



UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

T/PV.1371
25 May 1971

ENGLISH

UN/CS COLLECTION

Thirty-eighth Session

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTEEN HUNDRED AND
SEVENTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York
on Tuesday, 25 May 1971 at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. LANE (United Kingdom)

- Opening of the thirty-eighth 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 26 MAY 1971, THE TIME-LIMIT FOR CORRECTIONS WILL BE 1 JUNE 1971.

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

71-84100/A

OPENING OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

The Temporary PRESIDENT: I declare open the thirty-eighth session of the Trusteeship Council.

I should like first of all to welcome all representatives and special representatives and their advisers. And I should like particularly, on behalf of the Trusteeship Council, to welcome the Under-Secretary-General for Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories, Mr. Djermakoye, whose assistance and good will at all times is so important to all of us on the Council. I recall that at the opening of last year's session of the Trusteeship Council, Mr. Djermakoye, in performing the function which I now have to perform, reminded us of the achievements of the Council in the years since its inception, and he noted that those achievements showed how effective the Council had been as an instrument in the service of international peace. At the same time, Mr. Djermakoye reminded us also that the Trusteeship Council will not have fully carried out its objectives and its responsibilities until it has led the two remaining Trust Territories to self-determination or independence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. He said:

"... 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." (1355th meeting, page 6)

Members of the Council will know that we moved a little nearer to the end of the road at that last session and that, as I believe the session now beginning will show, we continue to advance along it.

AGENDA ITEM 1

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (T/1714 and Add.1)

The Temporary President: I should now like to draw the attention of members of the Council to the provisional agenda contained in document T/1714 and Add.1. Are there any comments on the provisional agenda?

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): I should not like to hold up the beginning of the work of the Council. I note, however, that the provisional agenda contains an item 6, which is entitled, "Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of New Guinea, 1971". It would be desirable, in order to approve the inclusion of that item in the agenda, for the report to be in existence. My delegation does not have a copy of that report before it. We hope that in the very near future, when we take up the question of New Guinea, the report will be distributed, because it is not only a question of having a report on the day on which it is to be discussed; it is important to have it some days in advance. Even if one has personally participated in a mission, it is essential to have the report in order to study it seriously. It would be awkward for the entire Council if we had to discuss a report on the very morning on which it was distributed.

Therefore, before endorsing the agenda, I should like to state that it will be impossible for my delegation to discuss the question of New Guinea without having the report of the Visiting Mission sufficiently in advance. I should like to add that it was the impression of the members of the Visiting Mission on their return that the Trusteeship Department was dealing very zealously with this matter. The representative of the United Kingdom, last year, proposed that the Mission should set out a month earlier, which was in fact done, and it returned a month earlier. It completed its conclusions a month earlier, and we had the impression that the Trusteeship Department was very concerned about having this work completed. We should not like all our efforts to have been in vain and to find ourselves in a difficult situation next week.

The Temporary PRESIDENT: I take note of what the representative of France has said. I should like to invite the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Djermakoye to comment on the observations made by the representative of France.

Mr. DJERMAKOYE (Under-Secretary-General, Department of Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories) (interpretation from French): The Secretariat has duly noted the comments just made by the representative of France. I should like to thank him for his kind words addressed to the Trusteeship Department. For our part, we are sparing no effort in order to give entire satisfaction to the members of the Trusteeship Council. With respect to the French text of the report of the Visiting Mission to New Guinea, the necessary arrangements will be made with the Department concerned to ensure that it will appear as quickly as possible.

The Temporary PRESIDENT: If there are no objections or further comments, I shall consider that the agenda of the thirty-eighth session contained in document T/1714 and Add.1 is adopted.

The agenda was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 2

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS

The Temporary PRESIDENT: 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 THE VICE-PRESIDENT

The Temporary PRESIDENT: May I now invite members of the Council to elect a President for the thirty-eighth 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 Mr. David Lane (United Kingdom) was unanimously elected President.

The Temporary PRESIDENT: Mr. President, permit me now, as past President, to congratulate you on your election to the presidency of the Trusteeship Council for its thirty-eighth session. Having had past experience of the work of the Council, you need no introduction and certainly no guidance from me regarding its rules, its procedures and its order of business. I need only wish you well and express my confidence as past President, the confidence of the Government which I represent, and, I am sure, that of other members of the Council, that the long and unequalled experience of your country in Trusteeship affairs and your own past contributions to the work of the Council will do much to ensure the success of this thirty-eighth session.

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

The PRESIDENT: I thank members of the Council for the honour they have done to my country and myself in electing me to the presidency of the Council at its thirty-eighth session. For some years the United Kingdom was responsible for administering more Trust Territories than any other Power. With the successive attainment of independence by all four of those Trust Territories, my country's administrative task was accomplished and its status in this Council changed. Nevertheless, the principles and objectives of the International Trusteeship System are still the valid guide to all of us in the Council, whether or not we still have, or ever had, direct administrative responsibility for Trust Territories.

In seeking to show myself worthy of the functions to which my colleagues have called me, there is one thing of which I am sure: that I can count on the co-operation of all members in sustaining the Council's rules and practices. I shall have before me the high standards set by the representative of Australia, and shall endeavour to use as a guide the skill and tact with which he presided over the Council's proceedings at our last session. I think the Council would wish me to express our gratitude to Sir Laurence McIntyre for the distinction and efficiency with which he unfailingly conducted the Council's work. To this, I should like to add an expression of my own thanks for the kind words he has said about me today.

None of the representatives here today is entirely new to the Council, but we have instead the especial pleasure of welcoming back an old friend who has returned to our deliberations after an absence: Ambassador Phillips, the representative of the United States of America. His past experience of the Council, coupled with the fresh look he can now take at it, should enable him to make a valuable contribution to our work.

We welcome our Secretary, Mr. Zollner, and count ourselves as fortunate that the Council should have, for a time at least, the services of an officer -- and I might say, a colleague -- of such distinction and wealth of experience at the United Nations. The Council would, I think, wish me to ask him to express to his predecessor, Mr. Borna, our thanks for his diligent and helpful work at our last session.

I should also like to add an expression of appreciation at the presence among us today of the distinguished Under-Secretary-General.

I should not like this occasion to pass without paying a personal tribute to the last United Kingdom representative to be elected to the presidency of this Council, my old chief, colleague and friend, Mr. Francis Brown, who continued almost to his last days his untiring efforts in pursuance of the objectives set out in Chapters XI and XII of the Charter.

The representative of Australia, our past President, observed last year that the reduction of the Council's responsibilities to two of the original eleven Trust Territories could be said to be a measure of its success. This is so; but this very success should enable us to focus our attention even more clearly on the two remaining Trust Territories, their particular and individual circumstances and the free expression of the wishes of their people. In doing so at this session, we shall have the advantage of the presence of elected representatives both from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and from that of New Guinea, and we are pleased to see these gentlemen among us today.

We shall also be particularly assisted, in considering New Guinea, by the report of the Visiting Mission which visited that Trust Territory earlier this year.

The comment is sometimes heard that the composition of this Council is unrepresentative of the membership of the Organization. However that may be, the problems which this might present are not insurmountable, provided that we keep constantly in mind the rights of the peoples of the Trust Territories and recall that we exercise our responsibilities in this Council on behalf of the United Nations as a whole.

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. C.H. Phillips (United States) was unanimously elected Vice-President.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to be the first to congratulate Mr. Phillips on his election to the post of Vice-President. I am sure he will be of the greatest assistance to me in the transaction of the Council's business.

Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America): Mr. President, I want to thank you first for your very kind words of welcome a few moments ago and for your congratulatory words just now. I should like to express my thanks to all the members of the Council for the honour they have bestowed upon me and my Government in electing me Vice-President for the thirty-eighth session of this Council. Of course, it goes without saying that I shall stand ready to assist you, Mr. President, in any way possible to assure that we should have what I know will be a very productive thirty-eighth session. I must say, however, that with you -- a man of such youthful vigour -- elected President, I suspect that the role of your Vice-President will at best be a nominal one.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Vice-President for his kind words.

Mr. ASHWIN (Australia): Mr. President, there is little I can add to what the Past President has said to you and of your, except to offer the congratulations of the Australian delegation and to extend our very best wishes for the course of your presidency.

I must confess that, knowing very little of the members of the Council, I had recourse, in trying to think of what to say, to the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations to see what was there on the subject of "lane". I am afraid I found very little. There were references to English country lanes and traffic quotations relating to up-lanes, down-lanes, slow-lanes and lovers' lanes, but nothing really very apposite to this Council.

I then thought, however, that a lane is after all a path that one moves down peacefully, with one's eyes open, to come to something worth while at the end, and I hope that can perhaps be used as a description for our Council's session under your Presidency.

I understand Ambassador Phillips does not wish to be congratulated on his election, but, if I may, I should like to congratulate him on that sentiment alone.

(Mr. Ashwin, Australia)

I should also like to refer to Mr. Shaw, last year's distinguished Vice-President, whom I never knew, but I am aware from the records of the Council and from what my predecessor has said of the distinguished work he has done on the Council, and I would ask the United Kingdom delegation to convey the Australian delegation's best wishes to him in his new assignment.

(Mr. Ashwin, Australia)

Lastly, I beg the Council's pardon for embarking on a short historical digression.

It is sometimes forgotten that the membership of this Council, dealing as it has to do with two Pacific Ocean Territories, consists of six members with long-standing and detailed concern for Pacific affairs. This year an anniversary, which I will come to in a moment, gives us occasion to remember this.

The two administering Powers -- the United States of America and Australia -- are both Pacific littoral States and have had a long record of involvement in Pacific Island affairs. Throughout the nineteenth century Australians and Americans were all over the Pacific. Some of them were scoundrels; some of them were very great figures whose interest in the Pacific was the study and understanding of Pacific civilizations and the welfare of the Pacific Islanders.

China is a third littoral State, with a far longer record than the rest of us of involvement in the affairs of some of the Pacific Islands, although the legacy of its involvement has certainly been obscured by time.

The United Kingdom and France, though far from being littoral States, have contributed very greatly to the discovery and opening up of the Pacific Islands and to bringing the Islanders into what has generally been a harmonious and mutually beneficial contact with the rest of the world.

With the Soviet Union, I come to the occasion for my digression. This year, 1971, is the hundredth anniversary of the landing on the shores of the Trust Territory of New Guinea of a great Russian explorer, humanist and scientist, Baron Nicolai Miklouho-Maclay. In 1871 Miklouho-Maclay landed on the shores of Astrolabe Bay, a connexion with France, in that that bay was named thirty-one years earlier by the French explorer, D'Urville. He lived there in what is now the Madang District for one year as scientist, explorer, and good friend of the New Guinean people.

Miklo ho-Maclay made several subsequent visits to New Guinea. He eventually settled in Australia, where in 1884 he married an Australian girl and took a continuing interest both in scientific research affecting New Guinea and particularly the welfare of the native peoples there. In 1887 he returned to Russia with his family, where sadly he died at the early age of forty-one.

I regret to say that Baron Miklouho-Maclay, whose contribution to nineteenth century knowledge of New Guinea and deep understanding of and sympathy for the tribespeople he knew were unparalleled, is so far less adequately appreciated in Australia than in the Soviet Union. We have known in the past very little of his achievements.

But the value of his work was indeed considerable, and on this occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of his arrival in New Guinea and at the opening of the thirty-eighth session of the Trusteeship Council, I believe I may say that that heroic Russian with Australian descendants, and a legacy of understanding for the island peoples with whom he was dealing, represents in a way a challenge for all of us on this Council to do as well in understanding -- not only with the Territories we are going to consider but with one another.

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

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): Mr. President, in calling upon you to preside over its work the Council has chosen an expert who is particularly qualified in the problems with which we have to deal. For a number of years now in the service of our Organization you have acquired tremendous experience in the question of decolonization, more particularly in the Trust Territories. During the course of the visiting mission to the Pacific Islands which you carried out last year you got into direct touch with the Territory; you were able to know and judge the people living there and to observe the various events and to complete and analyse on the spot the various information which had been received about Micronesia. You reported, together with your colleagues, in a very valuable study for our Council, which will, I am certain, be useful even during this present session.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

In the area with which we deal, openness of mind is a very important quality; the geographic diversity of our various tasks, from the Orient to the New World, from Scandinavian rigours to tropical heat, certainly means we will not be lacking in experience. Assured that the work of this session will be conducted by a very talented President and by a very friendly colleague, I am very pleased to be able to extend to you, on behalf of my delegation, our deepest congratulations.

May I ask you, Sir, to transmit to our former Vice-President, Mr. John Shaw, who for such a long time made such a noble and warm contribution to our discussions, our best wishes.

I am also very pleased at the opportunity that I have to tell Ambassador Phillips how happy my delegation is that the Council can once again -- as long as possible, we hope -- draw on his perfect familiarity with trusteeship matters and his authoritative and yet smiling manner.

I think that all of our colleagues said last year, but I should like to repeat it now, that during the thirty-seventh session we were also very appreciative of having Sir Laurence McIntyre as our President. He conducted the work of our Council with promptness, efficiency and serenity, for which reason I should like again to say what a pleasure it was for us to have him as our President last year.

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

Mr. WANG (China) (interpretation from Chinese): Mr. President, may I offer you, on behalf of the Chinese delegation and on my own behalf, my warmest congratulations on your unanimous election to the Presidency of the Trusteeship Council. During the past two years in which I have had the good fortune of associating with you in the work of the Trusteeship Council, I have known you as a man of the highest wisdom and ability. The experiences which we shared as members of the 1970 Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands are particularly fresh in my memory. Your deep insight and practical approach to the problems of that Territory contributed greatly to the successful conclusion of the Mission's task.

(Mr. Wang, China)

It indeed gives me the greatest satisfaction to see you now presiding over the thirty-eighth session of the Trusteeship Council. I am confident that you will guide us to the completion of our work in a most constructive way.

My delegation wishes also to extend its warmest congratulations to Ambassador Phillips, the representative of the United States, on the occasion of his election to the Vice-Presidency of the Council. We are most happy to see a man of his high calibre assisting the Chairman. Ambassador Phillips has served on this Council as representative of his country, and we are very happy indeed to see him back.

I should like also to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Charles Ashwin the new representative of Australia, who joins us in the work of the Trusteeship Council.

Finally, I wish to state that ever since the inception of the Trusteeship Council a representative of the Republic of China has actively participated in its work and my delegation is dedicated to offering its best assistance for the Council's success.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of China for the kind words he has said about me.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): Mr. President, allow me to congratulate you and the representative of the United States, Mr. Phillips, on your respective elections to the thirty-eighth session of the Trusteeship Council.

I should also like to thank the representative of Australia for his very kind words with respect to the outstanding Russian explorer and scientist, Miklouho-Maclay.

The opening of the thirty-eighth session of the Trusteeship Council coincides with the anniversary of African Liberation Day which is being celebrated today, 25 May, throughout the entire world by all the friends of Africa. I should like to take this opportunity to recall that African items have had a very outstanding place in the work of the Trusteeship Council. It is with a feeling of great gratification that the Soviet delegation can point out today that the peoples of most of the former Trust Territories in Africa, as well as the peoples of other African countries, have obtained their national independence and have embarked on the road to independent development. However, we must not forget that colonialism has not yet ended in Africa, and that the racist and colonialist régimes in the southern part of Africa continue to oppress millions of indigenous inhabitants. The peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea (Bissau) and Southern Rhodesia are still groaning under the yoke of the colonialists. The racist Government of the Republic of South Africa is continuing its barbarous policy of apartheid, with respect to both the non-Europeans in its own country and the inhabitants of Namibia, which it occupies.

I should like to take this opportunity to point out that one of the main tasks in the field of international relations, as was recently noted in the report of Mr. Brezhnev, is the full implementation of United Nations decisions on the elimination of the remaining colonial régimes and that all manifestations of racism and apartheid should be condemned and boycotted.

In connexion with African Liberation Day, being celebrated today, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet Union and the Soviet Government have sent a friendly message of congratulations to the African peoples. The following is stated in this message:

"The Soviet Union has always supported and continues to support the just struggle of the African peoples for their rights, for true freedom and for human dignity. The peoples of Africa can be certain that the sympathies of the Soviet people are on their side, and that the Soviet Union has been, is and will always be a true ally of all peoples who struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. This is the Leninist foreign policy of the Soviet Union, a policy of solidarity with the peoples who are struggling for their national and social liberation, and this was demonstrated again at the recent twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

"We wish the peoples of Africa further success in developing their economy and culture, in raising their standard of living and in strengthening the ties of solidarity which unite us with all the African peoples."

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Soviet Union for the congratulations he was good enough to address to me.

Mr. HAINING (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I am uncertain whether precedent, national modesty or your own firm instructions while occupying this chair most inhibits the United Kingdom delegation from adding its voice to those of the representatives who have so eloquently extolled the many attributes which fit you for the office to which you have been elected. None of these factors, however, requires us to forgo the pleasure of congratulating you on your election. This we do most warmly and assure you of our full co-operation.

The United Kingdom delegation would like at this time to pay a most sincere tribute to your distinguished predecessor, Sir Laurence McIntyre. His qualities of courtesy, patience and wisdom were well-known to all when the Council unanimously elected him to the presidency of the thirty-seventh session. These qualities together with his rich experience of the practice and the theory of the International Trusteeship Council made a significant contribution to the work of the Council during the thirty-seventh session. In welcoming the Australian representative, Mr. Ashwin, to this Council, we would ask him to convey the United Kingdom's warmest respects to Sir Laurence.

We should like to welcome back again to the Council the representative of the United States, Ambassador Phillips and to extend to him, despite his protestations, our congratulations on his unanimous election as Vice-President of the Council.

The United Kingdom delegation wishes to thank those delegations which have made reference in such warm terms to the Council's past Vice-President, Mr. John Shaw. We shall not fail to transmit these wishes to him.

The success of the Council's work depends not only on our own deliberations and our decisions at these meetings but also to a very marked degree upon the work of the Secretariat, whose researches and working papers contribute a great deal to those very deliberations and decisions. In this respect the United Kingdom delegation wishes to thank Mr. Borna, the past Secretary to the Council for his assistance, so willingly given during his term of office, and to extend a most warm welcome to the Council's new Secretary, Mr. Zollner.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for the kind words he has spoken about me.

Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America): Mr. President, although my delegation as a general principle is impelled to observe the example which our former representative, Ambassador Yost, sought to show to the Security Council last February when he urged us to limit to the absolute minimum congratulatory statements, I nevertheless feel compelled in this instance to bend this policy ever so slightly, because in electing you to its presidency the Trusteeship Council has done, I think, at least two things which many speakers at our recent twenty-fifth General Assembly urged us to do. First, it has recognized ability and experience and secondly it has recognized youth which I referred to a moment ago. Your extensive first-hand experience with the Trusteeship Council and with the problems that it seeks to resolve will I know, prove an invaluable asset for all of us as you direct our deliberations in the next week or two. I am confident that with your firm hand at the helm, we are about to embark on a voyage which will no doubt be filled with interest, perhaps -- who knows -- even with high adventure.

My delegation also wishes to join other delegations which have already spoken to pay tribute to Sir Laurence McIntyre, President of the thirty-seventh session of the Council, for the outstanding manner in which he carried out his duties during the past year.

We join others also in expressing our appreciation to Mr. John Shaw who so ably supported Sir Laurence as Vice-President. We regret his departure from this Chamber and this Headquarters and we would join others in asking the delegation of the United Kingdom to convey our congratulations to him in his new post and our warm best wishes.

Finally, I should simply like to express my thanks to all those who, in spite of my request to the contrary, nevertheless so generously congratulated me upon my election, and I do forgive them because I appreciated it.

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

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: A tentative time-table for the thirty-eighth session of the Trusteeship Council has been prepared and circulated to all delegations by the Secretariat. This time-table is entirely provisional, drawn up in order to give the members an idea of the work to be accomplished and of the time that will be needed to complete it. It is broadly on the same lines as in previous years, and in accordance with our practice in previous years the Trust Territory which has not been visited this year by a visiting mission is considered first and the Trust Territory which has been visited this year is considered second.

The provisional time-table also takes account of a suggestion made at the last session by the representative of the Soviet Union which I think commended itself to all members of the Council -- that is, that the hearing of petitioners should take place before the general debate on the Trust Territory about which they are speaking. The Council is of course free to modify the provisional programme of work in accordance with circumstances or with the wishes of its members. May I ask whether there are any comments on the time-table.

As I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Council agrees to follow as closely as possible the suggested time-table.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no further comments we may adjourn now and meet tomorrow at 10.30 a.m. when the Council will take up the examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In this context there is just one point I would make. In my earlier statements I said I was sure I could count on the co-operation of the Council in the execution of its rules and practices. One of the more agreeable and refreshing characteristics of the Trusteeship Council over the years has been its punctuality. I am confident that members will assist the transaction of the Council's work by keeping to this very commendable long-standing practice and tradition of the Council.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.