but also the recurring expenses for which provision must be made annually, and which will go on appearing in the yearly budget when the five-year-plan comes to an end. Budgetary resources must be scrutinized to see whether these costs can be borne. If it is realized that the normal budget could not carry such an expense, the situation on the day the trusteeship administration ceases to be must be faced.

156. I noticed in one of the reports that Italy found itself in difficulties because of its wish to make rapid progress; and in reading UNESCO's comments I felt some doubt whether rapid progress could not easily become too rapid progress. Wanting to go too fast exposes one to great disappointments. The Administration admits that the shortened courses it is obliged to give in order to produce more or less trained teachers do not always achieve the best results, and sometimes even give doubtful results. The special representative has just told us that the Administration, while respecting the absolute freedom of education, preferred not to inspect some schools or so-called schools because if it did so, it would be obliged to take a hand. On this point I rather wonder whether a school, or a so-called school, which is not inspected and which does not conform even to a minimum standard is truly of service to the population. I will draw an analogy. In the dependent territories under our administration we had some dispensaries. Some doctors held that rather than maintain a dispensary which could not be regularly inspected and where a doctor could not check the work of the dispenser at regular intervals, it was better to do without a dispensary, as the dispenser might prescribe remedies worse than the diseases he sought to cure. In the same way, if children attend a school not worthy of the name, it may happen that when a real school is opened they will claim that they do not need to attend it because they have already been to school. I only wish to point out that hasty solutions may sometimes be dangerous.

157. Obviously, programmes must be fitted to the situation of the population it is intended to educate. On this point I would recall the comment made at the 463rd meeting by the Egyptian representative on the Advisory Council. When visiting a bush school, he found that the teacher, in all good faith, spent the time allotted to manual work in reading the children a fine lecture on the usefulness of manual work. That was certainly a startling thing to find on a visiting school, but was only to be expected. For it appears from one of the reports — I do not remember whether it was the UNESCO report — that in the eyes of the Somali population still bound by tradition (I do not say that this mentality survives among the enlightened people), manual work, or agricultural work, is regarded as an occupation unworthy of a man. The teacher has very often taken to teaching to avoid manual work. Very intensive training is needed at the training school, first of all to convince the teacher that manual work is not unworthy of a man or of a teacher, and then to persuade him actually to do manual work as part of his training so that he can inspire the children with respect for manual work.

158. Training indigenous staff is clearly the biggest problem. UNESCO warns against excessive haste. There again, as I have just said, the training of suitable teaching staff is a long-term task. The training school opens next month. The foundation is thus well laid. But

in my opinion the training school implies a decision to provide elementary education in Somali. The UNESCO report speaks of making Somali a written language. Somali should not be made a written language; Somali should be written. A written language is not made; a language already in existence is represented and recorded by means of signs. Somali already exists and there is no need to make it a written language. All that has to be done is to use characters to write the language. It is said that efforts to give Somali an alphabet have been unsuccessful. This was probably due to excess of zeal. To give a language an alphabet is obviously a very complicated affair if it is desired to express adequately, as it were phonetically, the different sounds in the language. We find that the international phonetic alphabet is frightfully complicated, even looking at the simplest text written in it, because no one understands anything about the international phonetic alphabet. But it is entirely beside the point here to aim to teach, or write, Somali in such a manner as to enable anyone who knows nothing of the language to read a Somali text with the perfect pronunciation of the Somali-born. The question is much simpler. It is not a matter of teaching foreigners to read Somali, but of teaching Somalis, who know their language perfectly, to write it. If the Italian Administration is waiting until all those who are interested, scientifically or otherwise, in the question, all those who have suggested an alphabet for Somali, reach agreement, then I can tell it from long experience that it will wait a very long time. I would, however, remind it that one day an intelligent man was told that the road to Asia lay open to him who untied the Gordian knot, whereupon Alexander took his sword and cut the knot. The only way for the Administration to find a solution is to cut the Gordian knot and adopt a solution whatever it may be. Among the official languages of the United Nations, there is one, Chinese, which is written without spelling; there is no need of it, since Chinese writing does not record the sounds of the language. Two of the other official languages, Spanish and Russian, have an excellent spelling, and there are two others, English and French, with abominable spelling, which does not prevent us from using them satisfactorily. The Administration can easily solve the problem of the spelling of Somali: it can offer to subsidize textbooks written by a particular method, and refuse to subsidize those written by any other method. Whichever system of spelling is adopted will be better than waiting.

159. Finally, on behalf of my delegation I wish to express our deep satisfaction with the work done by the Administration of Somaliland under Italian trusteeship during the period under review; and I thank the special representative for the kind attention he has shown in holding himself at the disposal of the Council and in assisting it in its work.

160. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): I have listened with great interest to the opening statement of the representative of Italy and to that of the special representative, and I take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the admirable manner in which the special representative has replied to the various questions addressed to him. I have also listened with interest to the remarks of my colleagues during the question period and to the statements made by the members of the Advisory Council.

161. The report we have been considering is full of information and reflects very well the intensive efforts of the Italian Administration in their difficult task. I

congratulate the Administering Authority on its achievements during the past year, and I feel that the Trusteeship Council should also note with gratification the work of the Advisory Council.

162. I have been particularly impressed by the mention in the report of the promotion of indigenous soldiers to be officers in the armed forces and to the construction of something like one hundred new wells in the Territory. One of these steps looks to the defence and the improvement of the status of the indigenous inhabitants; and the other, more important in my view, is a step towards internal peace and prosperity.

163. We have, however, been warned by the representative of Italy in his opening speech, and also by the special representative, that the economic position of the Territory is not satisfactory, and I am disturbed by the wide gap that exists between the revenue and the expenditure of Somaliland. That gap is now filled by Italian subventions, and I ask myself whether this gap can be completely closed by the economic progress of the country before the year 1960.

164. In this connexion, I noted with interest the implied warning given us by the experienced representative of Colombia that the time allowed to Italy to bring Somaliland to independence is dangerously short. Mr. Issa, in his remarks today, suggested that any expressions of doubt regarding the readiness of Somaliland for independence in the ten-year period were designed to perpetuate Italian control over the Territory. I am sure that such a suggestion is quite unfounded. If anyone before this Council expresses doubt, it is only out of anxiety to ensure that the responsibilities of the United Nations towards the people of Somaliland are properly discharged. It is part of these responsibilities to see to it that independence for Somaliland does not simply mean bankruptcy and chaos.

165. Questions have been asked by various delegations regarding the languages of instruction in the schools. I feel very strongly that this is a matter of fundamental importance to Somaliland and that a firm decision should be taken and subsequently adhered to as quickly as possible. The question of providing suitable reading matter for those who have received an elementary education is also important. I can see little use in teaching a child to read if, after that child leaves the school, he or she never has the chance to read again. I know from my own experience what a difficult problem this presents, but it is a problem the Administration must face.

166. There are two other matters to which I should refer briefly, and which arise from consideration of the General Assembly resolution 656 (VII), which is on our agenda in connexion with this item.

167. The first is a suggestion, referred to also by Mr. Issa, that a special questionnaire may be required for Italian Somaliland. The report now before us, based on the new general Questionnaire, is comprehensive, and I cannot imagine any additional topic which could

be included in a special questionnaire peculiar to this Territory. I feel confident that the members of the General Assembly who read this report in full will readily agree that no special questionnaire is necessary.

168. The second point is that a separate visiting mission should be sent to Somaliland. This question will arise for decision at the thirteenth session of the Trusteeship Council, early in 1954, when we shall have to consider the dispatch of a mission to the East African Territories. My delegation attaches importance to two considerations of principle. The first is that visiting missions should be named by experienced members of the Council. The second is that missions should visit more than one Territory at a time in order that the elements of comparison may sharpen their judgments. I should require to be very fully satisfied that compelling reasons exist for sending a separate mission to Somaliland if such a decision were to result in any departure from these principles. At present I am not so satisfied. As I have said, however, we cannot decide this question now, since it is closely linked with the question of visits to the other Trust Territories in the East African region. I suggest that in our report to the General Assembly we should say that this question will be considered by the Trusteeship Council in making its plans for visits in 1954.

169. Mr. SEARS (United States of America): Being a new-comer to this Council, I had hoped there would be others who would wish to present their observations before I did, but I have only a short statement to make.

170. The controlling element in the Trusteeship Agreement for Somaliland is the provision for its independence in 1960. In the limited time remaining to the Administering Authority, there will have to be some very careful planning if the objective of independence by 1960 is to be properly achieved. These plans will possibly have to include an enlargement of the current programmes for the training of prospective Somali public officials, for the training of Somalis in the actual use of election machinery, for preparing the people to accept adequate public taxation, and for training the Somalis themselves in the art of preserving order.

171. With this in mind, it is suggested that the next visiting mission, which will go to Somaliland in 1954, should make a report on the level of government services which Somaliland can be expected to support from its own resources. It is also suggested that the visiting mission should look into the advisability of requesting the Advisory Council to report annually to the Trusteeship Council whether the Administering Authority has been able in fact to establish a training programme of sufficient scope so that the basic requirements to permit the Somali people to take over their own government by 1960 may be more nearly ensured.

172. In conclusion, I also wish to thank Mr. Spinelli for the fine way in which he has replied to all the questions which were submitted to him.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.