

UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



PROVISIONAL

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ENGLISH

Thirty-sixth Session

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 29 May 1969, at 11.00 a.m.

President:

Mr. GASCHIGNARD

(France)

1. Opening of the thirty-^{sixth}~~fifth~~ session
2. Tributes to the memory of His Excellency Mr. Emilio Arenales Catalan, President of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, and His Excellency Mr. Chiping Kiang, representative of China
3. Adoption of the Agenda [1]
4. Report of the Secretary-General on Credentials [2]
5. Election of the President and Vice-President [3]
6. Organization of work
7. Meeting records of the Trusteeship Council.

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.1341 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed version.

OPENING OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

The Temporary PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I declare open the thirty-sixth session of the Trusteeship Council.

Actually, it is our President, Mrs. Anderson, who should have the honour of opening this session. I am sure I am expressing the feelings of all in requesting the United States delegation to convey to her how much we regret not having her among us today.

TRIBUTES TO THE MEMORY OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. EMILIO ARENALES CATALAN, PRESIDENT OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND HIS EXCELLENCY MR. CHIPING KIANG, REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA

The Temporary PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): At the outset I should like to pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Emilio Arenales Catalán, President of the General Assembly, who passed away so prematurely and so regrettably in the middle of a brief but brilliant career which was in large measure devoted to the United Nations. Mr. Arenales had presided over this Council on many occasions during his Presidency in 1958. His death is a great loss for us all, and I would ask representatives to be good enough to stand and observe a minute of silence in his memory.

The members of the Trusteeship Council, standing, observed a minute of silence.

The Temporary PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As Vice-President of the Trusteeship Council I should also like to pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Chiping Kiang, who for many years was the representative of China in this Council. His great experience and his intellectual qualities were particularly useful in our work.

AGENDA ITEM 1

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (T/1691 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 (English only))

The Temporary PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should now like to draw the attention of members of the Council to the provisional agenda

(The Temporary President)

contained in document T/1691 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1. If there are no objections or comments I shall consider that the agenda of the thirty-sixth session appearing in that document is adopted.

The agenda was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 2

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS

The Temporary PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should now like to inform members of the Council that the Secretary-General has still not received the credentials of all members of the Council. May I suggest, therefore, that this agenda item be considered at a future meeting.

If there are no objections it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 3

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

The Temporary PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): May I now invite members of the Council to elect a President for the thirty-sixth session. This procedure will be carried out by secret ballot, pursuant to rule 41 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

As a result of the vote, Mr. Gaschignard (France), was unanimously elected President.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Council has done me the honour of electing me unanimously as its President. Therefore I should like, on behalf of the delegation of France and on my own behalf, to thank members most sincerely for the honour thus bestowed upon me, or rather upon my country, in electing me to preside over the work of the thirty-sixth session of the Trusteeship Council. I shall endeavour to make use of all the experience and means at my disposal to be worthy of your trust.

Breaking what has been almost a tradition of having lady Presidents -- since we had Miss Brooks and then Mrs. Anderson -- I have the privilege of succeeding the latter. Therefore the path has been cleared for me, and I shall not fail to follow the example given us by Mrs. Anderson in carrying out her duties with competence, authority and broad vision.

The membership of our Council, which was reduced last year by the departure of New Zealand, is further reduced this year, since Liberia has now left us. I need not remind the Council of the very important role played in our debates by the representatives of that country, especially latterly by Miss Brooks, Mr. Barnes and Mr. Caine. As Mrs. Anderson said last year, we can consider this departure as a sign of progress, since it is due to the accession of the island of Nauru to independence.

The Trusteeship Council has also played an essential role in the evolution of Non-Self-Governing Territories towards self-government or independence in accordance with the Charter. Having under trusteeship today only two Territories, whose development has been made more complicated by specific ethnic, geographical and historical conditions, the Council will, I am sure, wish to help the administering Powers, through equitable and effective control of their activities, to lead the populations of these Territories to the exercise of their right to self-determination.

I should now like to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories for being kind enough to honour us with his presence today. Experience tells us that we can count on his full support, and we are most grateful to him.

(The President)

I also wish to congratulate Mr. Rifai, who, while he is still Secretary of the Council, as we are happy to note, has been promoted to the higher functions of Director of the Department of Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories. I would ask Mr. Rifai to be kind enough to tell his predecessor, Mr. Chacko, how much we appreciated his great experience and his friendly co-operation during his many years in the Department.

Finally, I should like to welcome the new members of the Council. Before concluding, I should like to welcome the new representative in the seat of China and also Mr. Phillips of the United States.

The Council will now proceed to the election of its Vice-President.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

As a result of the vote, Mr. Patrick Shaw (Australia) was unanimously elected Vice-President.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should like to be the first to have the privilege of congratulating Ambassador Shaw on his unanimous election. I am very happy that the Council has chosen him to be a member of the small team that will preside over its deliberations at this session.

Mr. SHAW (Australia): Mr. President, I thank the members of the Council for the honour they have done the Australian delegation and myself in electing me Vice-President for this session of the Council. I am well aware that in taking on this role I shall be asked to assist a very able and distinguished President, and I would take this occasion to pay tribute to the election of yourself as President of the Council. This tribute, I think, is partly a recognition of the role of France and its experience and wisdom in the affairs of this Council. It is partly a tribute to your own qualities.

(Mr. Shaw, Australia)

We all know you as being experienced in the work of the Council. We remember the care and devotion which you gave to your participation in the Visiting Mission to New Guinea last year. We know that you brought away from New Guinea not only some memories but a very highly, efficiently organized photographic record, and we are very happy to be sitting with you here under your chairmanship.

Might I for a moment take this opportunity to reaffirm the importance which the Australian Government attaches to the work of the Trusteeship Council, which is one of the principal organs set up in accordance with Article 7 of the United Nations Charter. The Trusteeship Council works in pursuance of the purposes of the United Nations which are defined under Article 1 and in particular in the second section of that Article which defines one of these purposes as:

"To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples..."

The International Trusteeship System is enshrined in Chapter XII of the Charter, and its basic objectives are set out in Article 76.

Australia, as the Administering Authority for the territory of New Guinea, has undertaken to administer the territory in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and in such a manner as to achieve those basic objectives of the International Trusteeship System as set out in Article 76. Australia, as Administering Authority for the territory of New Guinea, has also undertaken to co-operate with the Trusteeship Council in the discharge of all the Council's functions under Articles 87 and 88 of the Charter. It is in pursuance of this policy of co-operation that we meet today.

In retrospect we agree, Mr. President, with some of the sentiments you have expressed about the Council. Looking back, we think that the provisions of the Charter regarding the International Trusteeship System have proved to be far-sighted. This has been proved by the evolution within the framework of the Charter of a number of territories which were formerly Trust Territories. We believe that this process of evolution is continuing.

Australia is conscious of its responsibilities in respect of New Guinea and it has some confidence that what the Administering Authority is doing in that territory is in the long-term interests of the people of that territory -- and that is the paramount consideration. It is this that the Australian delegation

(Mr. Shaw, Australia)

has tried to demonstrate to the Council in the full and frank report which is already before the Council and which will be supplemented by further detailed information which will be given by the Australian delegation in the course of the discussions next week.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Australia for the very kind words he uttered about me and my country.

Lord CARADON (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I was specially anxious to be present today to pay my respects to this Council with which I have been familiar for many years, but also particularly to pay my respects to the new President. As the Ambassador of Australia has said, you have direct and recent experience of the Trust Territory of New Guinea and you also have special experience in this Council as our Vice-President in the previous session, and we all know that that experience both at the circumference and at the centre has given you an enviable reputation for sympathetic understanding, unfailing courtesy, articulate skill and wise judgement. I am sure that all of us greatly look forward to working under your presidency, especially remembering and respecting the traditional leadership of France in liberty.

You will be powerfully supported by Ambassador Shaw. I pay my respects to him on his election not only to him personally as a man of wide experience and balanced opinions, but also I pay my respectful tribute to the contribution of Australia in New Guinea, a contribution of which I knew something from my own experience as Chairman of a United Nations visiting mission. It is sufficient now to say that I shall never forget the original, untiring and generous initiative of Australia in New Guinea. The Australian effort in New Guinea is indeed a magnificent enterprise in constructive partnership with the emerging and advancing peoples of that wild and beautiful country.

I am glad, Sir, that you made reference to our past President, Mrs. Anderson, whom we all remember as a very charming lady but also as an envoy of liberal and generous opinions and a deep appreciation of the aspirations of peoples advancing to self-determination and independence.

(Lord Caradon, United Kingdom)

In addition I should like to add a word to what has been said already of special gratitude to the Liberian delegation which has now retired from membership of the Council. Liberia has served in this Council for five years and has provided two outstanding Presidents, Ambassador Barnes and Ambassador Miss Brooks. It is indeed right and proper that free Liberia should have taken a leading role in the cause of decolonization and we gratefully acknowledge the fine part that Liberia has played.

As you, Sir, have indicated, we all agree that our numbers are happily diminishing. Our rejoicing is in our diminishing and one day, before too long, we look forward to celebrating our final and fortunate extinction. May we work with that joyful aim in view, remembering that although the number of territories which are our concern is now so small, the responsibilities which we exercise in this Council in relation to those territories are no less, and I think particularly we would wish from this Council to assure the representatives of the territories with which we are concerned that all of us subscribe to the requirement of the Charter that we should put their interests first and maintain their interests as paramount.

I warmly congratulate you, Mr. President, and our new Vice-President on your election today.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his kind words.

Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America): Mr. President, it is a very great pleasure for me, as one of the two new members of the Trusteeship Council, to offer you our sincere congratulations on your election. Personally, I am very pleased in my first experience with this important Council to be serving under the distinguished leadership which I know you will bring to the Council. I am aware of your long experience in the affairs not only of the United Nations as a whole, but more particularly with the Trusteeship Council and with Non-Self-Governing Territories. Your experience with the visiting mission to New Guinea in 1968 has already been noted, and I am sure that it has given to you a breadth and depth of understanding of the issues which confront us and which will be confronting us during the days ahead.

I think we are equally fortunate to look ahead with assurance at the election of our distinguished colleague, Ambassador Shaw, because I understand that there is an unbroken tradition that the Vice-President in due course accedes to the Presidency, and that augurs well for the future. Ambassador Shaw, whom it has been my privilege to know personally, will, I am sure, continue the high standards which have become customary for the leader of this Council.

May I also pay a brief tribute to Miss Angie Brooks, who served this Council so well and so outstandingly. We all know of the very great contribution made by her country to the work of the Council during its six years of membership. It participated enthusiastically in our work, and we think that we owe a debt of gratitude to Liberia and to Miss Brooks in particular. I am very pleased that there are recurrent rumours that Miss Brooks may be taking on even more important responsibilities in the United Nations in the months ahead.

Thank you, Mr. President, and we extend our warm congratulations to you and to Ambassador Shaw.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the United States for his kind words.

As President of the Trusteeship Council, I give the floor to the representative of China.

Mr. WANG (China) (interpretation from Chinese): Mr. President, permit me to congratulate you sincerely on your unanimous election as President of this session of the Trusteeship Council. I am sure that with your long experience in the Council and your knowledge of trusteeship matters you will ably lead the work of the Council to a successful conclusion.

Secondly, on behalf of my delegation and in my own name I should like to congratulate Ambassador Shaw of Australia on his election as Vice-President of the Trusteeship Council. I am convinced that he will be of considerable assistance to you, Mr. President, and to the Council and that he will make an outstanding contribution to our work.

My delegation would like to pay a tribute to two previous Presidents of the Trusteeship Council, Mrs. Anderson and Miss Brooks, for their contribution and for their devotion to the high ideals of the International Trusteeship System. I should like on this occasion to pay a tribute to those noble ladies.

Finally, I should like to express our appreciation of the statement made by the President concerning the unfortunate death of Mr. Chiping Kiang, and also to thank the President for his words of welcome addressed to me.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should like to thank the representative of China for his kind words.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Mr. President, I should like on behalf of the Soviet delegation to congratulate you on your election as President of the thirty-sixth session of the Trusteeship Council. We know you well as a man who has undoubted qualifications of experience in the work of the Trusteeship Council and as one who has always exercised the greatest responsibility and devoted considerable attention to studying the complex and important problems which have been put before this Council. I am pleased on behalf of the Soviet delegation to wish you every success in guiding the work of our Council.

I should like also to congratulate the representative of Australia, Ambassador Shaw, who has been elected Vice-President of the Trusteeship Council. I should like to wish him every success in his work in that post.

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

The position of the Soviet Union with respect to the work of the Trusteeship Council is indeed very well known, and I do not think it is necessary for me to repeat any part of our position. I can only associate myself with the words which have been spoken by my neighbour, Lord Caradon, who said that we all look forward with hope awaiting the day when the Trusteeship Council will fade away. That would mean, of course, that the Council had exhausted all the subject matter which had been entrusted to it under the Charter of the United Nations.

It is hardly necessary for me to add that the Soviet delegation and the Soviet Union have always done everything in their power to speed the arrival of that day in order that Trust Territories should become independent and that the colonial system -- which, as is well known, the Soviet Union has always opposed from the very first day of its existence -- should cease to exist also in the Trust Territories which fall under the competence of this Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should like to thank the representative of the Soviet Union for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. DESCHAMPS (France) (interpretation from French): Mr. President, it is certainly superfluous for me to say how happy the French delegation is at your election to the Presidency of the Trusteeship Council. I should simply like to say that the French delegation is also very happy at the unanimous election of Ambassador Shaw as Vice-President of the Council. That election no doubt expresses the high esteem in which Ambassador Shaw is held in the United Nations. It is also an expression of our appreciation of the role of the Australian Government in the carrying out of the responsibilities which it has assumed with respect to the administration of the Trust Territory of New Guinea. That appreciation can only be reinforced after the statement which Ambassador Shaw has just made. We believe that it is indeed a good augury for our work. In conclusion I should simply like to say that the French delegation, of course, will be happy to offer, as it has in the past, its full co-operation in the work of the Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of France.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall now consider the next item on our agenda, the organization of work. The Secretariat has prepared and distributed a time-table for the present session of the Council. This time-table is, of course, provisional. It was drafted in order to give us an idea of the tasks that we have to accomplish and of the time that we must devote to them to ensure their successful completion. The Council is, of course, free to modify this programme of work in accordance with circumstances or with the wishes of its members.

It will be noted that according to the provisional time-table it may be necessary to have two meetings a day. I should like to ask the members of the Council to be kind enough to do all they can to arrive on time at the meetings and to spare no effort to enable us to conclude our work on time.

If there are no comments or suggestions, and if there is no objection, I shall take it that the Council agrees to adopt the provisional time-table.

It was so decided.

MEETING RECORDS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (T/1693)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The members of the Council will recall that during the thirty-fifth session the Trusteeship Council considered the question of its documentation, and that at its 1340th meeting, on 18 June 1968, it decided to defer consideration of the matter until the present session. It will be remembered also that the Council felt that during its thirty-sixth session priority should be granted to the matter of documentation. During that same meeting a number of suggestions were put forward by members of the Council who, asked the Secretariat to provide them with information on the subject.

We have now received a note by the Secretariat (T/1693). I should like to hear the views of the members of the Council on this question of our meeting records.

Mr. ROGERS (Australia): Mr. President, at the last session, as you pointed out, we had a discussion on the sort of records that the Council should have in future, bearing in mind the strong exhortation expressed by the General Assembly to all United Nations bodies to cut down on the extent of their documentation, wherever possible. I think that all members who spoke in last year's debate were in favour of retaining the present system of verbatim records. We heard then an opinion from the Department of Conference Services and now we have from them the present report (T/1693).

My delegation's view is determined by two factors. The first of these is the importance of the Council and the importance of the work it does, and the consequent importance of having full records of its proceedings and its decisions, not only for the information of all Governments Members of the United Nations, but also for the inhabitants of Trust Territories.

The second point is to defer, of course, to the opinions and the directions of the General Assembly. It has already been mentioned by you, Mr. President, and other members of the Council this morning that the Council is now a small body. The fact that we are a smaller body than we were last year means that there will be a consequent reduction in the volume of our records. Also, the Council is one which, I think, sets quite a good example to other United Nations bodies in the relative smallness of its documentation. It is not a body which engages in any extravagant proliferation of paper. On the contrary, it follows a very sober, methodical and precise form in the organization of its records and in the presentation of its reports to the General Assembly. In paragraph 8 of the document before us (T/1693) the Secretariat has summed up the cost of providing records for the Council under three alternative proposals which are outlined in paragraphs 1 (a), (b) and (c) of the same report.

Under the Secretariat's estimate, continuation of the present arrangements would cost \$1,780. The provision of full verbatim records would cost \$2,110, and provision of limited verbatim would cost \$1,320. The position of my delegation is that, having considered these three arrangements, we would prefer to continue with the present one. We see no reason for the adoption of the suggestion regarding full verbatim records, which would lead to a significant increase in the expenses that we think is not justified. On the other hand,

(Mr. Rogers. Australia)

we think it is very necessary to have verbatim records. They come out quickly, they provide us all, the day following a meeting, with a full and accurate account of what was said the day before. They are a very necessary, indeed essential, source for both the Secretariat and delegations when we are preparing our reports to the Assembly, which we do, I think, with considerable expedition.

At the same time, we would prefer to see the summary records retained in their present position of an adjunct to the report of the Council, so that any government or any individual that, having read the report of the Council, wishes to have further detail of what was said simply refers to the summary records.

Our position, therefore, is that we would prefer alternative (a), the continuation of the present arrangement.

Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America): I hesitate to appear to take slight issue with my friend from Australia. Being a newcomer, I am perhaps not qualified to express a judgement, but I do, fortunately, have colleagues who have participated in previous sessions. I think we are all agreed that, to the extent that we can, we want to co-operate with the Committee on Conferences in its effort to eliminate unnecessary documentation. I also agree with the representative of Australia that this has to be balanced against the minimum needs of the work of the Trusteeship Council -- that these too must obviously be taken into account, and that we cannot lose sight of one or the other.

I am impressed by the fact that the system of limited verbatim distribution referred to in paragraph 1 (c) is, as I understand it, being used successfully in the Special Committee of Twenty-Four. If I am correctly informed, this has been rather widely accepted as a useful way to conduct the meetings in that Committee and apparently has not created problems. Now, the only question that I can see which might argue against alternative (c) would be the effect that it might have on the Secretariat in preparing the final report or reports of the Trusteeship Council. Obviously, if summary records are dispensed with, there may be some additional work on the part of the Secretariat to prepare the report.

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(Mr. Phillips, United States)

Heretofor, as I understand it, substantial parts of the reports are in fact lifted directly from the summary records. Now, it might be helpful to have some indication from the Secretariat whether the additional time involved in working directly from limited verbatim records would be a substantial factor in the cost. If it is not, we would prefer to see alternative (c) implemented.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The matter we are now considering is undoubtedly one of great interest. We all remember that we discussed it several times during the thirty-fifth session of the Council, and at one of the last meetings we arrived at the general conclusion that we should envisage the possibility, at the beginning of the thirty-sixth session of changing our system of documentation. During the exchange of views on this question the Soviet delegation pronounced itself in favour of having only summary records kept as official documents of the Trusteeship Council's meetings.

In this connexion I should like to express a certain surprise at seeing that the drafters of document T/1693 did not deem it necessary to include any comment on the fourth possibility, alternative (d); they did not indicate the cost of summary records, even though the Soviet delegation had requested, at the thirty-fifth session of the Council, that this be done.

I am gratified to be able to say that the position of the Soviet delegation is in full conformity with the general policy of our Organization aiming at the reduction of unnecessary expenditures, and that it is also in keeping with the recommendations of the Committee on Conferences. I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the report of the Committee on Conferences, document A/7361, in paragraph 35 of which it is stated that
(Spoke in English)

"In the Committee's view the following bodies should be provided with summary records", and among those bodies, as point (4), "Trusteeship Council (plenary only)".

(Continued in Russian)

The view of the Committee on Conferences is thus quite clear; it is that the Trusteeship Council should keep only summary records as its official documents. The Soviet delegation continues to hold to this same view and considers it necessary once again to put forward its proposal concerning summary records which unfortunately is not reflected in document T/1693.

Mr. DESCHAMPS (France) (interpretation from French): The French delegation carefully studied document T/1693 pertaining to this matter, and it is in the light of that study that we have taken our position, a position dictated, of course, by our concern for both effectiveness and economy. We therefore wish to state that we favour alternative C as described in paragraph 7 of document T/1693, that is to say we prefer the keeping of limited verbatim records in the interpreted version only, the original being the only official form, with the possibility for each delegation of publishing corrections to its own statements. This position, as I said, is dictated first by our concern for effectiveness, and in this regard I have taken note of what was stated by the representative of the United States concerning the fact that such a formula has already been quite satisfactorily employed in other United Nations bodies. Our position is also determined, of course, by our desire for economy. It is obvious that the system of keeping limited verbatim records is, naturally, much less expensive than are the other systems that have been proposed to us.

Under these circumstances, the French delegation wishes to express its preference for formula C, that of limited verbatim records.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As President of the Trusteeship Council, I call upon the representative of China.

Mr. WANG (China): My delegation has studied the note prepared by the Secretariat in document T/1693. We are, as a matter of fact, happy with the existing way in which records of the Council are being prepared and distributed. Although we are aware of the usefulness of the summary records, we would not object to any new arrangement that would reduce the cost and, at the same time, satisfy the needs of our delegation. If the limited verbatim records could be made available and distributed the next day following the meeting, we think we could go along with alternative C.

Lord CARADON (United Kingdom): I have listened with interest to the comments that have been made. We would bring the same test to the question before us as would, I think, all other members of the Council. All of us are anxious in these days that there should not be unnecessary expenditure on documents. Therefore it seems to me clear, as I believe it does to all of us, that alternative B is not supported here in the Council. We are therefore required to think in terms of the present arrangement as against any improvement.

I wonder whether the Secretariat would wish to make some comment on the question raised by, first of all, the representative of the United States in regard to the limited verbatim system under alternative C. We wonder whether the Secretariat would be put at serious disadvantage in its work if C were adopted, and, if so, we wish to take that into account. It might indeed be that the Secretariat would find that the difference between C and A in practice was not very great.

I should also like to hear the comments of the Secretariat in regard to the point raised by the representative of the Soviet Union. We need to take a decision on that point, and it had been previously discussed. We have now narrowed down the decision to the present system as against the two other proposals that are before us, that is alternative C and the proposal of the Soviet representative. I wonder whether the Secretariat, either now or at the next meeting, would wish to make a comment from the point of view of the convenience of the Secretariat and also on the cost of the proposal the representative of the Soviet Union has put forward, before we reach a final conclusion.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The representative of the United Kingdom, with his wide experience of United Nations matters, has, I think, said exactly what should be said. We have heard various opinions. The representative of Australia is in favour of the present formula. The representatives of the United States, China and France would be in favour of the system of limited verbatim records on condition that it would not cause too much difficulty for the Secretariat.

The representative of the Soviet Union, on the contrary, wishes, as he said last year, to maintain the system of summary records with, in certain cases, the production of verbatim records, if I understood correctly.

I think, therefore, that it is difficult to reach a decision now. As the representative of the United Kingdom said, we could ask the Secretariat of the Council to study the question raised by the representative of the United States, namely whether the adoption of the formula of limited verbatim records would not cause too much difficulty for the Secretariat, which would then have itself to make summaries of statements made by members, whereas in the past those summaries were contained in summary records.

To the extent that the representative of the Soviet Union has made a formal proposal, we could also ask the Secretariat to study the formula proposed by him: the retention of summary records, with the limited use of verbatim records.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to clarify the proposal which I made. My proposal is in strict conformity with the recommendations of the Committee on Conferences, which provides for maintaining summary records. I did not propose anything more. I did not propose anything concerning verbatim records.

Secondly, I should like to know why the Secretariat did not include this alternative in the document which it prepared.

I agree with the representative of the United Kingdom that we do not have to ask for an answer today. We can return to this matter when we have received answers to all the questions and know the cost of all four alternatives, including summary records, mentioned by the Committee on Conferences.

Mr. PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I had understood the representative of the Soviet Union to refer to verbatim records when reading the statements made at our last session. However that may be, I share his opinion. If the Council agrees, we might ask the Secretariat to study the two proposals made, one by the representative of the United States and the other by the representative of the Soviet Union. When we have received all the necessary information we shall be able to return to this subject. If there is no other comment, I think we may leave our consideration of this matter there for today. We have concluded our agenda for today.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday, 2 June, at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.