



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth Session
OFFICIAL RECORDS

Friday, 30 June 1967,
 at 11 a.m.

NEW YORK

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President: Miss Angie E. BROOKS (Liberia).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, China, France, Liberia, New Zealand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly (T/L.1129)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to proceed to the adoption of the draft report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly (T/L.1129).

2. Mr. RIFAI (Secretary of the Council) said that chapter IV, section B, of part I would comprise a brief summary of the decisions taken by the Council at its 1321st meeting on the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom (T/L.1133). In chapter V, section B, the passage entitled "Observations of members of the Trusteeship Council representing their individual opinions only" would be supplemented by the insertion of observations relating to General Assembly resolutions 2111 (XX) and 2226 (XXI) on Nauru and by a summary of the decisions of the Council concerning the two draft resolutions submitted by the Liberian delegation (T/L.1131 and T/L.1132). A summary of the observations of members of the Council on the draft resolution submitted by the USSR delegation (T/L.1127) would be added at the end of section C of the same chapter.

3. The PRESIDENT suggested that the passages to be added should be inserted in the report only after consultation between the members of the Council and the Secretariat.

It was so decided.

4. Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the way in which the last two paragraphs of chapter V, section A, were presented might give the impression that the reference to General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) formed a part of the statements of the USSR delegation mentioned in the next-to-last paragraph. He therefore suggested

that the two passages in question should be rearranged and that the paragraphs of the report should be numbered. The report did not reflect the position of the USSR delegation concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands or the observations it had made during the consideration of the draft resolution which it had submitted on Papua and New Guinea (T/L.1127). His delegation therefore reserved the right to make the necessary corrections.

5. Mr. RIFAI (Secretary of the Council) explained that the Secretariat intended to insert a heading before the last paragraph of chapter V, section A, which would remove any risk of confusion with the preceding passage, and he assured the USSR representative that, when the report was drawn up in its final form, the paragraphs would be numbered.

6. The PRESIDENT recalled, with reference to part II of the report, that, at its 1318th meeting, the Council had adopted conclusions and recommendations on the Trust Territory of New Guinea (T/L.1124, annex) and the corresponding revised working paper on conditions in the Territory (T/L.1119 and Add.1) and that, at its 1320th meeting, it had adopted conclusions and recommendations on the Trust Territory of Nauru (T/L.1128, annex) together with the corresponding revised working paper (T/L.1120 and Add.1 and 2). She suggested that the Council should adopt that part of the report, subject to any corrections which delegations might wish to make.

It was so decided.

7. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on the draft report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly (T/L.1129) as a whole.

The draft report (T/L.1129), as a whole, was adopted by 5 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

8. Mr. McCARTHY (Australia) explained that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft report without prejudice to the views it had stated in the course of the debate and that its vote did not necessarily mean that it endorsed everything that was said in the report.

Records of the Council's proceedings (concluded)*

9. Mr. McCARTHY (Australia) asked whether it would be possible to have the verbatim records of the Council meetings circulated and, if so, how soon.

10. Mr. RIFAI (Secretary of the Council) assured the Australian representative that the proceedings of the Council would be reproduced in full but said that he could not give an exact date. The Secretariat would make every effort to have the verbatim records issued before the Council's next session.

*Resumed from the 1315th meeting.

11. Mr. McCARTHY (Australia) formally proposed that, in the circumstances, the Trusteeship Council should request that the verbatim records of the meetings of the current session should be prepared and issued as a matter of urgency.

It was so decided.

Closing of the session

12. The PRESIDENT gave a brief evaluation of the results of the Council's session. The Council had been pleased to note that Nauru was to accede to independence on 31 January 1968, as a Republic in the British Commonwealth, on which occasion the goals of the Trusteeship System would thus have been achieved. An agreement had been reached by the Nauruans and the Administering Authority whereby ownership, control and management of the phosphate industry would be transferred to the Nauruans by 1 July 1970. It was to be hoped that the differences remaining between the parties regarding the question of restoration of the worked-out lands on the island would be settled to the satisfaction of both parties.

13. In the other Trust Territories, some progress had been made towards implementing the provisions of Article 76 b of the United Nations Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In New Guinea, the increase in the membership of the House of Assembly would make it possible to admit a larger number of indigenous representatives to that body. The March 1968 elections would be on the basis of universal adult suffrage, and all electors would be registered on a common electoral roll. The House of Assembly's Select Committee on Constitutional Development had presented a report concerning a clearer definition of the duties of under-secretaries, and the Trusteeship Council awaited with interest the action which would be taken on it by the Administering Authority. The Council's recommendation concerning the increase of local revenues augured well for the future economic self-reliance of the Territory.

14. The United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1967, had drawn attention to the special nature of the very considerable problems of Micronesia. The Mission had noted in its report (T/1658 and Add.1) that there were as yet no Micronesians holding positions of responsibility in the executive, that the legislature had problems of its own to tackle and that economic expansion required a major government effort and a large amount of capital. The Mission had, however, taken note of the considerable advances which had been made in education in the Territory. It had been confident that the Pacific Islands would show rapid progress in many fields and that the time was not too far distant when

the people of the Territory would feel ready to assume responsibility for deciding their own future.

15. The Trusteeship Council had also considered the question of the offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories and the question of the dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories. It had, in addition, stressed the especial importance of the attainment of self-government or independence, which had been the main focus of four of the items on the Council's agenda.

16. The approaching independence of Nauru called forth certain observations concerning the membership of the Trusteeship Council. Article 86 of the Charter stated clearly that the total number of members of the Council should be equally divided between administering members and non-administering members. If Nauru attained independence before the thirty-fifth session of the Council, there would then be only two countries which were still Administering Authorities: Australia and the United States. As China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom were permanent members of the Council, it would then consist of two administering members and four non-administering members, an arrangement which would be against both the spirit and the letter of Article 86 of the Charter. She therefore suggested that a study of the legal aspects of the question should be made and submitted to members before the next session of the Council or even before the next session of the General Assembly.

17. Mrs. ANDERSON (United States of America) and Mr. SHAW (United Kingdom) expressed the opinion that the question of the future membership of the Trusteeship Council raised complicated issues to which individual members of the Council would wish to give further study before stating their views.

18. Mr. McDOWELL (New Zealand) said that, if his delegation had been present, it would have voted in favour of the report of the Trusteeship Council (T/L.1129) and the proposal adopted concerning the circulation of the verbatim records of the Council meetings. It had been a useful initiative on the President's part to raise the question of the implications of Article 86 of the Charter, but the issue was still a hypothetical one and his delegation would need to give it further study before making substantive comment.

After the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the thirty-fourth session of the Council closed.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.

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