



UNITED NATIONS

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL

MAY 28 1970
UN/SA COLLECTION



Distr.
GENERAL

T/PV.1355
26 May 1970

ENGLISH

Thirty-seventh Session

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTEEN HUNDRED AND
FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 26 May 1970 at 11 a.m.

President:

Sir Laurence McINTYRE

(Australia)

- Opening of the thirty-seventh session
- Adoption of the Agenda [1]
- Report of the Secretary-General on Credentials [2]
- Election of the President and Vice-President [3]
- Organization of work

Corrections to this report should be submitted in one of the working languages (English or French), preferably in the same language as the text to which they refer. Corrections should be sent in duplicate within three working days to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, Room LX-2332. Corrections received will be issued as a corrigendum.

AS THIS RECORD WAS DISTRIBUTED ON 27 MAY 1970, THE TIME-LIMIT FOR CORRECTIONS WILL BE 1 JUNE 1970.

The co-operation of delegations in strictly observing this time-limit would be greatly appreciated.

OPENING OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

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

First of all, I should like to express the honour I feel at having the opportunity to preside over the solemn opening of the thirty-seventh session of the Trusteeship Council. This year the session is of particular importance because it is being held on the eve of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Charter. And for us, too, is it not also an opportunity to take stock of the work of the Trusteeship Council ever since its inception?

Everyone will recall that at the end of 1949, eleven Trusteeship Agreements were concluded by the United Nations. Ever since that time, how much ground we have covered and how many felicitous events have occurred to the credit of the Trusteeship Council, in accordance with the will of the people in the administered Territory. Of the eleven Trust Territories, nine have acceded to self-determination in accordance with the free expression of their will and have assumed international personalities in order and peace.

(The Temporary President)

This positive balance-sheet shows how much the Trusteeship Council has been an effective instrument in the service of international peace. In this particular field, thanks to the continuing action of the Trusteeship Council, the United Nations has displayed to the world in concrete form its primary function which is to help all people to accede fully to their political, economic and social fulfilment. This admirable performance is something we owe also to the perspicacity, the maturity and the contribution of the statesmen and the peoples of all these Territories, which were formerly Trust Territories but are now independent.

We cannot pass over in silence the goodwill, the self-sacrifice and the constructive spirit displayed by the Administering Authorities whose effective assistance has been very valuable to the United Nations in the bringing about of the objectives laid down in the Charter.

On the eve of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, the role played by the Trusteeship Council in the evolution of these Territories to self-determination or independence is fully deserving of being quoted as an example.

Of course, as I said two years ago already, the Trusteeship Council will not have fully carried out its objectives until it has led the two remaining Trust Territories to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the Charter and resolution 1514 (XV), contained in the Declaration on the granting of independence to Territories and peoples still under colonial domination. In other words, the Council will not have done its full generous task of trusteeship until the day when it has exhausted its remaining scanty subject-matter, to which it is devoting all its energies. We are firmly convinced that we are on the road to achieving this end and that the completion of its final stage is not too far off.

AGENDA ITEM 1

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (T/1702 and Add.1)

The Temporary PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should now like to draw the attention of members of the Council to the provisional agenda contained in document T/1702 and Add.1. If there are no objections or comments I shall consider that the agenda of the thirty-seventh 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 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-seventh session. This election 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, Sir Laurence McIntyre (Australia), was unanimously elected President.

The Temporary PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Mr. President, permit me on behalf of the Secretary-General and on my own behalf to convey to you my congratulations upon your election to the presidency of the Trusteeship Council for its thirty-seventh session. Your distinguished personal qualities -- which are well known to us and which I have had the honour of appreciating during my recent stay in Australia when I went to Nauru as representative of the Secretary-General on the occasion of the independence of that Territory, to which you contributed so much -- and the experience gained by your country, which for many years has made a valuable contribution to the work of the Trusteeship Council, constitute, I am sure, a pledge of success for the thirty-seventh session of the Council.

I invite you, Mr. President, to take the presidential chair.

The PRESIDENT: I should like, first of all, to thank members of the Council for having done my country and myself the honour of electing me unanimously to preside over the work of the thirty-seventh session of the Trusteeship Council. It is, I think, well enough known that Australia played a prominent part in helping to establish the International Trusteeship System and to define the functions and responsibilities of this Council at the time when the Charter was being drawn up in San Francisco in 1945. Since that time, as I believe will be generally acknowledged, my country has continued to regard itself as bound by the same obligations and duties towards its Trust Territory and towards the Council that it helped to codify twenty-five years ago. And it has also, I believe, been conscientious in respecting the Council's recommendations and in putting those recommendations into effect.

As for the honour done to myself, I hope that members will recognize that I am a newcomer to this Council and to its procedures and its working methods. I shall accordingly look to members for their forbearance while, at the same time, undertaking to do my best to preside over our deliberations with something of the same skill and tact that I am sure were characteristic of my predecessor in this Chair. I had the personal pleasure of meeting Mr. Gaschignard when he visited Canberra some few years ago and I have no doubt that I reflect the sentiment

of all members in expressing our gratitude to him for the very considerable contribution he has made in one capacity or another to the work of this Council for a number of years past.

The Council today finds itself a body reduced in size and limited as to its area of responsibility to two Trust Territories instead of the original eleven. And this can be said to be a measure of its success. But the principles which must guide it are just as valid and the obligations of the two remaining Administering Authorities are just as binding as they ever were. Furthermore, as my predecessor in this chair noted last year, the development of our two remaining Trust Territories has been made more complicated by specific ethnic, geographical and historical factors. At this session of the Council, we shall be considering, among other things, the report of the Visiting Mission which earlier this year visited the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

I should like, on behalf of the Council and on my own behalf, to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories for doing us the honour of opening this session of the Council today, and also to welcome Mr. Borna, who today appears for the first time as Secretary of this Council.

Finally, it gives me pleasure to welcome to the Council two new representatives, the representative of the United States, Ambassador Wright, and the representative of France, Mr. Blanc.

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): Young and brilliant voices have for many years been challenging the merits of honour graduates of universities and of those particularly who in obtaining such honours, have had to meet on extremely high standards, which demand great efforts and tenacity and, it must be confessed, great gifts. Your career, Mr. President, brings an irrefutable denial to those iconoclasts. During your studies at the University of Tasmania in 1933 you became a member of the envied band of Rhodes scholars at Oxford which, it seems, did not discourage you from pledging yourself at a very young age to the service of your State, in promptly assuming in the Australian public service high offices and, since 1952, you have represented your country with distinction abroad.

As head of the mission for almost twenty years, you have in particular directed the embassies of Australia in Malaysia and Japan, true, in the diversity of the landscapes and cultures, to the immense Pacific which all through your youth, on the docks of Hobart, you were able to assess. Today you have come back to us for the length of this session since the last two Territories to be considered by us are also scattered in their isolated forms in the western part of that ocean.

The Trusteeship Council is honoured to undertake its task under the authority of an ambassador of your talent and experience. My delegation, for its part, is convinced that, conducted by a President who is so familiar with international conferences and with the United Nations, our work will go forward with harmony and effectiveness.

With a certain amount of regret in substituting myself for him, I should like to tell you, Mr. President, how Mr. Paul Gaschignard would have been pleased to hear the friendly words which you expressed towards him, and I can assure you that I will convey them to him today.

Since I have the floor, I cannot fail to say how impressed I was by the clear statement of the Under-Secretary-General who reminded us how, for a principal organ of the United Nations, these twenty-five years have been twenty-five years of effective work.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of France for the very kind words he has addressed to me.

We shall now proceed to the election of the Vice-President.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

As a result of the vote, Mr. J.D.B. Shaw (United Kingdom) was unanimously elected Vice-President.

The PRESIDENT: I should myself like to be the first to congratulate Mr. Shaw on his election and to express my confidence that he will carry out his duties as Vice-President and assist me in my own work with full competence, efficiency and confidence.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: A time-table for the thirty-seventh session of the Trusteeship Council has been prepared and distributed by the Secretariat. As representatives will understand, it is a tentative time-table drawn up in order to give members an idea of the work to be accomplished and of the time that will be needed to complete it. The Council is of course free to make any change in its work programme which circumstances or the convenience of members may call for.

I should like at this point to draw the attention of members to one change that has already been suggested for the consideration of representatives, and that change relates to the meeting scheduled for tomorrow at 3 p.m. The Secretariat has suggested that that meeting be cancelled, and I believe that there are sound reasons why that suggestion should be adopted by us. Are there any comments on the suggested organization of work? As I hear no comments, suggestions or objections, I take it that the Council agrees to the suggested time-table.

It was so decided.

Mr. WRIGHT (United States of America): Mr. President, it is my very great personal pleasure, as one of the new members of the Trusteeship Council, to offer you my sincere congratulations on your election. 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 of the Pacific area as Ambassador to Malaysia as well as to Japan and as a representative of a nation that is vastly familiar with Pacific area problems.

I think we are equally fortunate to look ahead with assurance at the election of our colleague, Mr. John Shaw, the British representative, because I understand that there is an unbroken tradition that the Vice-President in due course accedes to the presidency and that augurs well indeed for the future. Mr. Shaw will, I am sure, continue the high standards which have become customary for the leaders of this Council.

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

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United States for his very kind words addressed to me.

Mr. SHAW (United Kingdom): Mr. President, it gives the United Kingdom delegation the greatest pleasure to congratulate you, Sir, on your unanimous election to the Presidency of the Trusteeship Council. No stranger to the work of the international community, you have returned to this Organization, bringing with you a reputation for courtesy, for wisdom and for shrewd judgement acquired over a long and distinguished career in the service of Australia. The high esteem in which you are held has been shown by your election to preside over our proceedings at this thirty-seventh session of the Trusteeship Council. As the representative of a country which, as you yourself have pointed out, has been associated with the international Trusteeship System since its beginning, which has always extended full co-operation to this Council and striven conscientiously to carry out its responsibilities under Chapter XII of the Charter, it is, my delegation would suggest, particularly appropriate that you should occupy our Presidential chair during this twenty-fifth anniversary year of the Organization. We have every expectation that under your experienced guidance our work this year will prosper and be brought to an effective conclusion. On behalf of the United Kingdom delegation, I should like to express our warm satisfaction at the prospect of working under your Presidency.

Reference has already been made to our past President, Mr. Paul Gaschignard and, although he is no longer a serving colleague here in New York, we should like to place on record once again our admiration for his able Chairmanship at the thirty-sixth session, which formed a fitting culmination to his association with the work of the Council over a number of years as the representative of France.

We should also wish to take this opportunity to welcome as members of the Council for the first time this year at this session, Ambassador Wright, leader of the United States delegation, and Mr. Paul Blanc, leader of the delegation of France.

I would conclude by expressing my warm appreciation for the esteem which members of the Council have shown to the United Kingdom delegation in electing me unanimously as Vice-President. I offer my full co-operation and ready assistance to you, Sir, in the Chair. On behalf of my delegation, as well as on my own behalf, I wish to thank members of the Council most sincerely and to acknowledge the kind words just said by the distinguished representative of the United States as well as by yourself earlier in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his very kind words.

Mr. WANG (China) (interpretation from Chinese): Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Trusteeship Council and to offer you our sincere congratulations on your unanimous election. In being elected as President of the Council you have brought to this high office not only your high personal qualities, which will no doubt benefit our deliberations, but also the worthy record of a country which has contributed immensely to the United Nations Trusteeship System. I am confident that you will guide us to a very successful conclusion of our work.

It gives me equal pleasure to congratulate Mr. John Shaw on his election as our Vice-President. I wish him every success in his work at this very important post of the Council.

It has been often said that the Trusteeship Council is now working itself out of business. It is true that when the Council goes out of business that will mean that it has fulfilled the task entrusted to it under the Charter of the United Nations. However, the Council should not lessen its sense of responsibility towards the peoples of the remaining Trust Territories, although it is approaching that happy end. Nor should the Council act in a way as if it were tired of those peoples and were trying to rid itself of them. On the contrary, we should work even harder and more carefully, taking the interests of those peoples as our paramount concern. With these thoughts in mind, I wish to assure you, Mr. President, that my delegation will give its full co-operation in the course of our work.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of China for his kind words.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The thirty-seventh session of the Trusteeship Council is occurring at a very responsible moment. As was rightly pointed out by the Under-Secretary-General, the present session of the Trusteeship Council is occurring at a time when the whole world is marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the victory of the freedom-loving peoples over the forces of Fascism and the creation of the United Nations. At the same time, 1970 is a date which marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In that historical period of time the world has witnessed far-reaching changes in, among others, the fields of social and economic development. More than seventy countries have acquired independence within the period of the existence of the United Nations. The overwhelming majority of them have become Members of the United Nations. But, as is well-known to everyone here, colonialism has not yet been finally eliminated. Many peoples continue to suffer under the yoke of colonial domination. The principle task of the United Nations still remains the full and final elimination of the colonial system in all Territories.

(Mr. Issraelyan. USSR)

The Trusteeship Council has played a certain part in solving the problem of the elimination of colonialism, but at the same time it should be pointed out that in two Territories -- New Guinea and the Pacific Islands -- this problem is still unsettled, and the people of those Territories are still awaiting the granting of independence.

The Soviet delegation expresses the hope that the Trusteeship Council will carry out the task entrusted to it. We welcome you, Mr. President, and wish you every success in your conduct of the proceedings of this Council.

We would express the hope that the representative of the United Kingdom, who has been elected to the post of Vice-President and will play a part in the proceedings of the Trusteeship Council. We wish him every success in this important and responsible task.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Soviet Union for his good wishes directed towards me and towards our colleague, my Vice-President.

Mr. ROGERS (Australia): Mr. President, the Australian delegation, undeterred by its particular status in the matter, is most happy to join with other delegations in expressing our congratulations to you on the occasion of your election to the Presidency of the thirty-seventh session of the Council and to assure you that we shall listen with the greatest attention and respect to any directions which we hear from the Chair.

We should like also to extend our warmest congratulations to Mr. John Shaw, the representative of the United Kingdom, on the occasion of his election to the Vice-Presidency of this Council. Mr. Shaw is very well known in this Council, having served here for three years; and he is equally well known in the Committee of Twenty-Four and the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly

(Mr. Rogers. Australia)

of the United Nations. In these three bodies, which are concerned with Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, Mr. Shaw has demonstrated a very sound knowledge of conditions in the Territories under the administration of the United Kingdom Government, and a very deep understanding of the problems facing them -- problems which he has described with considerable skill and great effect. He has also shown a great knowledge and a great regard for the standing and the work and the obligations of these bodies in which he represents his Government, and has earned the respect of all members of them.

I should like too, Sir, to associate my delegation with your remarks about our former President Mr. Gaschignard. Mr. Gaschignard served in this Council as the representative of his country, and then as Vice-President, and finally as President. He is very warmly remembered by us all, and he is very warmly and affectionately remembered in the Trust Territory of New Guinea, which he visited as a member of the 1968 Visiting Mission. Although it is our loss to see Mr. Gaschignard leave, it is our gain to see his successor Mr. Blanc arrive, and we wish to express to him our very best wishes. Mr. Blanc joins the number of very distinguished representatives of France who have made such an outstanding contribution to the work of this Council.

We should like also to welcome Mr. Wright, who now represents the United States in this Council, and who at this session will have the task of explaining and expounding and enlightening us on the conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

We should like also to thank the Under-Secretary-General for his succinct but moving introduction to our deliberations this morning, in which he drew attention to the position in which the Council finds itself in this twenty-fifth year of the United Nations. The Secretariat has a very particular and responsible obligation in the work of the United Nations in this field because it is, to a large extent, a custodian of the collective wisdom and experience of the work of the United Nations over the past twenty-five years.

Mr. PLANC (France) (interpretation from French): I should like to congratulate Mr. Shaw upon his unanimous election as Vice-President. It is unlikely that the designation of such a highly qualified expert could have come about in better conditions, and I think his nomination augurs well for the success of our work, in both the immediate and distant future.

I should also like to assure representatives who were kind enough to mention your predecessor, Mr. President, that I shall certainly convey their thanks to him.

The PRESIDENT: As no other representative wishes to speak, we have now come to the end of our agenda for today. Before adjourning however, I should like to mention that, at an earlier stage, when I was asking for the forbearance of the Council towards me as a newcomer to the Council, I might have said that one factor that I think would help me and help the Council in its work would be punctuality; so that I hope I may call on all representatives to do their best to enable our meetings to begin on time.

The meeting rose at 12 noon