



## TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

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**President:** Mr. Miguel Rafael URQUIA (El Salvador).

*Present:*

The representatives of the following States members of the Trusteeship Council: Australia, Belgium, China, El Salvador, 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; World Health Organization.

**Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration: (a) annual report of the Administering Authority (T/1116, T/1117 and Add.1 to 3, T/1122); (b) petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure (continued)**

[Agenda items 4 (a) and 5]

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

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

1. Dr. INGALLS (World Health Organization) introduced the observations of WHO on the annual reports for 1953 on the Trust Territories of Somaliland under Italian administration, Western Samoa, New Guinea, Nauru and the Pacific Islands (T/1122). It was the first time WHO had submitted such observations to the Council and the opportunity had therefore been taken to study all the annual reports submitted since 1948. Comments had been mainly limited to a statement of the general principles which should govern the administration of public health and preventive medicine in the under-developed territories, taking into consideration the special problems of the five Territories concerned and the progress achieved by the Administering Authorities. A more detailed evaluation could be submitted when the five Territories were next discussed.

2. The main objective to be borne in mind in planning the improvement of health services in under-developed areas was to prepare the population for the integration of modern scientific changes into their own cultural pattern. The medical and health services should be adaptable to the communities concerned and capable of being carried out by the local governments.

3. With reference to the questions asked at the previous meeting by the Syrian representative, the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1951, had been accompanied to Somaliland by a WHO expert, who had recommended some work on malaria. The WHO regional adviser on malaria had paid a very brief visit to the Territory in 1952. Another expert had studied the bilharzia situation, and the tuberculosis expert, to whom the special representative had referred, had just returned to Geneva.

4. The special representative had expressed regret that nothing had yet come of WHO's surveys and recommendations. Projects in a country where WHO had not previously operated required very careful consideration and planning by the Administering Authority and WHO in order to ensure that they were practicable and could be integrated into the country's existing health services.

5. The Administering Authority for Somaliland had submitted no requests to WHO in 1952. A request had been received in 1953 and WHO had budgeted for the salaries of three experts on preventive work on malaria in 1954. A further sum for DDT and other supplies had been anticipated from extra-budgetary funds. Unfortunately the expected technical assistance funds had failed to materialize in full and the plan had had to be postponed. Virtually the same plan was projected for 1955, when it was listed as a priority A programme. Somaliland was not the only country affected; WHO had had to postpone many of its plans based on technical assistance funds.

6. The Italian Administration was already undertaking some BCG work and had asked WHO for additional supplies. WHO hoped to be able to provide those supplies, provided that the necessary extra-budgetary funds were forthcoming.

7. Mr. ASHA (Syria) regretted the postponement of the 1954 programme and hoped that there would be no delay in implementing the 1955 programme. Combating malaria was extremely important in a country like Somaliland. Further information on the difficulties encountered and an explanation of the term "extra-budgetary funds" would be welcome.

8. Dr. INGALLS (World Health Organization) pointed out that WHO was not a supply organization but, under its Constitution, acted as the directing and co-ordinating authority on international health work. Supplies had to be purchased from extra-budgetary funds, contributed mainly by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) or from technical assistance funds. It was well known that the latter did not always come up to expectations and that many projects had consequently had to be abandoned.

9. Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) drew attention to the Administration's anti-malarial work, which was described on pages 254-255 the annual report<sup>1</sup>. Thirteen per cent of the total health budget had been spent on the anti-malarial campaign and malaria had been largely checked in four areas.

10. With regard to future plans and the use of the \$75,000 United Nations technical assistance funds, WHO would help in the campaigns against tuberculosis and malaria and, in collaboration with UNICEF, which would provide the funds, in the anti-venereal-disease campaign. The terms of reference of the UNESCO expert at present in the Territory would be extended in 1955 and two scholarships for Somali experts would be granted in Mexico. UNESCO would probably import a number of special trucks for work connected with its fundamental education programme. The Administration had asked for certain equipment required by the UNESCO expert. So far as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was concerned, the Administration would like to see the fishing studies continued, and hoped for closer collaboration with FAO. FAO would participate in the preparation of a comprehensive programme on nutrition, funds for which would be contributed by FAO and UNICEF.

11. Mr. DAYAL (India) stressed his delegation's concern at the very unsatisfactory public health and sanitary conditions prevailing in the Territory, which could not but have an adverse effect on social and economic development. In its report (T/947 and Corr.1), the 1951 Visiting Mission had painted a very sorry picture of the situation. A sufficient sense of urgency in dealing with such serious problems was not apparent. He shared the Syrian representative's hopes that the WHO programme would not be further delayed. The standard of health of women and children was very poor and it would be interesting to hear whether any application for assistance was pending with UNICEF.

12. Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) said that the Administration had approached both WHO and UNICEF, although he was unable to say whether UNICEF had been approached directly or indirectly, or to give the specific figures involved. The Administration had not, however, remained idle pending international assistance. Health conditions in the Territory had vastly improved since 1951. In 1953, almost 10 million somalos had been spent on public health. The first task had been to build and modernize hospitals, dispensaries and infirmaries. There now seemed to be adequate establishments and personnel to care for the general needs of the population. The next step was to improve the standard of living and general health and to deal with such social diseases as malaria and tuberculosis.

13. In reply to a further question from Mr. DAYAL (India), Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) said that the figures for persons undergoing imprisonment were given in section XXI of the statistical annexes to the annual report. No person was detained more than forty-eight hours unless he was brought to trial. When a person was brought to trial, there were specific limits to preventive detention.

<sup>1</sup> See *Rapport du Gouvernement italien à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration de tutelle de la Somalie, 1953*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome, 1954.

14. In reply to a question from Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium), Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) said that so far as possible the very advanced Italian social welfare legislation was being gradually extended to Somaliland. Accident insurance had been instituted in the Trust Territory several years previously and would be extended, through the Cassa d'Assicurazione sociale, to occupational diseases, including those, such as lead poisoning, which might not develop until years after the worker had left the job concerned. The ordinance referred to on page 191 of the annual report had not yet been promulgated, as the registration of the workers entitled to insurance against occupational diseases was a lengthy business.

15. In reply to a further question from Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium), Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) explained that the cotton produced in Somaliland was long-staple cotton suitable for export. The cotton used for manufacturing cloth for local use was short-staple cotton. The Administration was making every effort to bring additional areas under short-staple cotton and it hoped that by 1960 the Territory would be self-sufficient in that respect.

16. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) asked approximately how many of the population had been protected by the anti-malarial spraying.

17. Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) regretted that exact figures were not available. The work had been carried out at Scusciuba, Eil, Baidoa, Bardera and in the neediest centres on the Scebeli and the Giuba.

18. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) suggested that future annual reports should contain the number of the population protected and the incidence of malaria before and after spraying.

19. Many representatives obviously regretted that Somaliland could not receive more international aid and financial as well as technical assistance. Expenditure on public health amounted to approximately 30 per cent of the Territory's total revenue. The independent Somali State would obviously be unable to maintain that rate of expenditure. When the United Nations had undertaken that Somaliland should become fully independent in 1960, it had assumed a responsibility towards the Somali people and it was arguable that that responsibility involved not only technical, but also financial, assistance in matters such as public health.

20. He suggested that the Council should express its satisfaction at the establishment of the pharmaceutical institute mentioned on page 264 of the annual report.

21. The discipline in prisons was apparently governed by legislation dating from 1941. He wondered whether the legislation should not be amended to bring it into line with more recent practice.

22. Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) replied that the Administration had not considered it necessary to enact new legislation, as the existing legislation, drawn up by the British Administration and based on similar measures in the United Kingdom, was liberal enough to be adapted to the conditions now prevailing in the Territory.

23. In reply to questions from Mr. S. S. LIU (China), Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) said that a series of laws which were virtually a labour code for the Territory

had been drawn up on the basis of the International Labour Organisation's instructions to an Administration official who had visited Geneva. Legislation on the employment of children had been promulgated some time previously and legislation on the employment of women a few days previously.

24. In reply to a further question from Mr. S. S. LIU (China), Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) said that the independent bi-monthly journal *Somalia Nuova* had ceased to appear for purely financial reasons. The Administration encouraged the publication of free periodicals. An additional independent paper written in Italian and produced by a Somali staff, *Il popolo della Somalia*, was now being published in the Territory.

25. Mr. PIGNON (France) asked whether the special representative could dispel the apparent contradiction between the impression, conveyed on pages 200 and 201 of the annual report, that the problem of unemployment in the Territory was less serious than that of labour shortage and the anxiety shown with regard to the unemployment situation by the petitioners heard at the 530th meeting.

26. Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) replied that many of the people who came to the cities for employment found limited opportunities, often owing to their lack of qualifications, but were unwilling to return to the bush. The Administration had endeavoured to persuade the urban unemployed to engage in agricultural pursuits, but had met with little success, except in the case in which a number of unemployed from Mogadiscio had agreed to be transferred to Afgoi, 15 miles away, for agricultural work. In spite of favourable working conditions, there was a labour shortage in industry; the difficulty was seasonal, and largely due to psychological factors, the workers being unwilling to work all the year round or more than necessary to earn their livelihood. The enterprises were compelled to turn to mechanization when the social conditions threatened to hamper production.

27. Mr. PIGNON (France) asked whether the Somalis fully appreciated the efforts being made by the Administration, outlined on pages 201 and 202 of the annual report, to train skilled workers; certain other populations had been found to prefer forms of training leading to the professions or to the civil service.

28. Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) said that some thirty-eight different trades could be learned in the vocational schools in the Territory. The number of pupils was increasing, and would increase even more rapidly in a few years when, owing to the spread of primary education, a larger number of qualified entrants would be available. Generally speaking, the Administration was very satisfied with the results achieved, and looked upon the vocational schools as an excellent means of combating unemployment.

29. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) inquired whether there were any unemployment statistics for the main towns in the Territory, and whether the labour shortage in the sugar industry was due to the inhabitants' reluctance to work in that particular branch of industry or to a dislike for the discipline involved by any regular employment.

30. Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) thought that no statistics had been compiled because unemployment was largely temporary and did not regularly affect the same

persons. The consequences of the labour shortage in the sugar industry had been mentioned because that was the country's leading industry, but the same was true of all economic, especially agricultural, activities in the Territory.

31. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) asked what the Administration was doing to deal with the social problems caused by the nomadic characteristics of the population.

32. Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) said that the Administration's main initial efforts in that direction had been in the field of public works and of the related economic development projects, to encourage the nomads to settle, but he could not forecast the results. It was hoped that the nomads might at least be prevailed upon to limit their changes of abode so as to take part in the social life of the sedentary population; in that case, villages could be built near the wells.

33. In reply to a further question from Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti), Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) stated that the main problem consisted in interesting the population in education, and that the Administration relied greatly upon the younger generation. It was absolutely opposed to the use of coercion in any form; there was no forced labour and there were no restrictions on the workers' freedom of movement, or on migration. The Administration intended to adhere to that policy, although it would thus be forced to wait until the people spontaneously realized the advantages of submitting to certain rules and accepting a mental discipline, such as that required in schools, to which they had hitherto not been accustomed.

34. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) said that, although the Administration did not discriminate against women, their social status in the Territory appeared to be even less satisfactory than their political status. He asked what measures were being taken to improve matters, particularly in education.

35. Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) replied that the difficulty was caused rather by local custom than by Moslem law. The Administration was encouraging the establishment of women's associations. There were three types of schools reserved for girls: schools of domestic economy, a school of midwifery and a separate school. In all other schools, girls were on the same footing as boys, but taught in separate classes when their numbers were sufficient.

36. In reply to a question from Mr. STRONG (United States of America), Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) said that the ordinance on the employment of women which had recently been promulgated had been submitted, as were all ordinances, to the Territorial Council, and approved by that body at its last session.

37. Mr. STRONG (United States of America) asked what difficulties had been encountered, and what success achieved, in the anti-tuberculosis campaign carried out during the previous summer.

38. Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) replied that the campaign had received enthusiastic support, more than 50,000 somalos having been contributed to it from private sources. It had been completely successful both technically and psychologically, for the people seemed aware of the dangers of the disease and of the need for early treatment, and the dispensary built for X-ray

examinations at Mogadiscio had been very active. Propaganda by means of special postage stamps, the Press and the wireless had been very effective. A second campaign was planned for 1954.

39. In reply to questions from Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand), Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) said that the issuing of identity cards had been approved by the Territorial Council as a logical consequence of the institution of vital statistics and would render great services at future elections. Owing to patronymics now being in practical use among Somalis, who used a limited number of names, many people had identical names and, at the last elections, 5,000 people could not be properly identified. The ordinance provided no penalty for failure to carry an identity card; it was hoped that people would register voluntarily, in view of the advantages of having one. Women could obtain identity cards upon request, but were not obliged to have them.

40. With regard to the population census taken in thirty-five inhabited centres before the municipal elections, the returns had been made on a family basis and, in addition to names, many other data had been obtained, for instance, about addresses and occupations. More than 500 trained Somali enumerators, under the supervision of 26 Italian experts, had assisted the inhabitants in completing their forms.

41. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) referred to the statement in the Secretariat's working paper on conditions in the Territory (T/L.471) to the effect that there had been a total decrease of about 8 per cent in the cost of living between December 1952 and December 1953, and asked whether the special representative would care to amplify that statement.

42. Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) said that the calculations had been based on an average urban family of five. Among the reasons for the decrease had been the stockpiling of cereals, which had stabilized the prices of essential commodities, and the production of cheap clothing by the Manifatture Cotoniere d'Africa.

43. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) asked whether the decrease in the cost of living for an average Somali urban family might be regarded as typical of the situation throughout the Territory.

44. Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) replied that it was impossible to establish statistical data with regard to families outside urban centres, but that it might be presumed that some of the same favourable factors had been felt in the hinterland. With regard to the possibility of transport costs reducing further the cost of living for the population living a long way from Mogadiscio, he hoped that transport costs would be generally reduced as soon as tanks for storing fuel had been constructed at Mogadiscio. At present, the Territory could only be supplied by barrels.

45. In reply to further questions from Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand), Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) explained that the figures on map 13, opposite page 238 of the annual report, referred to the total number of days spent by all patients in all the Territory's medical establishments. The reason for the high figures in the Lower Giuba and Benadir areas was that two-thirds of the population was concentrated there; the Administration was constantly increasing the medical facilities to cover the entire Territory.

46. Mr. EGUIZABAL (El Salvador) asked whether the restriction on freedom of assembly, referred to on page 192 of the annual report, had already been abolished.

47. Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) replied in the affirmative. The restriction had been removed, in January 1954, before the elections, too late for inclusion in the report.

48. In reply to a second question from Mr. EGUIZABAL (El Salvador), Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) stated that the special legislation for the protection of women workers, referred to in document T/L.471, had been approved by the Territorial Council and promulgated.

49. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wanted to know how the Administering Authority could reconcile its allegation in the annual report that women in the Territory were not denied basic rights, with the fact that they were deprived of any political rights by the laws issued by the Administration.

50. Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) explained that public opinion and local customs, which the Administration could only influence progressively through education, accounted for the inferior status of women. The strength of those factors had been demonstrated by the Territorial Council's unanimous rejection of woman suffrage in the recent elections. As those elections had been the first to be held in the Territory, the Administration had not wanted to force the issue. On the other hand, there was no law discriminating specifically against women, and it was the Administration's intention to bring the matter of woman's suffrage before the Territorial Council again when that body had been transformed into an elected assembly. It would carry out the directives of the General Assembly and the Advisory Council.

51. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stated that the reply of the special representative was unsatisfactory. He pointed out that the allegation by the special representative that there was no law discriminating specifically against women did not correspond to the facts. As an example he cited Decree 168 of 26 December 1953, which deprived women of the right to vote in municipal elections.

52. Replying to further queries from Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regarding the labour laws, Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) pointed out that the laws had been drawn up in accordance with ILO directives and submitted to the Territorial Council before they were promulgated. Moreover, technical advice on their adaptation to local customs had been sought from the Economic Council of Somaliland, the Advisory Committee for Social Insurance and the Advisory Commission for Economic Questions. The Somalis were represented on all those bodies.

53. With regard to medical care of school children, a point on which Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) sought clarification, Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) said that schools were regularly visited by examining physicians, and that one of the results of those visits had been the establishment of a special school for pupils suffering from trachoma. Specific information on the incidence of tuberculosis among

school children would be included in the next annual report.

54. The apparent inconsistency noted by the USSR representative in the statistics on the number of medical institutions in the Territory could be explained by the fact that the existing general hospitals, regional hospitals and secondary hospitals were adequate for the population's needs, and no new construction of hospitals was planned before 1960. The number of dispensaries without beds had been considerably increased, however.

55. In reply to an observation by Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. MOCHI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration) said it would be seen from the corrected figures on budget appropriations that the funds allocated for public health were almost equivalent to those covering the operations of the police force. The Administration would endeavour to reduce police expenditure to the advantage of the medical services as soon as practicable.

56. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the expenditure for the police force, taken together with related expenditure on such items as troops, courts and prisons, was very much greater than the funds appropriated for medical services, and constituted about 40 per cent of the total budget.

57. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider educational advancement in the Territory.

58. Mr. DESTOMBES (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) stressed that the main drawbacks to educational advancement were the proportionately small sedentary population and the use of Italian and Arabic, rather than Somali, as languages of instruction. He reviewed the increases in school attendance and found that, while they were moderate, they indicated substantial progress when taken together with the increased figures for adult education. Similarly, the increase in the percentage of expenditure allocated to education as compared with the total expenditure which had meant an increase in the funds allocated to operate schools and pay teachers was encouraging. At the twelfth session UNESCO had submitted observations (T/1062) on the language question which were still valid. In order to further the use of the vernacular in instruction, the UNESCO expert sent to the Territory at the beginning of 1953 had recommended that

Somali be transcribed in the Latin and Arabic alphabets. Professor Barrera Vásquez, the UNESCO authority on languages who had been on mission in Somaliland since August 1953, was authorized to give the Administration all possible assistance with a view to the eventual use of Somali in education.

59. The stated Administration policy of training Somali teachers was encountering great difficulties. The normal school opened in 1953 had very few pupils, mainly because the number of qualifying graduates from the lower middle school, which supplied students for the normal school, was very small and because some of the small indigenous group trained each year were immediately lured away by attractive posts in the Administration or private concerns. Consequently, the normal school could not be depended upon exclusively to supply all the trained teachers in the Territory; hence the Administration would also have to continue to recruit Italian and Arab teachers and give advanced training to insufficiently trained Somalis at the same time as it encouraged Somalis to enter the normal school.

60. Although the number of persons taking adult education courses exceeded regular school enrolment, it was still proportionately small as compared with the total sedentary population. The results of the experiment in fundamental education in progress in the district of Dinsor, under UNESCO supervision, might prove applicable to that problem. The conclusions of the UNESCO seminar held in Sicily in the fall of 1953 on visual aids in fundamental education might also be helpful. The teachers trained in the normal school would be too few in the first few years to warrant assigning them to classes in fundamental education.

61. The complaint in the annual report regarding delay in delivery of mass-education material could be explained by the fact that, under the technical assistance budget, no deliveries were to be made until 1954. Exceptionally, however, at the request of the UNESCO expert in the Territory, some of the material had been delivered in 1953 and the remainder was on its way.

62. Finally, apart from rural education, the Administering Authority was taking the measures for educational advancement laid down in the five-year plan for education, which set a target of 22,000 children of school age by the end of the five years.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.