



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL
Twenty-sixth Session
OFFICIAL RECORDS

Thursday, 2 June 1960,
 at 10.50 a.m.

NEW YORK

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- Administering Authority on the implementation of recommendations of the Trusteeship Council (General Assembly resolution 1418 (XIV)) (T/1534, T/1537);
- (iv) Report of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration (T/1516)

[Agenda items 3 (g), 4, 15 and 19]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Baradi (Philippines) and Mr. de Holte Castello (Colombia), representatives of States members of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration, and Mr. Fettareppa-Sandri, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory, took places at the Council table.

1. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that he would like to make a statement concerning a point the Belgian representative had raised at the previous meeting, when the Council had been considering the request for a hearing received from representatives of three political parties in Somaliland (T/1537). The Belgian representative had recalled that at the fifteenth session (596th meeting) Mr. Krishna Menon, the representative of India, had said that because the Council, acting on instructions from the General Assembly, was about to take a decision concerning the future of the Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration he would oppose a request for a hearing. An examination of the record of that meeting would show, however, that it had not been simply a question of refusing to grant a request for a hearing but rather a question of granting a request that petitioners who could not appear in person should be represented before the Council by a lawyer. There had been some uncertainty whether it would be in accordance with the rules of procedure to grant such a request and Mr. Krishna Menon had said that his delegation did not propose to commit itself on the question of principle involved. Accordingly, as a decision to grant the hearing in those circumstances would of necessity have been a decision to permit petitioners to be represented by a lawyer, his delegation had opposed the request. Mr. Rasgotra could not agree with the Belgian representative that there was a parallel between that case and the request the Council now had before it. The Council was not now considering the future of a Trust Territory—that question had already been decided by the General Assembly—but rather the action taken to implement provisions for the transfer of powers from an Administering Authority to the Government of what was about to become an independent State. The views of opposition parties on that subject were relevant and he therefore felt that it had been appropriate for the Council to decide to grant the request for a hearing. Any member of the Council was, of course, free to quote statements made by other members

President: Mr. Girolamo VITELLI (Italy).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Burma, China, France, 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; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

<i>Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration (continued):</i>	
(i) <i>Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year 1959 (T/L.973);</i>	
(ii) <i>Petitions and communications raising general questions (T/PET.11/L.61-73; T/COM.11/L.332-346, 348-351, 354-360);</i>	
(iii) <i>Date of independence of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration: report of the</i>	

during a meeting but if such quotations were made out of context their meaning might be distorted, as in the present instance.

2. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said that it was true that the question whether the petitioners could be represented by a lawyer had been one of the points discussed at the Council's 596th meeting, but there had been another point, namely the fact that the Council had then been in the process of deciding the future of the Trust Territory in question and it would have been inappropriate for it to interrupt its work in order to hear petitioners. He had quoted in full Mr. Krishna Menon's statement on that aspect of the matter.

3. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that he had not meant to imply that the Belgian representative had misquoted Mr. Krishna Menon's statement but had simply wanted to draw attention to the fact that he had quoted it out of context. The essential point at issue on that occasion had been that the petitioners had asked to be represented by a lawyer, and his delegation, not wishing to commit itself on that issue, had voted to reject the request.

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

4. Mr. EDMONDS (New Zealand) said that he would like to join in the congratulations extended to all who had been concerned with the advancement of Somaliland under Italian administration towards the goal of independence. Eleven years earlier, when the question of the future of Italy's former colonies had been before the General Assembly his delegation had abstained from voting on the basic resolution adopted (resolution 289 (IV)), one reason being that it had felt that the wishes of the Somali people had not been given sufficient consideration. He was therefore all the more pleased that developments in the intervening years had shown that his delegation need not have had those misgivings. The Somali people and Government had worked diligently to attain independence in an even shorter time than that anticipated by the General Assembly, and Italy, had been an exemplary Administering Authority. The United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland deserved the thanks of all members of the Trusteeship Council for its constructive advice to the Administering Authority and to the Somali Government and people. With the help so generously offered by a number of countries, including Italy, the United States, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Republic, and with the sympathetic consideration which the specialized agencies and the Special Fund would doubtless continue to give to Somalia's requests for assistance, the new State's needs for financial and technical assistance would no doubt be satisfied. The proposal to unite Somalia and the present British Somaliland was not, of course, within the Council's competence but his delegation welcomed it as a development which accorded with the aspirations of the people of Somalia and Somaliland.

5. In conclusion, he thanked Hajji Farah Ali Omar, the Somali Minister of Industry and Commerce, for his contribution to the work of the Council and asked him to convey to the Somali people and Government the congratulations and best wishes of the people and Government of New Zealand.

6. Mr. KIANG (China) said that the figures submitted to the Council by the Italian representative and the Somali Minister of Industry and Commerce showed that great economic progress had been made in the past few years, so that the amount of external assistance which the independent Somalia would require would be considerably less than originally anticipated. His delegation was particularly impressed by the Minister's statement that the conditions for attaining an ever-greater degree of economic self-sufficiency existed in the Territory and that the people had the will to carry out that task. In the light of their past achievements it could be expected that their future economic undertakings would meet with success. He was confident that with continued external financial and technical assistance the Somali Government would be able to carry out its various projects for the establishment of a sound infrastructure on which to base the economic development of the future State.

7. His delegation was glad to note that the Trusteeship Council's recommendation concerning the need to bring about greater national unity among the people of the Territory had been carefully studied by the Government and the Legislative Assembly. The latter had been converted into a Constituent Assembly, which on two successive occasions had decided to broaden its own composition and that of the Political Committee so as to enable the opposition parties not yet represented in the Legislative Assembly to participate in the preparation and adoption of the Constitution. It was to be regretted that those parties had declined the invitation to appoint representatives to the Political Committee and he hoped that they would reconsider their position, for a policy of abstention was hardly to be counselled at a time like the present, when unity was vital to the success of the emerging State.

8. The record of Italy as the Administering Authority had been one of devotion to its task and it deserved to be warmly commended for its efforts in guiding the Territory towards the attainment of independence. The Somali people and Government had every reason to feel pride and satisfaction in the enormous progress they had made during the past ten years. The Council owed an expression of gratitude to the members of the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland for their contribution to the Territory's advancement. The specialized agencies, too, were eminently deserving of the tribute Hajji Farah Ali Omar had paid them. The Territory's imminent accession to independence marked the close of another significant chapter in the history of the International Trusteeship System; it was fitting that at such a time the Presidency of the Council should be vested in a member of the Italian delegation.

9. On behalf of the people and Government of China he wished to extend his congratulations and best wishes to the Somali people and Government on the occasion of their accession to independence.

10. Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) wished to associate his delegation with those which had extended their congratulations to the people of the Territory upon the occasion of their attainment of the goal of independence, to the Administering Authority for the successful accomplishment of its mission and to the members of the United Nations Advisory Council for the constructive role which they had played. The participation of a representative of Colombia in the

work of the Advisory Council was in keeping with that country's long tradition of international co-operation.

11. The first years of Somalia's independence would be difficult, as the Italian representative had said, but there was reason to believe that the outlook was favourable, particularly if British Somaliland were to join the new Republic. He welcomed the statements in that connexion made at the 1093rd meeting by the representatives of the United Kingdom and of the United Arab Republic, a country which naturally had a feeling of kinship with both the countries concerned. He was happy to note that Italy would continue to assist the new State and hoped that international co-operation would likewise be forthcoming. The members of the Council could take pride in the fact that the International Trusteeship System had brought yet another State into the community of nations.

12. Mr. BACON (United States of America) said that his delegation welcomed the return of Hajji Farah Ali Omar to the Trusteeship Council. Its welcome extended also to Mr. Fetterappa-Sandri, the special representative of the Administering Authority.

13. During the period of trusteeship, Italy had fulfilled its responsibilities as Administering Authority with vigour and wisdom. General Assembly resolution 1418 (XIV), of which the United States delegation had been a sponsor, had been adopted unanimously by the General Assembly after it had heard statements by representatives of Italy and of Somaliland indicating that the preparations for independence would be completed by 1 July 1960. During the past few days the Council had heard detailed and informative statements by the representative of Italy, the Somali Minister of Industry and Commerce and two members of the United Nations Advisory Council concerning the implementation of the recommendations referred to in the General Assembly resolution. Those statements justified the Assembly's expression of confidence in the Somali people and Government.

14. His delegation was satisfied that the recommendations had been fulfilled and that the Somali Government had worked energetically to complete the constitutional, legislative and administrative organization of the State of Somalia. The Somali Government would proceed as soon as possible to complete an accurate electoral register and would resume the census of the population which had been discontinued in 1958. The Minister of Industry and Commerce had stated that all fundamental laws of the Government of Somalia would be in force on the achievement of independence on 1 July 1960 and would provide a solid foundation for the further strengthening and development of democratic institutions in the country.

15. In the economic field there had been a general improvement of conditions during 1959, partly as a result of the seven-year development plan. Furthermore, a recent survey by an Italian research agency shed a more favourable light on the economic outlook for the future. Much remained to be done in the economic field, however, and outside assistance was still perhaps essential. In that respect, his delegation would commend the Government of Italy for its declared intention to contribute to the financial requirements of the Somali Government during the year 1960, despite the advancement of the date of independence.

16. His delegation noted that the Somali Government would welcome continued assistance from the United Nations and the specialized agencies and it was confident that the question of further assistance would be given sympathetic consideration. As his delegation had repeatedly assured Somali officials, the United States would be prepared to assist Somalia to maintain its economic stability and to reach an appropriate level of development after its achievement of independence. There had been no change in his Government's position in that respect.

17. Despite the great strides made in social and educational advancement the Somali Government fully realized that much remained to be done. He was confident that its efforts to overcome the remaining problems would be redoubled.

18. He expressed his delegation's appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Advisory Council for the invaluable assistance they had given the Trusteeship Council. He also expressed appreciation of the efforts made by the Special Fund, the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration, the Technical Assistance Board and the specialized agencies to further the welfare of the people of Somaliland.

19. The fact that the members of the Trusteeship Council had contributed to the achievement of independence by the Somalis should be a source of satisfaction to them. The Italian Government and the Italian civil servants concerned should be especially pleased to see the successful results of their labours. In the final analysis, however, the major share of the credit for the success of the trusteeship should go to the Somali people and their elected representatives. Without their deep-rooted desire for independence the efforts of the Administering Authority, the Trusteeship Council and the Advisory Council would have been of no avail.

20. On behalf of his Government he extended to the Somali people his best wishes for their future success, happiness and prosperity.

21. Mr. BARADI (Philippines), Chairman of the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland, recalled that during the questioning period various aspects of Somaliland's development had been mentioned. Questions had been asked about the banking system in the Territory, defence and external affairs, oil concessions, the assets of the Currency Circulation Agency (Somalcassa), the aeronautical services, district councils, the judiciary, foreign investments, a national army, the European Common Market and many other subjects. To those questions the representative of Italy and the special representative had replied. Mr. Baradi would point out that the subjects dealt with in the questions were covered in the report of the Advisory Council (T/1516), accompanied by observations or recommendations.

22. He would, however, refer to one question at the 1094th meeting by the representative of Bolivia, relating to the need for a national army for Somalia. He could not, of course, speak for the Somali Government, but he would reply on behalf of the Advisory Council.

23. Under the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement sovereignty over the Territory was vested in the Somali people and exercised by the Administering Authority on their behalf. Since the election of a

Legislative Assembly in February 1956, legislative authority had been exercised by that body. Early in 1958 the question of the establishment of an armed corps in the Territory had arisen. In 1959, in its reports to the Trusteeship Council and to the General Assembly, the Advisory Council had noted the absence in the plan for the transfer of powers (T/1477) of any arrangements for security and had suggested that that vacuum should be filled by the goodwill of all the people of that part of Africa. On 3 February 1960, the Legislative Assembly had unanimously approved a law delegating to the Somali Government powers to enact fiscal measures to provide funds for the creation of a national army, and in March a national army had been established. The new army would start with 3,000 men and would eventually reach 5,000. The Advisory Council, appreciating the desire of the Somali people to have a national army, had expressed confidence that its establishment would provide another opportunity for the strengthening of their national consciousness and would also contribute to the education and health of the people.

Revision of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council
(T/1508)

[Agenda item 18]

24. Mr. PROTITCH (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) pointed out that with the attainment of independence by Somaliland on 1 July, supplementary rules A, B, C and D of the Council's rules or procedure would no longer be applicable. The Council might therefore think fit to remove those provisions from its rules of procedure as from 1 July.

25. With the emergence of Somaliland and other Territories from the International Trusteeship System there might be other developments which would affect the Council's rules of procedure. It would be for the Council to decide whether it wished to revise any of its rules of procedure to take account of such developments at the present time or at some later date.

26. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had no objection to the proposal that supplementary rules A, B, C and D, relating to the participation in the Council's sessions of representatives of States which were members of the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland but not members of the Trusteeship Council, should be deleted from the rules of procedure as from 1 July 1960.

27. With regard to the revision of the rules of procedure relating to the holding of the sessions of the Trusteeship Council and the date of the examination of annual reports of the Administering Authorities, his delegation considered that a decision should be postponed to the twenty-eighth session. He thought the Secretariat should be requested to prepare and circulate a draft of the proposed amendments to the rules of procedure on which the Council could base its discussions.

28. Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) was in general agreement with the USSR representative. The time was perhaps not yet ripe to amend the rules of procedure with regard to the dates of sessions and

the examination of annual reports. The present rules of procedure were sufficiently flexible to enable adjustments to be made when the Council considered its future programme of work at the end of the present session. At that time the Council might perhaps consider the possibility of holding its 1961 summer session earlier than June, as it had done in the case of the current session.

29. Mr. FORSYTHE (Australia) endorsed the remarks of the United Kingdom representative, with the exception of the suggestion that the summer session might be held earlier than June. It was already extremely difficult for the Australian Government to have its reports printed and circulated in time for the session in June and those difficulties would be aggravated if the session were held earlier.

30. Mr. KIANG (China) said that he had no comment to make on the proposal for the removal of the supplementary rules of procedure concerning the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland.

31. His delegation felt that the question whether the Council should take any action regarding rule 1 should be decided towards the end of the present session rather than at a future session, so as to enable the Council's work for the following year to be planned in advance.

32. Mr. DE CAMARET (France) agreed with the Chinese representative that a decision on whether the Council should hold one session or two in 1961 should be taken within the next few days.

33. Miss TENZER (Belgium) said that she was in partial agreement with the Chinese representative but thought that it might be advisable to postpone a decision on future sessions until the Council had completed the work of the present session.

34. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that the Council should decide at the end of the present session whether to hold one session or two in 1961 but that the question of revising the rules of procedure should be postponed until the next summer session of the Council, to which the Secretariat should be instructed to submit draft amendments to the rules.

35. Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) supported that suggestion.

36. Mr. BARADI (Philippines), Chairman of the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland, wished to express the feeling of the members of the Advisory Council on the approaching conclusion of their task: firstly, a sense of pride and pleasure that they had been able to be of service to the United Nations; secondly, regret at parting after so many years of co-operation and at severing their connexion with the Trusteeship Council.

37. The creation of an Advisory Council permanently stationed in a Trust Territory to aid and advise the Administering Authority had been an important innovation. He and the other members of the Advisory Council hoped that their role would not only be remembered by the members of the Trusteeship Council but that history would accord it a place among the achievements of the United Nations.

38. The PRESIDENT proposed that, in the absence of any objection, the supplementary rules relating to Somaliland should be abolished as from 1 July

and that the USSR representative's suggestions with regard to the 1961 sessions and to the revision of the rules of procedure should be followed.

It was so decided.

Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General (Trusteeship Council resolution 36 (III) and General Assembly resolution 754 (VIII)) (T/1533)

[Agenda item 10]

39. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that the Secretary-General's report (T/1533) merely provided information on material distributed during the period under review. He asked whether any progress had been made in implementing General Assembly resolution 1410 (XIV), which requested the Secretary-General to initiate discussions with the Administering Authorities concerned with a view to establishing, during 1960, in at least some of the larger Trust Territories such as Tanganyika, Ruanda-Urundi and New Guinea, United Nations information centres in which the responsible positions would be occupied preferably by indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories concerned. He also wished to know whether any officials of the Division of Trusteeship had assisted in preparing the pamphlet *A Sacred Trust*, published in December 1959 by the Office of Public Information. He would like a responsible representative of the latter office to attend the meetings at which the present item was discussed, so that the Council could be told what the Office had done and what it planned to do with regard to the dissemination of information in Trust Territories. In particular, he would like to know what plans the Office of Public Information had for producing the film on Africa which had been suggested by the Secretariat.

40. Mr. COTTRELL (Secretary of the Council) said that the discussions between the Secretary-General and the Administering Authorities had not yet taken place but it was hoped they would be held before the end of the present session. He thought that the Director of the Division of Trusteeship had been consulted in connexion with the pamphlet referred to, but that fact would require verification. He noted the USSR representative's request that a representative of the Office of Public Information should be present at meetings of the Council. He would try to obtain information regarding the film on Africa.

41. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that the report could be aptly summarized by the words "no change"; it was virtually identical with the report of the previous year (T/1463). In Tanganyika, in particular, there had been no progress at all, despite the assurances given each year by the special representative that everything possible was being done to disseminate information about the United Nations.

42. In his view, the report failed to reflect any results simply because there had been no results. In fact, he could only conclude that the Administering Authorities were not making any earnest effort in that regard. The situation was somewhat more encouraging in the Territories that were approaching independence. For example, some 20,000 copies of a certain set of documents had been distributed in

Somaliland, thanks largely to the presence there of the United Nations Advisory Council. Again, the dissemination of information in the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration had improved recently as a result, no doubt, of the period that the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner, accompanied by United Nations officials, had spent there in 1959.

43. It was stated in paragraph 14 of the report that voicecasts from Tanganyika representatives at the twenty-fourth session of the Trusteeship Council had been heard in the Territory. The fact was that the Council had heard representatives of the Administering Authority, not of Tanganyika. Moreover, the views expressed by those representatives had been largely refuted in the Council, but there was no mention of whether those other views had been voicecast in the Territory. In the Indian delegation's view, it was the duty of the Administering Authority to use broadcasting facilities to provide an objective, full and fair presentation of what the Trusteeship Council did and stood for, so that the inhabitants of the Trust Territories would understand at what points, to what degree and in what manner the Council as a whole was interested in their welfare.

44. There were some instances in which information was not only not disseminated, it was even suppressed. For example, in a debate in the Tanganyika Legislative Council, Mr. Nyerere had said that the salaries of expatriate officers were too high, that there was a shortage of personnel and that the Territory's Government should recruit international personnel; he had asked whether and how that could be done. In reply, Mr. Fletcher-Cooke, who had attended the Trusteeship Council sessions as special representative of the Administering Authority and could be presumed to be thoroughly familiar with the United Nations, had said that no civil servant in the world was more expensive than a United Nations civil servant. That seemed to Mr. Rasgotra a clear case of misleading the people of the Trust Territory, for he understood that the usual arrangement in recruiting international civil servants through the United Nations was that they were paid by the Government on the basis of the Territorial wage scale, the remainder of their salary being met by the United Nations, so that the Government was not out of pocket. That incident revealed the sorry state of the dissemination of information about the United Nations in Tanganyika.

45. It was in the light of such incidents that his delegation had urged and would continue to urge that the United Nations should establish its own media for disseminating information in the Trust Territories. Indeed, General Assembly resolution 1410 (XIV) requested the Secretary-General to discuss with the Administering Authorities the establishment of information centres, at least in some of the larger Territories such as Tanganyika, Ruanda-Urundi and New Guinea. No such discussions had taken place so far but his delegation hoped that they would be initiated in due course.

46. The part of the report dealing with Ruanda-Urundi was valueless. It merely summed up the discussion that had taken place the previous year between the Secretariat and the special representative, who had given no commitment of any kind that specific measures would be taken to promote the spread of information on the United Nations. Indeed, the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Terri-

tories in East Africa, 1957, had concluded that the people were uninformed about the Trusteeship System and the United Nations. The same applied, with a few exceptions, to New Guinea.

47. The Indian delegation wanted to know what steps the Office of Public Information had taken to spread knowledge of the United Nations. He feared that it was doing little besides sending material to the 111 addresses mentioned in the report, 90 per cent of which, he was sure, were those of government officials, who should be the last to need it. His delegation wanted to see comprehensive information circulated in printed form or special measures adopted to inform the people of the Trust Territories of their status as wards of the United Nations, and to explain to them what the United Nations was doing to ensure that they would achieve the goal of independence as quickly as possible and how it interested itself in their welfare.

48. Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) said that the Administering Authority, while not complacent, did consider that a great deal was being done in Tanganyika; in fact the report showed that the Government was employing a variety of means to disseminate information about the United Nations.

49. The number of addresses to which official records were sent was no criterion of the effectiveness of the dissemination of information in the Trust Territories. Nor was it surprising that the number of persons who received that type of material included many government officials, for they were the people most likely to be interested in such material.

50. He felt that most of the comments the Indian representative had made about individual Territories would be better taken up in the discussion on each particular Territory. As far as his remarks about the Legislative Council's debate in Tanganyika were concerned, Mr. Nyerere, who had recently visited New York and talked to senior officials of the Secretariat on the subject, was undoubtedly fully aware of the terms of service of an international civil servant. With regard to the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1960, on Tanganyika (T/1532), he had found nothing in it in any way critical of the Administering Authority's performance in the field of the dissemination of information.

51. Miss TENZER (Belgium) agreed with the United Kingdom representative that the points raised by the Indian representative should be taken up in the discussion of each individual Territory, when the special representative of that Territory was present.

52. With regard to Ruanda-Urundi, she drew the Indian representative's attention to paragraph 24 of the report, which attested to the fact that there was no lack of good will on the part of the Administering Authority, which was only too happy to provide the Territory with all possible information on the United Nations. She was glad to be able to inform the Council that her Government was prepared to initiate discussions with the Secretary-General in accordance with

operative paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 1410 (XIV).

53. Mr. ATTOLICO (Italy) said that he would like to register his delegation's satisfaction with the statement about Somaliland in paragraph 27 of the report.

54. Mr. FORSYTHE (Australia) wished to draw the Council's special attention to the Australian Government's conviction that emphasis should be placed on teaching about the United Nations in the schools of the Trust Territories, for, as the Council would appreciate, the problem of illiteracy and the multiplicity of languages presented a major obstacle in working with the adult population.

55. Many, if not most, of the school children in New Guinea had a fairly good knowledge of the United Nations, particularly of the work of the specialized agencies in the fields of health, hygiene and child welfare. He assured the Council that his Government was doing its best to foster and expand those interests. For that purpose, material was provided from United Nations Headquarters and from the United Nations Information Centre in Sydney. District officers and the administrative staff in New Guinea received a regular supply of publications about the United Nations, which were sent to libraries, including school libraries. The suggestions the special representative had made about improving the presentation of information on the United Nations in New Guinea, as set forth in the section of the report devoted to that Territory, had been followed up by the United Nations Information Centre in Sydney, which had initiated talks with senior officials of the Australian Department of Territories and Department of Information. Both Departments had offered their fullest co-operation. The Australian Government hoped shortly to communicate to the Secretary-General its reply on the question of establishing an information centre in New Guinea.

56. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) welcomed the announcement that Belgium was initiating discussions with a view to setting up an information centre in Ruanda-Urundi.

Request for a hearing concerning the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration (T/1531) (continued)*

57. The PRESIDENT said that the following reply had been received from the petitioners from the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration:

"Cable received. Will attend Council meeting New York. Indicate date when we can report for hearing. Any time not less than three weeks from today will suit us. Send reply care private mail-bag 5025 Ibadan.

Umaru Michika:"

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

*Resumed from the 1089th meeting.