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*President:* Mr. Rafik ASHA (Syria).

*Present:*

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

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

**Statements concerning the assassination of  
Mr. Kamal Eddine Salah**

1. Mr. GRILLO (Italy) said that the mortal remains of Mr. Salah, the representative of Egypt on the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration who had been assassinated in the Territory, had been transported to Cairo on 18 April by a special aircraft. Official ceremonies had been held at Mogadiscio on 17 April, which had been proclaimed a day of mourning throughout Somaliland under Italian administration.
2. Mr. Salah's assassin had been arrested immediately after the crime and had said that his act had been one of personal vengeance. He was thirty-one years old and had taught Arabic in the local schools in 1955.
3. The investigation was being carried out exclusively by the Administering Authority but it was far from completed and the Trusteeship Council would be informed of its final results in due course.
4. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) said that the assassin's statements could not be accepted in so important a matter and that only the results of the investigation would give the Trusteeship Council trustworthy information on the crime.

**Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the Trust Territory of Togoland under French administration for 1955 (T/1300, T/1304/Add.1, T/PET.7/520) (*continued*)**

[Agenda item 3 (e)]

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY AND REPLIES OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (*concluded*)

*Social and educational advancement* (concluded)

5. In reply to a question put by the Indian representative at the 782nd meeting, Mr. SALSAMENDI (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that, according to UNESCO's estimates, 15 per cent of the total population was usually of school age where the course of study lasted six years. That percentage had been determined on the basis of conclusions reached by several international conferences on education: the XIVth International Conference on Public Education, held at Geneva in 1951; the Regional Conference on Free and Compulsory Education in South Asia and the Pacific, held at Bombay in December 1952; the Conference on Free and Compulsory Education in the Arab Countries of the Middle East, held at Cairo in December 1954 and January 1955; and the Regional Conference on Free and Compulsory Education in Latin America, held at Lima in April and May 1956.

6. UNESCO's criterion might vary according to the region or country considered, but generally speaking, the course of primary studies in the under-developed countries was of six years. In Togoland under French administration, as stated in paragraph 9 of document T/1304/Add.1, the estimate that 15 per cent of the total population were of school age probably corresponded fairly closely to the six-year span of the primary school.

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

7. Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand) said he would not attempt to review the progress reported in the political sections of the annual report for 1955,<sup>1</sup> since, on the one hand, they had been by-passed by later events to such an extent that any comment on them would be quite unrealistic and, on the other hand, it would be elementary courtesy to reserve for the members of the United Nations Commission on Togoland under French Administration the explanations and comments which the implementation of the new institutions in Togoland might call for.

8. In the economic field, the relation between the internal revenue and expenditures of the Territory seemed satisfactory. Moreover, although the external trade balance had shown a slight worsening, that did not represent the Territory's true financial position, since it had been benefited in 1955 from the second part of the 1954-1955 allocation under the Fonds d'investissement pour le développement économique et social des territoires d'outre-mer (FIDES) and from the first part of the 1955-1956 allocation. Although the value of exports had dropped from 4,274 million to 3,882 million

<sup>1</sup> *Rapport annuel du Gouvernement français à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration du Togo placé sous la tutelle de la France, année 1955* (Paris, Imprimerie Chaix, 1956). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by the Secretary-General under cover of document T/1300.

francs CFA, the tonnage figure had increased from 49,500 tons to 53,600 tons. That had been due to price fluctuations in overseas markets in 1955 and in particular to the drop in the prices of coffee and cocoa. It was encouraging to note that, owing to the Administering Authority's policy of price supports, the decline in prices had not seriously affected production and that the African producers did not tend to be discouraged.

9. The Territory's economy was primarily an agricultural one, and he therefore welcomed the Administering Authority's intention to direct the second phase of the development plan to improvements in agriculture: increased cereal production, prevention of soil erosion, greater use of manures, improvement of methods of cultivation, and afforestation and soil restoration programmes.

10. The exploitation of the Territory's phosphate resources was progressing well and an annual yield of 1 million tons could be expected soon. He noted with satisfaction that the new Togoland Government had granted five concessions to the Société minière du Bénin.

11. The decision of the authorities to establish an exemption from income tax on agricultural and commercial enterprises during the first five years of their existence seemed well calculated to attract domestic and foreign capital to those enterprises. Moreover, since increased exports of products such as cocoa had enabled the indigenous producers to realize a much larger income than in the past, they were now in a position to make profitable investments. He stressed the importance of the question of tax reform and remarked that the study commission set up to consider the matter should give good results.

12. The increase in the number of registrations of land rights—from 273 in 1954 to 455 in 1955—represented considerable progress, especially when account was taken of the time and trouble necessary to complete the registration formalities.

13. The Administering Authority had rightly concentrated on improving transport and communications in the Territory and he felt that the present high proportion of expenditure would prove to have been thoroughly justified. Where seaport accommodation was concerned the solution might well lie, as suggested by the French representative (780th meeting), in improvements to the port of Lomé.

14. In the social field progress had been continued at a satisfactory rate. The minimum wage rate had been increased; there had been no labour disputes; a considerable number of orders applying the Labour Code had been issued; and the cost of living had not risen during the year. The social status of women still left room for considerable improvement. The only practicable means of improvement, however, appeared to be by educational campaigns, by the active participation of women in voting, and by other measures to encourage monogamy and the abolition of the worst features of institutions such as the bride-price. He had noted with interest that the Legislative Assembly of Togoland had limited the number of children for whom family allowances were payable under the Lamine-Gueye Act. The Administering Authority had been endeavouring to improve housing for indigenous civil servants living in the bush and financial help for that purpose had been made available from the Caisse centrale de la France d'outre-mer. In addition, the Administration had taken steps to regulate the importation, seizure, sale and consumption of alcohol and had endeavoured to improve

the diet of the Territory's inhabitants. The health of the Territory's inhabitants seemed to show a satisfactory improvement, since there had been large decreases in the incidence of many maladies. Campaigns against malaria and yaws, conducted with the assistance of the World Health Organization (WHO) would doubtless aid greatly in reducing infant mortality in the Territory. As regards the prison situation, he noted with interest that 1957 budgetary appropriations for the improvement of buildings and prison conditions were higher than in preceding years.

15. Progress in education had been steady. The Administering Authority was endeavouring to bring primary education within the reach of all and was making special efforts to develop education for girls and in the north, to train leaders for public life and to develop the skills needed for the Territory's economic development. A substantial proportion of the budget was being devoted to education; it had risen from 17 to 19.3 per cent and UNESCO considered the present situation satisfactory (T/1304/Add.1, para. 6). The number of pupils in both public and private schools had increased substantially and the percentage of enrolments in 1955 had reached 39.8. The schools were growing much faster than the population and the Administering Authority was succeeding in equalizing opportunities as between boys and girls and as between the North and the South. Enrolment in secondary schools had expanded and the proposed improvements in buildings and equipment should allow for still greater expansion in years to come. Scholarships for higher education had been maintained at a satisfactory level.

16. The main educational problem was to increase the number of teachers in order to cope with increasing enrolment and to maintain a satisfactory standard of instruction. There was every reason to believe that the Administering Authority would find some means of training skilled personnel while at the same time not excluding less gifted children from access to further education.

17. Considerable progress had been made both in the campaigns against illiteracy and in the field of vocational training. The Administering Authority would doubtless give careful consideration to the best means of implementing UNESCO's recommendations concerning the teaching of agriculture since the matter was vital to the Territory's economy.

18. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) considered that the Statute of Togoland under French administration could not be regarded as a definitive instrument that would lead to self-government or independence. Moreover, the amendments to the Statute had resulted in no apparent change in the Togoland Government's subordinate position with respect to the French Government. The Statute did not grant the people of Togoland absolute sovereignty. The Government of the Territory remained subordinate to the French Government, since it did not possess full legislative, executive and judicial powers. Likewise, while the French Republic guaranteed Togoland's territorial integrity, it furnished that guarantee, not under a bilateral international agreement, but rather as protection provided by a State for a less favoured region. The Territory was represented in the central organs of the French Republic, but that representation could hardly be called the free association of two countries; it indicated rather the incorporation of Togoland in an indivisible whole. That same objective of integration could be seen in the Decree of 22 March

1957 amending article 17 of the Statute. It was inadmissible that Togoland officials and civil servants should serve in the Government of another State or that they should be appointed to posts in both States—Togoland and France—simultaneously. It was also quite incompatible with the objectives of the Trusteeship System that the Legislative Assembly's powers should be restricted to the right to propose amendments to the Statute and the power of veto over any changes which the French Parliament might adopt. Consequently, the Statute granted to Togoland under French administration in no way justified the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

19. Steps should be taken to remedy that state of affairs. In accordance with resolution 1046 (XI), elections to the Legislative Assembly should be organized on the basis of universal suffrage, if possible before the Commission appointed by the General Assembly visited the Territory; at least a date should be fixed for the elections. With regard to the municipalities, it would be unwise to postpone—as had been suggested—the elections in the *communes de plein exercice*, which should be held before or during the visit of the Commission. The measures prohibiting public meetings or hindering the political activity of opposition parties should be rescinded so that the population could freely express its will. It was essential that the Administering Authority should demonstrate its impartiality and win the confidence of the population; likewise, the Togoland Government should adhere strictly to democratic principles, which alone would enable it successfully to perform its functions. The Trusteeship Council might invite the Administering Authority and the Togoland Government to adopt the necessary measures.

20. Political reform alone, however, would not suffice; Togoland had to prepare for self-government and independence in all spheres, and the Government must be able to define and carry out its own economic and social policy. Decisions on economic matters were in the hands of the Administering Authority; questions relating to labour legislation were also outside the purview of the Togoland Government. The *conseils de circonscription*, however, had a certain role in the economic activity of the Territory. They had their own budgets, based on local taxes and government subsidies. They were responsible for the maintenance of roads and the execution of regional development programmes. The Togoland Government and the Administering Authority should give them the support that they deserved. In that connexion it was noteworthy that the indigenous inhabitants were represented on the commission set up to study fiscal reform; their participation would enable them to acquire experience in fiscal problems and to acquaint themselves with all the responsibilities that they would have to assume when the Territory attained independence.

21. Turning to the economic situation of the Territory, he pointed out that under present conditions agricultural production was very uncertain. The increase in production was gratifying, but the cereal harvests had been disappointing. Farming methods were so primitive that production was immediately affected by an unfavourable circumstance. As the use of fertilizer was unknown among the indigenous inhabitants, the soil was rapidly depleted, whereupon the farmers had to move on in search of new land, which they usually obtained by destroying the forests. The Administering Authority should take steps to remedy that situation.

22. With regard to export production, he noted that products such as cocoa, coffee and the like were largely dependent on world market conditions—a situation which represented a threat to the economy of the Territory as a whole. In order to reduce risks of that kind, everything possible should be done to introduce greater diversification. The indigenous inhabitants received very little profit from the export of agricultural products; their activity was largely limited to growing the products, which they sold to commercial firms. If the Administration encouraged the co-operative movement, particularly producer co-operatives, small planters would be able to process and sell their crops themselves, thereby earning higher profits.

23. Industrial activity in the Territory was normal and satisfactory, but the present production of electric power was not sufficient to meet the demand, which had shown a marked increase. The Administering Authority should give careful attention to that deficiency, which might hinder industrial development.

24. With regard to the ten-year plan, the first phase of which had ended in 1955, he expressed satisfaction at what had been accomplished, particularly in respect of transport and communications. He was also gratified to note that the second phase of the plan gave priority to rural economic development, for which substantial appropriations had been made. The Togoland Government should take an active part in the execution of the development programmes.

25. The Administering Authority should also encourage the inhabitants to contribute to the solution of the social problems which confronted the Territory as a whole. That called for an atmosphere of confidence, and the Administering Authority and the Togoland Government should therefore undertake to guarantee absolute respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. A useful measure toward that end would be the adoption of provisions to allow those who so desired to appeal against any administrative decision. In addition, despite the many difficulties, the Administering Authority should make every effort to improve the status of women.

26. He was glad to note the progress that had been made in the matter of labour legislation. On the other hand, he felt that he should draw the attention of the Administering Authority to the public health problems that had to be dealt with. There were not yet enough doctors; infant mortality had reached alarming proportions, while the number of midwives and trained nurses was decreasing. The Administering Authority should co-operate closely with WHO and with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with a view to establishing the necessary services or improving the existing ones; the Council had not been able to obtain precise information on the assistance furnished in the Territory by those two agencies. The Administering Authority should also take steps to modernize prison buildings.

27. In the sphere of education, it was disturbing to note that the members of the *élite*, educated abroad, were gradually drifting away from the mass of the population and were losing their sense of responsibility towards the people. The Administering Authority should therefore develop education in the Territory, in conformity with the recommendations adopted by UNESCO (T/1304/Add.1) and more particularly, it should undertake to increase school attendance; it might be possible to prevent so many pupils from abandoning

their studies. Greater attention should be paid to vocational education and especially to agricultural schools.

28. Attention should be drawn to an interesting development: the Institut de recherches du Togo, which had done a noteworthy work in the economic and social fields. It would be helpful if the Administering Authority would state in its next report how many indigenous inhabitants were working for the institute, and what duties they performed. The Institut français de l'Afrique noire was doing equally important work in the social and cultural fields. It was also desirable that the greatest possible number of Togolandese should take part in the work of that institute, and that the results accomplished should be communicated to the Togoland authorities.

29. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) recalled that at the beginning of the preceding century, when Toussaint Louverture had proclaimed the autonomy of Santo Domingo, Napoleon, at that time First Consul, regarding that step towards independence as intolerable, had sent General Leclerc's troops to the island to suppress it. That historic event had a significance that could not be lightly ignored or rejected.

30. It was disturbing that the municipal elections in Togoland had been postponed *sine die* and that there was nothing to indicate that elections to the Legislative Assembly would be held in the near future. That seemed to indicate that Togoland, in respect of which the termination of the International Trusteeship System was being requested, enjoyed no more internal autonomy than the Cameroons under French administration. Furthermore, his delegation considered the grant of dual citizenship to be extremely dangerous for a young State which had to defend the principle of its independence.

31. Turning to economic advancement, he said that the Administering Authority should arrange for a body of experts to work out a general plan for the development of the Territory. Such a plan, which would be submitted to the new Togoland Government for consideration, would relate both to immediate and to long-term objectives and might include provision for economic aid from metropolitan France. In the meantime, the Administering Authority should see to it that current projects were carried out, particularly the working of the phosphate deposits by the Société minière du Bénin. It should also make provision, in the not too distant future, for the extraction of iron ore and bauxite, of which there were apparently extensive deposits. The delegation of Haiti viewed with concern the drop in the prices of cocoa and coffee and considered that the stabilization funds should grant increased aid to cocoa and coffee producers because the continued decline in prices was a threat to the Territory's economic equilibrium. The Administering Authority should also, in co-operation with the International Chamber of Commerce, make a study of market trends in those commodities. The production of electric power in the Territory was still far too inadequate, especially in the light of plans to establish new industrial enterprises; he expressed the hope that the national development plan would give high priority to the question of the generation and distribution of electricity. With regard to land rights, it was most important that such rights should be registered in the Territory. Lastly, he considered that the lack of suitable seaports represented a heavy liability for the country's economy. To remedy that state of affairs, it was desirable that the port of Lomé should be so equipped as to become a genuine outlet for the products of the Territory.

32. Progress in the social field, although somewhat slow, had nevertheless been steady. The Administering Authority had, for instance, raised the level of wages and improved the status of women in the Territory. It had also taken welcome action to better the position of the officials who had to live in rural centres. He trusted that the funds provided by the Caisse centrale de la France d'outre-mer would be distributed in the right proportions, in keeping with the effective needs of each region. Referring to public health, he said there were still not enough hospitals, but the organization and equipment of the hospital centres and the quality of the staff at those centres represented an outstanding contribution by the Administering Authority to the Territory's advancement. The campaign undertaken to curb the ravages of smallpox, yellow fever and sleeping sickness and to eradicate yaws, malaria and leprosy was also most commendable.

33. Although great strides had been made in the matter of education, a great deal more remained to be done. The number of pupils qualified to proceed to secondary or higher education was limited by a process of selection which took place at the completion of primary and secondary courses. The situation was not without risk, for the elements of social unrest or instability were recruited precisely from the class of the semi-educated. Hence he wished to draw special attention to the importance of technical and vocational training, which would provide the Territory with the nucleus of technicians essential for its industrial development. He regretted that the Administering Authority's report contained no particulars concerning agricultural training. He suggested that schools of agriculture should be set up which would recruit students at the pre-secondary school level as future agricultural assistants and from the higher grades of secondary schools as future agronomists, until such time as the organization of higher education in the Territory would make it possible to train agricultural engineers. Lastly, he drew particular attention to the training and status of teachers and to the curricula for secondary schools. Although the time was not yet ripe for setting up institutions of higher learning in Togoland, the Administering Authority should give serious consideration to the matter.

*The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4.20 p.m.*

34. Mr. JAIPAL (India) regretted the absence of a special representative of the Administering Authority and the lack of documentation concerning recent events in Togoland under French administration. In particular, it was astonishing that the Decree of 22 March 1957, amending an earlier decree concerning the new Statute of the Territory, had not been officially transmitted to the Trusteeship Council. By contrast with the view expressed by the French representative at the 777th meeting, he did not believe that the visit to the Territory of the Commission set up by the General Assembly would detract from the interest of the current debate.

35. The Indian delegation had expressed its view in the Fourth Committee (597th meeting) during the eleventh session of the General Assembly. It considered that the Territory was neither autonomous nor a republic. It did, however, have a certain amount of internal self-government and the beginnings of a parliamentary system were present. He drew attention in that connexion to the fact that the new Statute of Togoland had been adopted by a Territorial Assembly composed entirely of members of the Parti togolais du progrès. Surely it was wholly improper for a majority

party to proclaim the end of trusteeship in a particular Territory. Any decision to terminate the trusteeship as long as the Territory was not self-governing or independent was contrary to the Charter and to the Trusteeship Agreement. In the circumstances, he had welcomed the statement by the Minister for Overseas France to the Fourth Committee (592nd meeting) that he would not request the immediate termination of trusteeship if the resolution adopted was acceptable to France. France had voted in favour of that resolution (1046 (XI)), thereby apparently indicating that it would withdraw the request for the termination of trusteeship on the basis of the present Statute.

36. Certain features of the Statute were rather disturbing, particularly the part which fixed the relationship between Togoland and the French Republic. There was a contradiction—which should be clarified—between the repeated assertions of the French representative that Togoland had not been integrated into the French Republic and a statement by the French Prime Minister to the effect that the new Statute granted Togoland self-government within the French Republic. It was perhaps true that in a strictly constitutional sense the Trust Territory had not been made an integral part of the French Republic, but certain characteristics of *de facto* integration were unmistakably present.

37. He referred to a statement by the representative of France concerning the relationship between the Trust Territories and the French Union, contained in the Council's special report on administrative unions (A/2151, para. 282). The Standing Committee on Administrative Unions would have to reconsider the situation in the light of article 4 A of the Trusteeship Agreement. In addition, the Council should hear the Administering Authority's views concerning the existing constitutional position in the Territory and concerning its compatibility with the provisions of article 26 of the French Constitution, which nullified any internal legislation of France that conflicted with the Trusteeship Agreement. Despite the existence of article 26, part X of the new Statute contained the expression "provisional trusteeship", which seemed to indicate that the Trusteeship Agreement was somehow affected by the coming into force of the new Statute.

38. With reference to the hearing of the petitioner representing the Comité de l'Unité togolaise,<sup>2</sup> he said that the petitioner's request was very reasonable; the curious feature of the situation was that it was a minority party which was demanding free elections. The new legislation introducing universal adult suffrage had not been in force when members had been elected to the new bodies established under the Statute and therefore the practical application of the Statute was not in the hands of the people's representatives elected by universal suffrage. On the other hand, there were apparently no practical difficulties in the way of holding elections. The Administering Authority could hardly claim that it was for the Territorial Government to give effect to the recommendation in General Assembly resolution 1046 (XI) with regard to elections, for France had voted in favour of that resolution and it was the responsibility of the Administering Authority under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement to establish democratic and representative bodies in the Territory. The existing Legislative Assembly had been elected by half the electorate and only two of its members held office in the Territorial Government: none of the other

Ministers had ever stood for election. The Commission set up by the General Assembly to study the situation resulting from the practical application of the Statute should not proceed to the Territory before elections had taken place and the newly elected bodies had begun to give effect to the Statute. It was regrettable that the political activities of the opposition parties were being hampered. He considered that, ultimately, it was the responsibility of the Administering Authority to guarantee public freedoms.

39. He drew attention to the weakness of the Territory's economy, which had to rely heavily on outside aid and subsidies, mainly from France. The budgetary situation was at the mercy of fluctuations in the world prices of certain cash crops. Another undesirable feature was the development in that part of Africa of competitive, rather than complementary, economies; they might one day become completely dependent on foreign markets in other continents, a situation which would have serious political consequences. Moreover, under the new Statute, France still retained extensive power in the economy of the Territory.

40. In the field of social advancement, he noted that there had been no labour disputes during 1955 and that minimum wage rates had been increased. On the other hand, the status of women continued to be unsatisfactory; polygamy, the bride-price and alcoholism were still subjects for serious concern. Some advances had been made in public health, but it was essential that a hospital similar to the general hospital of Lomé should be built in the northern region.

41. Some progress had been made in the field of education, especially with respect to school attendance and the education of girls in the northern region. On the other hand, the number of secondary school students was increasing rather slowly and there were no institutions of higher learning—a serious deficiency in a Territory which was making rapid political progress and would have a growing need for competent leaders.

42. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that one could not form an accurate opinion of the reforms introduced in the Territory without first examining the concrete results they had produced. Instead of furthering the aims of the Trusteeship System, those reforms had the effect of removing Togoland from United Nations supervision and of harnessing it to the territories belonging to the Administering Authority. The Administering Authority had, it was true, temporarily dropped the idea of terminating the trusteeship, but that was only a tactical move. In reality, there was nothing to show that Togoland was being helped towards independence. The Administering Authority had not given effect to the General Assembly's recommendation concerning the organization of general elections by universal suffrage for a Legislative Assembly to replace the existing Assembly, which had been elected by limited suffrage and was not representative. In that connexion he said he had been most impressed by the arguments of the petitioner. He stressed that the reforms which had been effected in the Territory might have some significance only if they were considered as steps towards independence and if the Administering Authority qualified them by indicating the exact time within which the aims of trusteeship would be fulfilled.

43. Turning to economic questions, he said that his delegation had expressed a number of specific wishes which had not been taken into consideration by the Administering Authority. The Territory was not sharing

<sup>2</sup> See 778th, 779th and 782nd meetings.

in the exploitation of the mineral resources, on the pretext that Togoland capital was lacking, whereas valuable concessions had been granted for a fifty-year term to foreign companies. The explanation offered by the representative of France, who alleged that those concessions had been granted with the approval of the Government and Legislative Assembly of Togoland, clearly showed that those institutions had been established for the purpose of maintaining the Territory's colonial status.

44. There had been no significant changes in social conditions, and in the matter of education the situation was still far from satisfactory. The Council should once again recommend that the network of schools should be expanded so as to provide universal and compulsory education in the very near future. Similarly, the quality of education should be improved and religious schools should be replaced by a progressive system under the supervision of competent authorities. In the field of secondary and higher education, no efforts to improve conditions could be too great. He referred to General Assembly resolution 1063 (XI) concerning scholarships granted by States Members of the United Nations to the inhabitants of Trust Territories.

45. In conclusion, he pointed out that the Administering Authority has never fixed a date for the attainment of independence by the Territory. He proposed that in its recommendations the Council should add a provision stipulating that Togoland should attain complete independence within a period not exceeding three years.

46. Mr. GRILLO (Italy) said it was unrealistic to discuss the report on conditions in Togoland as they had existed in 1955. The discussion of the item by the Council at its sixth special session, held in December 1956, had been perfunctory, whereas it had been studied exhaustively at the eleventh session of the General Assembly by the Fourth Committee, which had had all the necessary information at its disposal. After several weeks of debate, the Fourth Committee, had, at its 599th meeting, adopted by 52 votes to 10 a draft resolution representing a hard-won compromise between conflicting tendencies. That text (A/3449/Add.1, para. 26), of which he recapitulated the main points, contained a provision for sending a commission to study conditions in the Territory.

47. The Italian delegation had taken note of the amendments made to the Statute in response to the wishes of the Togoland Assembly. He reaffirmed the position his delegation had taken at the sixth special session of the Council (749th meeting) and considered that any further discussion should take into account the report of the Commission, as suggested by the General Assembly in its resolution 1046 (XI).

48. Mr. SEARS (United States of America) considered that general elections to the Legislative Assembly of the Territory should take place as soon as possible, in conformity with the terms of and as authorized by the *loi-cadre* of 23 June 1956.

49. He thanked the representative of France for his co-operative attitude; and he added that he had listened with great pleasure and interest to Mr. Olympio's statements.

50. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) said that in his view the discussion had been most realistic. It had been con-

ducted in conformity with rule 72 of the rules of procedure, under which the examination of the annual report could, at the request of the Administering Authority, be advanced but not postponed. According to the customary procedure, the discussion of the report should lead to the formulation of recommendations.

51. Commenting on the suggestion of the representative of Italy that the Council should not take a decision until it had received the Commission's report, he pointed out that the General Assembly had recommended that the Legislative Assembly of the Territory should be formed as soon as possible by elections on the basis of universal adult suffrage. In effect, therefore, the General Assembly had placed the elections outside the Commission's terms of reference and the Council would consequently be free to make recommendations on the elections without waiting for the Commission's report.

52. Mr. BARGUES (France) said that the Administering Authority had not done anything to delay discussion of the report. His delegation had wished to show that it would be unrealistic to debate the political problems of a Territory where a new Statute was being applied and which was to be visited by a commission whose report would be laid before the Council.

53. Turning to the question of the elections, he said that article 6 of the Statute provided that the Legislative Assembly of Togoland was to be elected for five years by direct universal suffrage. Hence the elections called for in the General Assembly's recommendation were in fact provided for by the Statute.

54. Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) said that the Trusteeship Council controlled its own procedure. He asked if rule 72 of the rules of procedure had always been strictly applied. In that connexion, he recalled that at its sixth special session (751st meeting) the Council had decided to postpone examination of the annual report on Tanganyika from its nineteenth to its twentieth session.

55. The PRESIDENT said, first, that in the case of Togoland under French administration the Council had placed the question on its agenda by its decision at the first meeting of its present session (752nd meeting). In view of the discussion at the 782nd meeting, however, the decision concerning the appointment of a drafting committee to prepare the Council's report on the Territory had been postponed.

56. In the case of Tanganyika, as the Belgium representative had said, the Council had decided to postpone the discussion on the report as a whole.

57. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that not all the delegations had expressed their views. By reopening discussion on questions that had been settled early in the session, an attempt was being made to delay the Council's proceedings, to influence members of the Council and so to limit their rights.

58. Mr. GRILLO (Italy) said it was inconsistent with the customary procedure for one delegation to comment on the statements of another delegation in the course of the general discussion. He had never questioned the right of members of the Council to state their views on the 1955 annual report; he had simply ventured an opinion as to the usefulness of the debate.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.