



CONTENTS

Page

Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the administration of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration for the year 1954 (T/1174, T/1176, T/1177, T/1188 T/1189) (<i>continued</i>)	
Examination of petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council (T/COM.11/L.128, T/PET.11/L.13 to 17) (<i>continued</i>)	
Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1954, on Somaliland under Italian administration (T/1143 and Corr.1) (<i>continued</i>)	
Report of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration covering the period from 1 April 1954 to 31 March 1955 (T/1172) (<i>continued</i>)	
General Assembly resolution 855 (IX): financing of the economic development plans of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration (T/1186) (<i>continued</i>)	
General debate (<i>concluded</i>)	197
Appointment of the Drafting Committee on Somaliland under Italian administration	198
Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the administration of the Trust Territory of Western Samoa for the year 1954 (T/1190, T/1192) (<i>continued</i>)	
Questions concerning the Trust Territory and replies of the special representative (<i>continued</i>)	198

President: Mr. Mason SEARS (United States of America).

Present:

The representatives of the following States members of the Trusteeship Council: Australia, Belgium, China, France, Haiti, India, New Zealand, Syria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

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

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the administration of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration for the year 1954 (T/1174, T/1176, T/1177, T/1188, T/1189) (*continued*)

[Agenda item 4 (a)]

Examination of petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council (T/COM.11/L.128, T/PET.11/L.13 to 17) (*continued*)

[Agenda item 5]

Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1954, on Somaliland under Italian administration (T/1143 and Corr.1) (*continued*)

[Agenda item 6]

Report of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration covering the period from 1 April 1954 to 31 March 1955 (T/1172) (*continued*)

[Agenda item 17]

General Assembly resolution 855 (IX): financing of the economic development plans of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration (T/1186) (*continued*)

[Agenda item 13]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. de Holte Castello (Colombia), Mr. Salah (Egypt) and Mr. García (Philippines), members of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration, and Mr. Zadotti, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory, took places at the Council table.

GENERAL DEBATE (*concluded*)

1. Mr. CASARDI (Representative of Italy as Administering Authority for Somaliland) wished to make a few general comments arising from the debate. The discussion of conditions in the Territory had been especially interesting because the year 1955 represented the half-way mark in the period of Italian administration, and the comprehensive documentation before them had enabled the members of the Council to assess all the aspects of the situation. Referring to the question of the time limit which had been mentioned in the course of the previous discussion, he confirmed that the Italian Government had only one date in mind, that of December 2, 1960. But on the other hand it was obvious that both the accomplishments and the failures of the Italian Government in the task it was carrying out in Somaliland should be measured in the light of the time factor, since its policy had been shaped and its activity conditioned with that factor in mind. It was a difficult task to prepare Somaliland for independence in so short a time. The Italian Government had dedicated itself to that task with enthusiasm and with no small sacrifice in a sincere desire to make its contribution to the common ideal of the United Nations. He expressed warm appreciation to all the representatives who had in the course of their statements recognized these efforts and sacrifices.

2. He had listened attentively to the comments and suggestions made: those made in a constructive spirit, taking due account of the realities, would be very useful to the Administration. He had been pleased to note that the Council agreed that a fresh effort should be made to prevail on the International Bank for Reconstruction

and Development to undertake an investigation of the financing of Somaliland's economic development plans. He expressed his gratitude to all those whose understanding and co-operative spirit had been of great assistance to him during the current session; he had had the assurance that everyone concerned was pursuing the common effort to make the Somaliland experiment a successful one.

3. Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative) was gratified to note that the Trusteeship Council was fully aware of the Administration's problems and difficulties and was following with sympathy its efforts to develop Somaliland's potentialities in every field.

4. In response to various questions which had arisen during the debate, he assured the Council that pending an international settlement of the issue of the border between the Trust Territory and Ethiopia, the Administration was ready to do its utmost to assist the peoples directly affected. It was greatly concerned about the problem of tribal disputes and was attempting to relieve the prevailing tension, with the co-operation of the political parties.

5. The Administration would give serious consideration to the Indian representative's suggestion that the outstanding members of the new Territorial Council should be given the opportunity of learning democratic parliamentary methods in Italy or elsewhere. It also felt that the new assembly should be granted the widest possible deliberative powers, but that the Administration could not waive its right of veto, which was an essential constitutional guarantee. It would, however, exercise that right only in exceptional circumstances. With regard to the municipal councils, he recalled that Ordinance No. 4, of March 1955, gave them extensive deliberative powers. Moreover, the Administration intended to increase Somali participation in executive functions.

6. In the field of economic advancement, the Administration intended to do its utmost to give effect to the plans laid down, and to exploit all the financial resources available. In particular, it was trying to expand trade and to liberalize it as far as possible, bearing in mind the need to reduce the liability in foreign currency of the future State and to direct its trade towards steady markets. In an effort to increase agricultural production, the Administration was endeavouring to settle land disputes.

7. To decrease the budget deficit, it hoped, with the help of the political parties, religious groups and tribal chiefs, to be able to introduce a system of direct taxation which would gradually accustom the Somalis to the idea of contributing to the revenues of their Territory. It would also study the question of readjusting salaries.

8. With regard to social advancement, the Administration had taken steps to stabilize some semi-nomadic tribes in the Upper Giuba region and intended, as had been suggested during the debate, to profit by the experiences of other Territories and by UNESCO assistance. It would study the problem of unemployment, with the assistance of International Labour Organisation experts, and prepare a long-range scheme to increase the number of vocational schools and improve their teaching programmes. It was prepared to encourage women to take part in the political life of the Territory, but found it difficult to give any undertaking in that respect.

9. The training of medical and technical personnel to replace the European staff after 1960 also remained one of the Administration's main concerns. It would accept the offer of scholarships made by the World Health Organization.

10. In matters of education, the Administration intended to expand the experiment now under way and, in particular, to set up as soon as possible a fundamental education centre at Baidoa; it would open secondary schools as soon as there were enough students to attend them.

Mr. de Holte Castello (Colombia), Mr. Salah (Egypt) and Mr. Garcia (Philippines), members of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration, and Mr. Zadotti, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory, withdrew.

APPOINTMENT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

11. The PRESIDENT suggested the appointment of a drafting committee consisting of the representatives of Australia, France, India and Syria.

It was so decided.

Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the administration of the Trust Territory of Western Samoa for the year 1954 (T/1190, T/1192) (continued)

[Agenda item 4 (b)]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Powles, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Western Samoa took a seat at the Council table.

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

Political advancement (concluded)

12. Mr. POWLES (Special representative), in amplification of the statement he had made at a previous meeting regarding the domestic status of the Territory, referred to the provision in article 8 of the Trusteeship Agreement which related to the transfer of native land.

13. In reply to questions by Mr. S. S. LIU (China), he explained that the recommendations made by the Apia Town Planning Committee on local government for Apia were of a purely technical character. The local government board, set up in May 1954, had had to concern itself first of all with preparation of a Constitutional Convention. Since the annual report¹ had been written, the board had done a good deal more, in particular it had established contact with the Bulenu'u of the villages and it was concerning itself with the establishment of local government in those areas that were ready for it.

14. He explained that a water supply authority was a locally elected body whose task it was to control the local water supply. It collected the charge — which was nominal — paid by the users. The by-laws of the authorities had been drafted and enacted.

15. With reference to the question of indigenous civil servants, he said the Administration intended to work

¹ Report by the New Zealand Government to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of Western Samoa for the Calendar Year 1954, Department of Island Territories, Wellington, Government Printer, 1955.

out a programme of staff training which would prepare Samoans for responsible appointments. A Public Service Commissioner had just been appointed. The Administration hoped before long to make considerable progress in that field.

16. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) asked whether the Administering Authority was proposing to consult the people of the Territory on the resolutions adopted by the Constitutional Convention² concerning the future of Western Samoa.

17. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) and Sir Leslie MUNRO (New Zealand) referred to document T/1192 which reproduced very fully the observations of the New Zealand Government on the recommendations of the Constitutional Convention on Western Samoa.

18. In reply to another question by Mr. TARAZI (Syria), Mr. POWLES (Special representative) stated that the Fono of Faipule would be abolished when the legislature assumed its functions, probably at the end of 1957.

19. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) asked whether the district judges referred to on pages 54 and 55 of the annual report applied customary or statute law.

20. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) replied that the judges tried cases according to the statute and common law of the land; Samoan custom did not enter into their jurisdiction.

21. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) asked for further particulars about the Inter-Samoa Consultative Committee, the reaction of Samoans to its establishment and the problems regarded as of common interest to the United States and the Trust Territory.

22. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) said that the Consultative Committee had been set up on the joint initiative of the Governor of American Samoa and himself. The Samoans' reaction had been favourable in both Territories. The purpose of the body was to facilitate relations between the two adjoining small Territories. It had dealt with measures to remove restrictions on travel between the two Territories and would endeavour to develop co-operation on technical matters, particularly in the joint use of the services of experts. For example, one ophthalmologist and one entomologist would certainly be sufficient for both Territories.

23. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) believed that the Consultative Committee would do much to encourage co-operation between the two administrations, and he hoped that the Trusteeship Council would be kept informed of its work.

24. Referring to page 11 of the annual report, he noted that there had been a drift of population to New Zealand and that recently the migrants had tended more and more to become permanent residents of New Zealand. He wished to know the reason for that trend; perhaps it reflected the dissatisfaction of the politically more progressive members of the community with the extremely conservative Samoan society.

25. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) said that that was one of the reasons. There were, however, two more important ones: the attraction of higher wages and the desire of many young Samoans for education and occupational training.

Economic advancement

26. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) inquired how the funds granted for the eradication of the rhinoceros beetle had been spent, and with what results.

27. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) explained that the funds, which came out of a grant made from the profits of the New Zealand Reparation Estates, had amounted to £3,540 in 1954, and to £5,000 in 1955. The money was used to defray Western Samoa's share of the cost of the joint scheme, sponsored by the South Pacific Commission, for finding a way of dealing with that insect. The Commission paid the cost of an entomologist who was currently doing research in Southern India. Western Samoa paid the cost of an expert working in the Territory. By combining their efforts and findings, the two experts hoped to find a way of exterminating the beetle. Meanwhile, the Samoan Government for its part was conducting a steady campaign against the insect which was financed out of the Territory's ordinary revenues.

28. In reply to another question by Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom), Mr. POWLES (Special representative) explained that the *matai* was sometimes in a position to settle land disputes arising within his family but regardless of his decision, the parties could, if they so desired, bring the matter before the Land and Titles Court.

29. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) asked for further information about the experiments with fish-pond culture.

30. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) explained that the experiments had begun but that the difficulties had proved greater than expected. The last he had heard, the authorities were awaiting the return of Mr. Van Pel, the fisheries expert of the South Pacific Commission, who was due to arrive any moment, before continuing the experiments.

31. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked why it was necessary to resort to fish-pond culture when the Territory was composed of islands.

32. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) explained that the sea around the Samoan islands was not teeming with fish, and was being steadily depleted, possibly because its temperature had risen somewhat during the past fifty years. A Danish scientific research vessel had visited the Territory in 1953 and had noted that the temperature of the sea had risen by two degrees. Furthermore, the population of Samoa and grown considerably, and in many areas the lagoons had been fished out.

33. Mr. JAIPAL (India) gathered that the 60 per cent of the Samoans' total cocoa production did not include the quantity of cocoa produced by the New Zealand Reparation Estates.

34. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) replied that that was correct. The 60 per cent represented the cocoa grown and produced by Samoans.

35. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked why cocoa exports had declined by approximately 340 tons in 1954, as compared with 1953.

36. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) replied that the reason advanced by the growers was the unduly wet weather which damaged the crops and was conducive to the black pod disease.

² *Ibid.*, appendix XXVIII.

37. Mr. JAIPAL (India) wished to know how the 7,900 acres of land leased to Europeans were being used.

38. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) explained that the Europeans put most of the land to the same uses as the indigenous inhabitants; they grew cocoa and copra, the Territory's two principal crops.

39. Mr. JAIPAL (India) noted that for every acre of cultivated land there were about five acres of uncultivated land and that the cultivated plots were small and scattered, so that cultivation was uneconomic. He asked whether the Administration was planning to increase the area under cultivation and to regroup it on a regional basis.

40. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) replied that it was the Administration's intention to open up new lands and to regroup the land being cultivated. In the past, however, it had not had the necessary maps or sufficient information about the soil. The New Zealand Department of Lands and Surveys was in the process of preparing maps from an aerial survey. In addition, the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research intended to send specialists to the Territory to make a preliminary soil survey. All that information had to be gathered before the Administration could make long-term plans.

41. So far as the regrouping of lands was concerned he said that the scattering of the plots was probably not a disadvantage in the cultivation of cocoa and copra, inasmuch as the land did not have to be tilled. The dispersal of holdings did, however, hamper the raising of livestock, as the Samoans were now beginning to understand. Already in some villages some of the landholders had been able to secure pieces of land large enough to support cattle.

42. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked for comments on the possibilities of diversifying the economic pattern of the Territory with a view to increasing the productive capacity, generally, as suggested in the partly completed economic survey which had been undertaken in the Territory.

43. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) said that while there was something to be said for diversification of crops, the Territory could hardly expect much from it. The economy of Western Samoa had a double basis: cocoa and copra. In the long run, greater benefits might be derived from an improvement and intensification of the production of the two crops, about which the Samoans knew a great deal, than from secondary crops such as rice, cotton, vanilla and coffee all of which had been tried and abandoned. The one exception was banana production which was being developed and which provided the banana producer with an income which was both regular and profitable in every respect.

44. Mr. JAIPAL (India) asked whether the formation of co-operatives provided an economic incentive to individuals.

45. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) thought that it did. It was probably better to use the existing communal system, which was remarkable, than to encourage the formation of small individual holdings. The co-operatives performed a useful function in that connexion.

46. In reply to a question by Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. POWLES (Special representative) explained that the companies operating in Western Samoa did not pay income taxes,

but a "store tax" of 5 per cent on the total turnover. Figures showing the proceeds of that tax were given on page 185 of the report, under the heading of indirect taxation. The tax was levied by the Government of Western Samoa. No company paid taxes in New Zealand on profits made in Western Samoa. The basic income tax law had been passed by the Assembly of Western Samoa and would enter into force after the Assembly had fixed the rates at its next session.

47. In reply to another question by Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), he said that no law prohibited individuals or companies from transferring the profits they had made in Western Samoa out of the Territory.

48. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked why the discrimination referred to on page 69 of the report had not been abolished.

49. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) said that the discrimination in question was actually directed against non-Samoan inhabitants. A number of laws had been passed for the protection of the Samoans and it was interesting to note that it was the Samoans themselves who felt that they no longer needed such protection. A special body, the Samoan Status Committee, was at present examining which of those laws should be repealed.

50. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that under certain legislative provisions Samoans could not become members of companies without the prior authorization of the High Commissioner, or parties to a contract without the consent of the Administrator. He asked whether those discriminatory measures would shortly be abolished.

51. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) said that the legislation in question had become completely obsolete and should be abolished. In actual fact the consent required by law was granted automatically. However, it was for the Samoan Status Committee, composed of Samoans, to recommend the repeal of those laws.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4.35 p.m.

Mr. Dorsinville (Haiti), Vice-President, took the Chair.

52. Mr. CLAEYS-BOUUAERT (Belgium) referred to the three types of land in Samoa: Crown lands, European lands and Samoan lands. He asked whether the Samoan plantations mentioned on page 66 of the annual report were situated on land governed by Samoan tribal institutions or on Crown lands granted to the Samoans under concession.

53. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) said that they were situated on Samoan traditional land.

54. In reply to a further question by Mr. CLAEYS-BOUUAERT (Belgium), he said that in some areas Samoan land could be used in common by all the inhabitants of the village. In most cases the *matais* were entitled to an allocation of land for themselves and their families; the plantations mentioned in the report were usually developed by the initiative of a *matat* who cultivated them in co-operation with his family.

55. Mr. CLAEYS-BOUUAERT (Belgium) said that the recruitment of workers in Western Samoa for employment outside the Territory was prohibited under an ordinance passed in 1951. However, there was some emigration to New Zealand. He asked whether the emigrants acted on their own initiative and why the Administration had passed the 1951 ordinance.

56. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) said that the 1951 Ordinance had been passed to put an end to the recruitment of Samoans for work in textile factories in New Zealand. Present emigration was brought about by Samoans already settled in New Zealand who induced their relatives and friends to emigrate after finding them jobs and housing.

57. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) asked, with reference to page 96 of the report, why no legislation had been passed concerning the exploitation of forests and afforestation in the Territory.

58. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) said that the forest reserves of Western Samoa were of no great commercial value. However, it was desirable to preserve the forests which covered a large part of the steep hillsides. The Administration intended to take steps in that direction after assuring itself of the people's support. The problem was not urgent and the forests in question were not in danger.

59. In reply to further questions by Mr. S. S. LIU (China), he said that the preferential tariff mentioned on page 84 of the annual report had come into force when New Zealand had assumed the administration of Western Samoa as a Mandated Territory under the League of Nations. It primarily affected copra which was the Territory's main export. Copra from Western Samoa received preferential treatment in its principal market, the United Kingdom, and in return lower duties were paid on certain United Kingdom products than on foreign products imported into Western Samoa. The contract for the sale of copra to the British Ministry of Food would expire in 1957 when it would be in the interests of Western Samoa to preserve its United Kingdom market, particularly as the United States levied a tax amounting to about £10 a ton on foreign copra. The decision to retain the preferential tariff had in any event been made by the Samoan Legislative Assembly.

60. In reply to a question by Mr. BARGUES (France), Mr. POWLES (Special representative) said that it was rather difficult to say whether the store tax was a direct or indirect tax. The other taxes were listed in the annual report and the reader could see to which category they belonged. In that connexion he wished to correct an error which had crept into the report on page 63, line 16: it was not the copra tax that was to be abolished but the tax levied on premises used by persons who bought copra (copra house tax).

61. Mr. BARGUES (France) said that whatever test was applied, the fiscal system of Western Samoa was based essentially on indirect taxation. It appeared that the Administration was trying to remedy the situation because legislation to introduce income tax had recently been passed and would soon become operative. However, most businessmen would probably escape taxation because of the difficulties of supervision. He asked who would have to pay the new tax and what was the expected yield.

62. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) said that the object of the new legislation was to try to introduce some order into fiscal arrangements. The Administration did not anticipate a large class of new taxpayers, but hoped to increase revenue by fixing income tax rates at a level which would yield more than the existing taxes.

63. In reply to questions by Mr. BARGUES (France) he said that there were three categories of

import duties. A duty of 15 per cent was charged on some articles, irrespective of the country of origin. A duty of 25 per cent was charged on other articles if imported from British Commonwealth countries and a duty of 36 per cent if imported from other countries. A 33.5 per cent duty was charged on luxury articles if imported from Commonwealth countries and a 45 per cent duty if imported from other countries. An export duty of 10 per cent was charged on practically all exports, irrespective of their destination.

64. He agreed that customs duties were quite high. Nevertheless, the duties on basic necessities had been considerably reduced. He did not think that the trading firms which operated in the Territory had reached an understanding to maintain high prices. In any event the Administration would be able to tell by the end of the year whether there had been real competition between merchants since the removal of price controls.

65. In reply to questions by Mr. ROBBINS (United States of America), Mr. POWLES (Special representative) said that he did not think there was any reason to believe that the weaving of mats made of pandanu fibre would decline in the Territory. The craft did not lend itself to mass production and the product was not suitable for export. With respect to Samoan crafts, he realized that the Administration could profit from the experience acquired in American Samoa.

66. In reply to a question by Mr. TARAZI (Syria), Mr. POWLES (Special representative) said that the 400 acres of New Zealand Reparation Estates at the disposal of the Samoans consisted of land leased from Samoan owners. The terms of the leases varied and the rental was fixed by valuation. An annual rental was paid either directly to the Samoan owners or to the Samoan Public Trustee for the benefit of a group of owners.

67. A substantial area of land had been purchased by the Government but the New Zealand Reparation Estates had retained only the land which it cultivated. A parcel of land, a coconut plantation, would probably, on the expiration of the lease, revert to the Government and be used for the construction of dwellings. In 1954, part of the land had been used to establish an experimental farm.

68. The very large amount of land which did not belong to the New Zealand Reparation Estates and which was not Crown land, was available to the indigenous inhabitants. It was therefore felt that the problem could be worked out over a period of time.

69. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) noted from the report that the system of land tenure in the Territory was not uniform. At times it appeared that land was held on a family basis, and at others it seemed that the old German system prevailed. He asked whether the Administering Authority intended to simplify the system.

70. Mr. POWLES (Special representative) said that the German system in question was merely an index to the land and had nothing to do with land tenure as such. The Administering Authority was considering the establishment of a proper system of land title registration, but that step required very careful legal preparation.

71. In reply to further questions by Mr. TARAZI (Syria) he said that the indigenous inhabitants made very little use of the facilities offered by the Bank of New Zealand; it was not lawful for Samoans to use their crops as security for loans.

72. Unfortunately, Western Samoan legislation contained no provisions concerning mineral wealth. Neither mineral rights nor rights in land could be alienated.

73. The major use of natural resources for industrial

purposes was the production of hydro-electric power which was by statute reserved to the Government.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.