



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Twenty-third Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Thursday, 5 February 1959,
at 2.30 p.m.

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President: Mr. Max H. DORSINVILLE (Haiti).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Belgium, Burma, China, France, Haiti, India, Italy, New Zealand, Paraguay, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, 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.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Tanganyika (continued):

- (i) Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year 1957 (T/1405, T/1428, T/1429, T/1432, T/L.890);
- (ii) Petitions raising general questions (T/PET.2/L.10 and Add.1, T/PET.2/L.11)

[Agenda items 4 (a) and 5]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Fletcher-Cooke, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Tanganyika, took a place at the Council table.

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

Social and educational advancement (concluded)

1. Mr. KURDYUKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested information with regard to the missions in the Trust Territory. In particular, he wished to know whether their activities were solely of a religious nature and how many missionaries there were in the Territory.

2. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (Special Representative) said that he did not know how many missionaries there were, but he believed that over 100 missionary societies were represented in Tanganyika. A few of the missions engaged in growing coffee or other crops in order to obtain the funds they required. Generally

speaking, apart from their religious work, they confined themselves to teaching and medical services.

3. Mr. KURDYUKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wanted to know what racial groups were insisting on the maintenance of corporal punishment.

4. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (Special Representative) replied that the vast majority of offences for which corporal punishment was awarded were committed by Africans against Africans. It was African public opinion which insisted on maintaining corporal punishment as a deterrent.

5. Mr. KURDYUKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that the fees for education were extremely high, especially for secondary education, and that the Administering Authority intended to increase them, in which case the number of pupils would certainly decrease. Yet the special representative had stated that the main obstacle to the Territory's rapid progress towards independence was the lack of educated Africans. He wondered whether higher taxes on the profits of the large companies, which were increasing from year to year, might not help to promote the expansion of education.

6. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (Special Representative) pointed out that African parents were exempted from payment of all or part of school fees which were, in any case, very modest, if they could not pay them. It cost the Tanganyika Government twice as much to send an African student to the University College of Makerere as it cost to maintain a student at Oxford. Nevertheless, the Government paid all of those fees with the exception of a possible maximum contribution of £250 by the student or his parents if they had the means. The Administration considered that those Africans—and only those—who were in a position to do so, should bear the cost of their children's education. Further delay in the spread of education would result if the taxpayers were asked to bear the full costs.

7. Mr. KURDYUKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether the Administering Authority intended to adopt more radical measures to eliminate illiteracy, especially among adults in some regions, whose cultural level was extremely low.

8. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (Special Representative) explained that there were an unduly large number of vacant places in the schools despite the pressure exerted by the Administration on parents to persuade them to send their children to school. In the circumstances, the difficulties of launching an adult literacy campaign could well be imagined. He assured the USSR representative that his remarks would be brought to the notice of the authorities concerned. The Administering Authority was making great efforts to promote the cultural advancement of the population. In that connexion, he recalled the work of the East African Literature Bureau, which was endeavouring to encourage the growth of an indigenous literature, in particular, in the Swahili language.

9. Mr. KURDYUKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested information on the extent to which radio broadcasts were used to stimulate the cultural life of the Territory and on the number of radio receivers available to the population.

10. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (Special Representative) said he did not know how many radio receivers there were. However, radio was used to the fullest extent both for information and entertainment, and for education. The Tanganyika Broadcasting Corporation had as its Director a man who had had considerable broadcasting experience in the United Kingdom and on the west coast of Africa. Three programmes would soon be broadcast: one in English, directed to the more sophisticated sections of the community; the second in Swahili, for listeners interested primarily in African literature, culture and plays; and a third, which would be primarily educational.

11. Mr. EL-ERIAN (United Arab Republic) said that his delegation was gratified to note the progress made in health services and hoped that there would be no reduction in revenues which might adversely affect the health programmes under way. With regard to cultural matters, he requested information concerning the conference on Moslem education, held at Dar es Salaam in November 1958.

12. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (Special Representative) said that the conference had been a great success. It had reached the important decision to set up a working party to consider proposals for the establishment in Zanzibar of a Moslem institute for the teaching of Arabic and of Arab religion and history. Tanganyika had between 2 million and 2.5 million African Moslems. The Government took a special interest in Moslem studies. When a university college was set up in Tanganyika it would probably include a faculty of higher Moslem studies.

13. In reply to a further question from Mr. EL-ERIAN (United Arab Republic), Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (Special Representative) said that a fund of about £800,000 had been established for the founding of a university college in Tanganyika. It could safely be assumed that at least five times that amount would be needed for the actual establishment of such an institution. It would be necessary for the modest sum now available for that purpose to be supplemented by contributions from outside Tanganyika, and it was to be hoped that some contribution might be forthcoming from non-governmental sources.

14. Mr. EL-ERIAN (United Arab Republic) noted that the number of scholarships for study abroad had been greater in 1957 than in 1956, and he asked if that trend had continued in 1958.

15. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (Special Representative) explained that the Government of Tanganyika bore almost the whole of the expenses for Tanganyikan students at Makerere College, since it contributed £1,200 a year for each of them, whereas the maximum that could be recovered from the student or his parents was £250. In addition, some 200 Africans attended universities outside East Africa, and only very few of them did so at their own expense. In addition to the Government of Tanganyika, some non-governmental organizations had now offered scholarships to be taken up in the United Kingdom. The authorities in Ireland had offered two scholarships for study at Dublin

College. He had just learned that the East African Breweries had offered a scholarship for an African to study journalism in the United Kingdom. There were a number of other private offers of scholarships. Nevertheless, the principal agency granting scholarships was the Government bursaries fund; its purpose was to supplement any scholarship that an African student might be awarded from any other source (Members States of the United Nations, for example), where the scholarship was insufficient to cover all his expenses, or to supplement private scholarships. It might also provide the full expenses for Africans who completed their studies in the United Kingdom.

HEARING OF MR. GEORGE M. HOUSER (T/1424)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. George M. Houser took a place at the Council table.

16. Mr. HOUSER, Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa, said that when he had been in Nigeria during the summer of 1957, he had hoped to visit other areas of Africa. On investigation he had learned that he did not need a visa for Tanganyika, but that visas were necessary for Kenya and Uganda. With a visa obtained from the United Kingdom Consulate at Léopoldville, he had flown to Uganda, but on the day following his arrival, immigration officers had told him that they had made a mistake, and that he would have to leave the Territory at the earliest opportunity as he had been declared a "prohibited immigrant" in Tanganyika under the Immigration (Control) Ordinance of 1947. Upon his return to New York, he had written to the Governor of Tanganyika to ask the reason for that decision, and he had received a reply from the Chief Secretary in Dar es Salaam informing him that it was not the practice to disclose the reasons for such action.

17. He then read out Section 5 (1) (f) of the Immigration (Control) Ordinance of 1947, from which it appeared that the information upon which his exclusion from the Territory was based could come from many possible sources. He pointed out that British East and Central Africa was thus far the only part of Africa that he had not been able to enter. He hoped that the prohibition against him would not apply to all representatives of the American Committee on Africa, an organization which, faithful to the American tradition, was sympathetic to the desire of the African people for independence. That organization opposed racial injustices and inequalities both in the United States and abroad. Its National Committee included eighteen members of the United States Congress.

18. His own activities in Africa antedated the formation of the American Committee on Africa. In 1952, during the non-violent anti-apartheid campaign in the Union of South Africa, he had helped to raise funds for the relief of families whose breadwinners had been in prison. Since 1955 he had been working only through the American Committee on Africa. He could not conceive what justification there could be for the decision against him or the organization he represented, by a Government with a democratic tradition. It was no longer revolutionary to stand for independence; the Tanganyika African National Union, with which the American Committee on Africa maintained friendly relations, was now recognized as the most representative political body in Tanganyika and was playing a most important part in the Territory's development.

19. He was led to assume that either the information on which his exclusion from the Territory had been based was faulty, or that the decision had been taken with inconsiderate speed. He could not believe that information provided by the Government of the Union of South Africa about his activities in support of those who opposed apartheid could carry weight with the Government of Tanganyika.

20. He did not question the right in principle of any country to prohibit entry into its territory, but he pointed out that the present instance concerned a Trust Territory. The decision had affected him in a number of ways: it had been an expensive and trying experience; the attendant publicity had raised doubts in some quarters about the activities of the American Committee on Africa; and he had been unable to gather the first-hand information in the Territory that was essential for his work.

21. He hoped that the Trusteeship Council would be able to look into his case. In his view, individuals should have the right of access to Trust Territories unless there were overwhelming reasons against it in accordance with the United Nations Charter. Lastly, he hoped that the Government of Tanganyika would reconsider its decision or at least state the reasons for it.

Mr. Houser withdrew.

22. The PRESIDENT, noting that there were no questions or comments from members of the Council, suggested that the question should be referred to the Standing Committee on Petitions, which already had Mr. Houser's petition before it.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.