



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Eighteenth Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

701st (Opening) Meeting

Thursday, 7 June 1956,
at 11.15 a.m.

NEW YORK

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President: Mr Rafik ASHA (Syria).

Present:

The representatives of the following States members of the Trusteeship Council: 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.

Mr. Max Dorsinville (Haiti), Vice-President of the Council at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, took the Chair temporarily.

Opening of the eighteenth session

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared the eighteenth session of the Trusteeship Council open. He welcomed U MYA SEIN, the Burmese representative, Mr. Kiang, the Chinese representative and Mr. Grillo, the Italian representative, who were representing their Governments in the Council for the first time, and said he was convinced that they would make a valuable contribution to its work.

2. U MYA SEIN (Burma), Mr. GRILLO (Italy) and Mr. KIANG (China) thanked the Temporary President for his words of welcome and assured him that they would spare no effort in discharging the responsibilities placed on members of the Trusteeship Council.

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Georges Séraphin

3. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT informed members of the Council of the death of Mr. Georges Séraphin, a member of the Haitian delegation to the Trusteeship Council. He recalled the competence, enthusiasm and devotion with which Mr. Séraphin had co-operated in its work. His premature death was a severe loss to the Haitian delegation and he wished to express his sympathy with Mr. Séraphin's family.

4. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. GRILLO (Italy), Mr. KIANG (China), Mr. BARGUES (France), Mr. ASHA (Syria), Mr. LALL (India), Sir Leslie MUNRO

(New Zealand) and Mr. MULCAHY (United States of America) expressed their condolences to the Temporary President, the Haitian delegation and Mr. Séraphin's family.

5. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT thanked members of the Council for their expressions of sympathy, which he would convey to his Government.

Question of the representation of China

6. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the USSR delegation felt obliged to draw attention to the abnormal situation prevailing in the Council owing to the fact that a representative of the People's Republic of China was not participating in its work, his place being illegally occupied by a member of the Chiang Kai-shek group, who represented only himself. That situation severely hampered the work of the Council and deprived it of the valuable contribution that could be made by the great Chinese people.

7. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT pointed out that the representative just mentioned by Mr. Grubyakov was the representative of a Government recognized by the great majority of Member States and participated in the Council's work in that capacity. He hoped that the Chinese representative would understand the position of all members of the Council and requested him, in his reply, to observe the courtesy customary in the Council; he trusted that all other delegations wishing to speak on the subject would do likewise.

8. Mr. KIANG (China) protested against the references made by the USSR representative to the head of the Chinese Government. The Government which he, Mr. Kiang, represented was the only Chinese Government freely and legitimately constituted and it alone could speak for the Chinese people in the United Nations. The Council should remember that the Soviet Union had been censured by the United Nations for violating its treaty obligations with the Chinese Government by giving military aid to the Chinese Communists. The Chinese Communists had also been condemned by the United Nations for their aggression in Korea. He requested the Temporary President to rule the USSR representative's statement out of order.

9. Mr. LALL (India) said that he would refrain from any comment on the question at the present stage of the discussion. His delegation might perhaps have something to say on the matter when the Council considered the Secretary-General's report on Credentials, in which event its remarks would be based on principle and not on personalities.

10. U MYA SEIN (Burma) reserved his delegation's right to speak on the subject later.

11. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT said that all the statements that had been made on the question would be recorded in the official record of the meeting.

Adoption of the agenda

[Agenda item 1]

At the invitation of the Temporary President, Mr. de Holte Castello (Colombia), Mr. Salah (Egypt) and

Mr. Baradi (Philippines), representatives of States members of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration, took places at the Council table.

12. Mr. BARGUES (France) reserved his delegation's right to raise objections in connexion with agenda item 5 (Examination of the petitions listed in the annex to the agenda), when that item was under discussion. His delegation reserved the right to comment on the admissibility of some of the petitions.

The Provisional agenda (T/1241) was adopted unanimously.

Election of the President and the Vice-President

[Agenda item 3]

13. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect a President.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	14
Invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	13
Required majority:	7

Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Asha (Syria)	13
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Mr. Asha (Syria) was unanimously elected President.

Mr. Asha (Syria) took the Chair.

14. The PRESIDENT thanked members of the Council for the honour they had conferred on his country and himself by electing him President. He regarded his election as a tribute to Syria for the constructive interest it had always taken in the operation of the Trusteeship System.

15. During the ten years that had elapsed since the approval of the first trusteeship agreements, notable progress had been made in the Trust Territories and recent developments had brought the objectives of the Trusteeship System very close to achievement. In Togoland under British administration a plebiscite had been conducted under United Nations auspices to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants regarding their future. That event was extremely important, because it was the first time that the inhabitants of a Trust Territory had been directly consulted regarding their future. The Council would study the report to be submitted by the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner and in the light of that report and of the Council's comments, the General Assembly, in consultation with the Administering Authority, would determine what further action should be taken. The decision that the United Nations was called upon to make in that connexion was of primary importance not only to the peoples of Togoland under British administration but also to the peoples of all the other Trust Territories.

16. Somaliland under Italian administration would be granted independence by 1960. The first Legislative Assembly had been elected at the beginning of the present year, and steps had already been taken by the Administering Authority to establish a cabinet system of government granting the Somalis a large share of responsibility for the internal affairs of the Territory. Representatives of the new Somali Government were to attend the present session of the Council. In that connexion, his delegation had listened with great satisfaction to the address delivered by the President of the Italian Republic in New York on 14 March 1956, in which he had paid a tribute to the political maturity

and love of democracy of which the Somalis had given proof during the recent elections.

17. In Western Samoa, the Administering Authority had drawn up a programme which would result in the establishment of cabinet government under a Samoan prime minister and the grant of self-government to the Territory; it had also drawn up a time-table for the implementation of those measures.

18. In addition to those developments, the Council would examine at the present session many other important questions, including the question of the future of Togoland under French administration and conditions in the Trust Territories in the Pacific, which had just been visited by a United Nations visiting mission.

19. The task confronting the Council at its present session was therefore of particular importance. He was confident that the members of the Council would work in a spirit of co-operation in order to bring the objectives of the Charter ever closer to achievement in all Trust Territories and to ensure that the paramount interests of the inhabitants took precedence over all other concessions. For his part, he would make every effort to discharge his responsibilities with complete objectivity and impartiality.

20. Mr. LALL (India) said that the Council should consider itself fortunate to have elected so distinguished a President who brought to his office such a wide experience of trusteeship problems.

21. Sir Leslie MUNRO (New Zealand) and Mr. MULCAHY (United States of America) congratulated the President.

22. The PRESIDENT thanked the members of the Council for their kind words and invited them to elect the Vice-President.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	14
Invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	12
Required majority:	7
Number of votes obtained:	

Mr. Grillo (Italy)	12
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Mr. Grillo (Italy) was unanimously elected Vice-President.

23. The PRESIDENT congratulated Mr. Grillo on his election.

24. Mr. GRILLO (Italy) thanked the members of the Council for the tribute they had paid to his country by electing him Vice-President. He would do his best to justify the trust they had placed in him. He congratulated the President on his election and assured him of the Italian delegation's fullest co-operation.

25. Mr. WALKER (Australia) congratulated the President and the Vice-President.

Organization of the Council's work

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

26. Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) recalled that it was the Council's practice to adopt its report to the General Assembly at the end of the summer session, in the last days of July. The report was then translated, edited, printed and distributed to the members of the Assembly. However, because of the length of the Council's report and the late date of its submission, and also because of the heavy work-load of the translation and printing services during the period preceding the opening of the General Assembly session, the Secretariat had been unable in past years to ensure

the early distribution of the report, especially in its Spanish and Russian versions. At the last session of the Assembly, for instance, the Spanish text had not been distributed until mid-October, and a number of delegations had complained that they had not had enough time to study the report before its consideration by the Fourth Committee. To remedy that situation without increasing the services of the Secretariat, the Secretary-General suggested that the report might be submitted in two parts. The first part, concerning the work of the Council up to and including the winter session, would be adopted by the Council at the end of the winter session and would be translated and printed by the Secretariat immediately; the second part, concerning the work of the summer session, would be adopted at the end of that session. That procedure would have the advantage not only of making part of the Council's report available for distribution well before the opening date of the General Assembly session, but also of reducing by one half the length of the document which the Secretariat would have to translate and print during its period of peak activity. If that suggestion was acceptable to the Council, the Secretariat could prepare a draft report on the seventeenth session for the consideration of the Council within the next few days.

27. Mr. WALKER (Australia) thought the Secretary-General should be encouraged to proceed along the lines suggested. It would be advantageous for the Council to examine a draft within the next few days and to approve as much as possible of the report at an early stage of its proceedings.

TIME-TABLE OF MEETINGS

28. Mr. BARGUES (France) thought that a number of delegations and the Secretariat would prefer the

Council's meetings to begin punctually at 2 p.m. and to end at 5.30 p.m. The recess, which now began at about 4 p.m. and frequently lasted until 4.30 p.m. and even later, might be dispensed with.

29. The PRESIDENT said that he had intended to ask members of the Council to meet punctually at 2 p.m. He thought the Council might try out a recess limited to fifteen minutes only and, after a few meetings, decide whether to act on the French representative's suggestion.

30. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) recalled that in practice the recess had always been longer than fifteen minutes. There was a great deal in the French representative's suggestion and the Council should give it serious consideration.

31. There was the further point that the Council found it necessary to hold two meetings a day towards the end of each session, at which time several drafting committees were at work, and it was sometimes extremely difficult to arrange morning meetings, because members of the Council could not attend a drafting committee and the Council at the same time. If two meetings a day were needed, they should be arranged at an early stage of the session, before a large number of drafting committees were at work.

32. Mr. RIFAI (Syria) thought the French representative's suggestion was very appropriate and deserved full support, particularly during the summer session.

33. The PRESIDENT said that it would be better to give members of the Council time to reflect on the question and to take a decision at a future meeting.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.