



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Twenty-fifth Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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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; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

Report of the Trusteeship Council (General Assembly resolution 1409 (XIV))

[Agenda item 9]

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that in resolution 1409 (XIV) the General Assembly had recommended that the Council should, in its future deliberations, take into account the comments and suggestions made during the discussion of its report at the fourteenth session of the General Assembly. He thought that it would be sufficient at the present stage for the Council to take note of the resolution.

*It was so decided.*

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories (General Assembly resolution 1411 (XIV))

[Agenda item 10]

2. The PRESIDENT pointed out that in operative paragraph 6 of resolution 1411 (XIV) the General

Assembly requested the Council to resume consideration of the question at its sessions to be held in 1960 and to report to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session. He suggested that the Council should postpone consideration of the question until its twenty-sixth session, when it would have before it the Secretary-General's annual report on the operation of the scholarship scheme.

3. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) congratulated Bolivia and India on their election and re-election respectively. He also congratulated Mr. Vitelli and U Tin Maung on their election as President and Vice-President. With regard to the item under discussion, he would like the Secretariat to inform the Council of any recent developments in connexion with scholarships since the end of the fourteenth session of the General Assembly. In resolution 1411 (XIV) the Assembly had expressed regret that the greater part of the scholarships offered by Member States remained unutilized. He asked if the Secretariat could say whether there had been any tendency towards an improvement in that regard.

4. Mr. BERENDSEN (Secretary of the Council) said that the resolution in question had been adopted only very recently and that an exchange of correspondence was at present taking place between the Secretariat and various Administering Authorities and with various States which had offered scholarships. It was not therefore possible for the Secretariat to give any very useful information at present.

5. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) hoped that, in respect of the Territories that were on the agenda of the present session, the Administering Authorities, namely Belgium and the United Kingdom, would be able to furnish some additional information regarding the aspects of the question covered by the resolution in question.

6. Mr. RIFAI (United Arab Republic) noted that paragraph 4 of the resolution requested the Secretary-General to "give such assistance as is possible and as may be sought by the Member States concerned and by the applicants". That assistance might be of a financial or other nature. He would like the Secretariat to say what had been done in the past in that regard and whether it had provided any financial assistance to scholarship-holders in the form of travel expenses, since in some instances the scholarships granted did not cover travel expenses.

7. Mr. BERENDSEN (Secretary of the Council) said that the United Nations budget did not provide funds for financial assistance to people taking up scholarships. That paragraph of the resolution could only be regarded by the Secretariat as an invitation to get in touch with the authorities concerned in order to facilitate the arrangements to be made by the scholarship-holders.

8. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) considered that it was the responsibility of the Administering Authorities, which were bound to abide by the resolutions of the General Assembly, to provide whatever assistance the scholarship-holders might need. It was, of course, within the competence of the Secretary-General to determine what he could do with regard to the assistance referred to in resolution 1411 (XIV).

9. He noted that operative paragraph 3 of the resolution requested the Administering Authorities to give the fullest publicity to all offers of study and training facilities made by Member States. The examination of conditions in the Trust Territories had revealed that offers of study and training facilities had not been given much publicity in those Territories. He hoped that the Administering Authorities would bear that paragraph in mind and do their utmost to implement it.

10. The PRESIDENT said that the question would be placed on the agenda of the twenty-sixth session of the Council.

#### Attainment of self-government or independence by Trust Territories (General Assembly resolution 1413 (XIV))

[Agenda item 11]

11. The PRESIDENT recalled the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1413 (XIV) and said that it would be sufficient for the Council, at the present stage, to take note of the resolution and to instruct the drafting committees to take it into account during the examination of the annual reports of the Administering Authorities and to include the resolution in the agenda when it considered the terms of reference of the forthcoming visiting mission to Trust Territories in East Africa.

12. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) agreed with the President that the drafting committees should bear in mind the provisions of resolution 1413 (XIV), which were of great importance and were in the nature of standing instructions.

13. As far as the present session was concerned, the resolution had a bearing on two Territories, the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration and Ruanda-Urundi. The first of those Territories was in the last stages of the trusteeship. With regard to Ruanda-Urundi, he hoped that when the Council considered conditions in that Territory the Administering Authority would be in a position to give it some information in the light of paragraph 1 of the resolution, in order that the drafting committee might note the views of the Administering Authority on the matter and the consultations that might have taken place between the Administering Authority and the indigenous inhabitants of their representative organs with regard to the fixing of a date, however tentative, for the attainment of independence. As one of the preambular paragraphs of the resolution stated that "the formulation of plans and targets in advance can assist in the acceleration of the progress of the inhabitants of Trust Territories towards independence", and as the very purpose of the existence of the Council was to promote the development of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories towards independence, he hoped that the Administering Authorities would be eager to assist the Council in carrying out that recommendation of the Assembly.

14. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) did not object to the President's suggestion. But he wanted to emphasize once again that the question of the attainment of independence by the Trust Territories was of primary importance in the work of the Council and of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly. His delegation considered that the peoples of all dependent territories were ready for immediate independence and that national sovereignty was an undeniable right of all peoples. The Soviet delegation in the Trusteeship Council had always sought to do its best to ensure that the objectives of trusteeship as defined in the Charter were achieved as rapidly as possible. His delegation therefore considered that it was not sufficient for the Council merely to take note of General Assembly resolution 1413 (XIV) but that it should regard that resolution, together with the appropriate provisions of the Charter, as directives to guide it in examining the annual reports, in drawing up the terms of reference of visiting missions and in preparing its recommendations and conclusions, always bearing in mind the necessity for the speediest practical implementation of the resolution.

15. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) supported the President's suggestion on the understanding that the Council would have an opportunity to take the matter up again when it examined conditions in the Trust Territories of Ruanda-Urundi and Tanganyika. He pointed out that under operative paragraph 2 of the resolution the Administering Authorities were invited to formulate, in respect of the remaining Trust Territories, early successive intermediate targets and dates.

16. Mr. RIFAI (United Arab Republic) said that his delegation drew the same practical conclusions as did the President from paragraph 3 of resolution 1413 (XIV). The question of establishing targets and dates for the attainment of independence by the Trust Territories had become more significant and urgent than ever in view of the evolution of the dependent territories in Africa and elsewhere.

17. All the members of the Council agreed that all the Trust Territories would ultimately achieve independence. The important thing was to organize and speed up that process so that it could be achieved in a peaceful and orderly manner. The delegation of the United Arab Republic had always taken the view that the formulation of plans for the achievement of independence was the best means of attaining that objective. The next Visiting Mission and the Administering Authorities concerned would certainly give the matter the most serious consideration in order that the Council might submit suitable recommendations to the General Assembly with respect to Ruanda-Urundi and Tanganyika.

18. Mr. KELLY (Australia) thanked the representative of the United Arab Republic for having recalled that all the members of the Council were inspired by the same ideal. The representative of the USSR had pointed out that the Council should be guided by the provisions of the Charter as well as by the resolutions of the General Assembly. Article 76 of the Charter laid down four basic objectives of the Trusteeship System. General Assembly resolution 1413 (XIV) referred to only one of those objectives and the preambular paragraph to which reference had been made quoted only part of paragraph b of Article 76, when it would have been better to quote the whole of the concluding part of that paragraph, which referred

to the progressive development of the Trust Territories "toward self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of each territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, and as may be provided by the terms of each trusteeship agreement".

19. Resolution 1413 (XIV) could not, therefore, be dissociated from Article 76. It was unthinkable that the General Assembly would have overlooked the other basic objectives mentioned in the Charter, particularly respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms.

20. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) felt that the Assembly, fully conscious of the provisions of the Charter, had deliberately emphasized one particular aspect of the development of Trust Territories. The members of the Trusteeship Council should consider themselves bound by that directive of the General Assembly.

21. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should pass on to the next item on its agenda.

*It was so decided.*

#### Plans of political reforms for the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi (General Assembly resolution 1419 (XIV))

[Agenda item 12]

22. The PRESIDENT felt that the Council might take note of the resolution and decide to include it in the agenda when it discussed arrangements for the forthcoming visiting mission and examined conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi.

23. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) wished to make two observations. The Council had before it only one document—circulated under the symbol A/C.4/432)—on the question under consideration and that was the text of a statement made by the representative of Belgium at the 947th meeting of the Fourth Committee during the fourteenth session of the General Assembly. The annual report, which related to 1958, did not include any information on the political reforms now being considered by the Administering Authority. Nor was any such information provided in the working paper circulated by the Secretariat (T/L.955). He therefore hoped that the Belgian delegation would in the very near future provide detailed information on the proposed reforms.

24. He further pointed out that under resolution 1419 (XIV) the Council was also invited to request the 1960 visiting mission to report to it on the conditions and causes of the recent disturbances in the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi. The Council should take that provision into consideration when it formulated the terms of reference of the visiting mission.

25. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) associated himself with the congratulations which his colleagues had addressed to the President, the Vice-President and to the new members of the Council.

26. He shared the feelings of regret that had been expressed at the departure of the Haitian delegation and in particular of Ambassador Dorsinville, who would always be for Mr. Scheyven a living example of integrity and objectivity.

27. He recalled that at the previous session of the General Assembly the representative of Belgium had reported on a statement by the Belgian Government

and on the activities of a working group sent to Ruanda-Urundi by that Government. Since then, on 25 December 1959, the King of the Belgians had signed a provisional organic decree providing for substantial changes in the political structure of Ruanda-Urundi. The decree had been published in the Bulletin officiel of Ruanda-Urundi on 15 January 1960. He was prepared to provide a summary of the decree within the next few days.

28. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) suggested that the Secretariat should circulate the full text of the decree.

*It was so decided.*

#### Appointment of the members of the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions

[Agenda item 13]

29. The PRESIDENT proposed, as a result of inquiries he had made among the various delegations, that the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions should be composed of New Zealand, Paraguay, the United Arab Republic and the United States.

*It was so decided.*

#### Arrangements for a periodic visiting mission to Trust Territories in East Africa in 1960

[Agenda item 6]

30. Mr. DE CAMARET (France) said that the composition of the Visiting Mission was still the subject of consultations among delegations and so far no agreement had been reached. As he had not yet received instructions from his Government on the matter and as he considered it advisable that the consultations should continue he asked the Council to defer its decision for a few days.

31. The PRESIDENT felt that the Council could defer consideration of the item for a few days in order to enable delegations to receive instructions from their Governments.

*It was so decided.*

#### Organization of the Council's work (concluded)

32. Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) made a statement concerning the Council's examination of the annual report on the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration for 1958.

33. The United Kingdom delegation was aware that the Council had expected to be able to conduct at the present session a full examination of conditions in the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration. The situation had developed rapidly in recent years, particularly as a result of the two resolutions relating to the Trust Territory adopted by the General Assembly at its fourteenth session (resolutions 1352 (XIV) and 1473 (XIV), which called upon the Administering Authority to carry out certain steps related to the administrative separation of the Territory from Nigeria. Those steps, which had to be completed soon, required the presence in the Territory of the experienced officials who alone were competent, as special representatives, to provide the Council with detailed information concerning the Territory.

34. The United Kingdom was under an obligation to present to the Council, at its twenty-sixth session, a

report on the steps it had taken in pursuance of the General Assembly's resolution on the Northern Cameroons and it hoped that it would be able to present a similar report relating to the Southern Cameroons. The steps would be completed by next May. The special representatives would then be able to report to the Council on what had been done and to provide detailed information on all the other aspects of conditions in the Cameroons.

35. The United Kingdom delegation would also present to the Council, at its twenty-sixth session, a supplementary report on general developments in all fields in the Cameroons, which would cover the year 1959 and deal with 1960 up to a date as close to May as possible. He felt that the Council could best discharge its obligations to the General Assembly by drafting its report on the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration in the light of information contained in the various reports and of that which would be provided by the United Kingdom delegation and the two special representatives at its twenty-sixth session.

36. For those reasons, and regretting the inconvenience which that was causing the Council, the United Kingdom delegation suggested that the Council's examination of conditions in the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration could most usefully be postponed until its twenty-sixth session.

37. Mr. RIFAI (United Arab Republic) observed that one of the General Assembly's resolutions (1410 (XIV)), relating to the dissemination of information on the United Nations and the Trusteeship System, was not included in the agenda of the present session. He asked whether consideration of that item had been deferred to the next session.

38. The PRESIDENT said that the resolution would be in the agenda of the twenty-sixth session.

39. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) asked why the item was not on the agenda of the present session.

40. Mr. BERENDSEN (Secretary of the Council) explained that only those resolutions of the General Assembly which called for action by the Council at the present session had been included in the agenda.

41. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) stated that, for reasons similar to those given by the United Kingdom representative, the special representative for Ruanda-Urundi, who acted as Resident of Urundi and applied the political and organic provisions to which Mr. Scheyven had referred, would find it very difficult to attend the Council session. The special representative had replied at the previous session to all the questions which had been put to him, and there would be no point in repeating those questions at the present session.

42. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that he had no objection to resolution 1410 (XIV) being examined at the next session, but considered that it should also have been placed on the agenda of the current session because the Council was examining conditions in Ruanda-Urundi and that was one of the Territories to which the resolution expressly referred.

43. The matters raised by the representatives of the United Kingdom and Belgium created a very difficult situation. The Council was in session to examine conditions in the Cameroons and Ruanda-Urundi, and at its twenty-sixth session it was to

consider only certain aspects of political reforms and developments in those Territories. If conditions in those Territories were not to be examined at the present stage, a decision to that effect should have been taken earlier. His delegation did not question the reasons given by the Administering Authorities, but it knew that the agenda of the twenty-sixth session was already very crowded and that the Council would have little time at its disposal. Furthermore his delegation wondered what was to be discussed at the current session and, in particular, whether the Administering Authorities would agree to make opening statements and answer questions put by members of the Council, or whether the proposal was to delete the examination of the two annual reports from the agenda for the session.

44. Mr. KELLY (Australia) asked the Council to postpone the examination of agenda item 8 to its twenty-sixth session in order to enable the special representative to participate.

45. He appreciated the importance of the reasons which prevented the Belgian and United Kingdom delegations from arranging for special representatives to be present at the twenty-fifth session. His delegation would be prepared to examine the 1958 annual reports on Ruanda-Urundi and the Cameroons and to co-operate with the Sub-Committee on the Questionnaire in connexion with the questionnaire on Nauru at the Council's summer session, in which the special representatives of all three Administering Authorities would be able to take part.

46. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the United Kingdom representative had asked the Council to postpone consideration of the 1958 report on the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration to its twenty-sixth session and had said that he would then be in a position to present a supplementary report covering 1959. The representative of Belgium had likewise requested that the examination of the 1958 report on Ruanda-Urundi should be postponed to the twenty-sixth session and had announced that he would shortly make a statement on conditions in that Territory. In the circumstances the Council had to decide how it could best facilitate its work without undue inconvenience to the delegations concerned.

47. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) explained that the statement he proposed to make on Friday, 29 January 1960, would relate only to the interim decree he had mentioned in the course of the meeting and not to conditions in Ruanda-Urundi. The situation in that Territory would be described by the special representative when he was able to attend a Council session. He recalled that it was the custom in the Council to examine in less detail the reports on Trust Territories which were to be visited by a visiting mission. As a visiting mission was shortly to be sent to Ruanda-Urundi, the normal procedure would be to dwell on conditions in that Territory at greater length when the Visiting Mission had submitted its report.

48. Mr. RIFAI (United Arab Republic) observed that the Belgian representative in stating that he would limit his observations to the decree referred to during the meeting was apparently under the impression that the Council had decided not to examine the report on Ruanda-Urundi. The fact was, however, that while the Council was aware of the difficulties encountered by the Administering Authorities, it was also aware that

it would have a heavy burden of work at its twenty-sixth session and had therefore decided, in order to lighten that burden, to examine the reports on Ruanda-Urundi and the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration at the current session. The Council was, on the other hand, faced with something like a "fait accompli", for the two Governments concerned had been unable to send special representatives and were not prepared to answer certain questions as a means of supplying the Council with information not given in the annual reports.

49. While he appreciated the difficulties of the Belgian and United Kingdom delegations, he wondered whether a compromise might not be possible under which those reports would be dealt with in a limited manner. The Council would do well to wait until the Visiting Mission had presented its report before considering political conditions in Ruanda-Urundi, but the Belgian representative should be able, without too much difficulty, to give the Council some information on the latest developments in other fields and thus lighten the Council's burden at its twenty-sixth session.

50. It was to be hoped that the Council would not at the last moment, reconsider a decision it had already taken, but would examine the annual reports of the Administering Authorities as it had planned.

51. Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) said that the annual report on Ruanda-Urundi for 1959 was still in preparation and that he would have great difficulty in giving exact figures with the exception perhaps of figures on agricultural output. He was nevertheless prepared to make a statement to the Council on the main events that had taken place in Ruanda-Urundi in 1959, such as the Government declaration, the report of the working group and the interim decree to which he had already referred.

52. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the Council had adopted its agenda at the preceding meeting. In the circumstances, therefore, it was surprising that the Administering Members were not ready to discuss the most important items on that agenda, thus confronting the Council with a "fait accompli". Since December 1959, when the Council had decided to examine the reports on the Cameroons and Ruanda-Urundi at its twenty-fifth session, nothing of a nature to affect that decision had occurred.

53. The proposals of the Belgian and United Kingdom representatives to postpone the consideration of two most important items was not acceptable. The agenda for the twenty-sixth session was already extremely crowded, and the Council, with very little time at its disposal, would then have seven annual reports to examine.

54. He therefore asked the Belgian and the United Kingdom representatives to make an effort to co-operate with the Council so that it might, in accordance with the agenda, examine the two reports in question at its current session.

55. Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) said that he was conscious of the difficulties which would face the Council at its twenty-sixth session but recalled that in 1959 the Council had examined seven annual reports in two months and had been able in that time to study them exhaustively.

56. The United Kingdom delegation had no intention of objecting to the examination of conditions in the Cameroons at the current session. That examination was on the agenda, and any delegation was free to make statements on the annual report on the Territory for 1958. The United Kingdom delegation would be unable, however, to provide a special representative. With regard to the Indian and United Arab Republic representatives' suggestions, he himself was not in a position to give the kind of information on the Cameroons which would be useful to the Council. He could himself only provide superficial information, and it was not the wish of the United Kingdom Government that the Council should be only superficially informed on these matters. Furthermore, as he had already explained, the Council would have access at its twenty-sixth session to information which would enable it to prepare a complete report on the Territory for the General Assembly.

57. The PRESIDENT suggested that consideration of the proposals made by the United Kingdom and Belgian delegations should be deferred until 29 January 1960.

*It was so decided.*

The PRESIDENT took it that there was no objection to the postponement of agenda item 8 to the twenty-sixth session, as the Australian delegation had requested.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.