

552 (VI). Examination of petitions

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 435 (V) of 2 December 1950 it expressed the opinion that the careful study of petitions is one of the fundamental responsibilities of the Trusteeship Council and that it is essential, in the interests of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories, to improve in every possible way the procedure for the examination of petitions,

Recalling that in the same resolution it recommended that the Trusteeship Council consider a number of possible means of improving its procedure in respect of the examination of petitions, among them the constitution of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Petitions as a standing committee and the desirability of the Administering Authorities submitting special information concerning action taken on the recommendations of the Council in respect of petitions examined;

Considering that the Trusteeship Council, while revising to a limited extent in the course of its eighth and ninth sessions² its procedure in respect of the examination of petitions, has not yet devised a procedure which accords fully with the importance of this function and with the interests of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories, and considering that the Council requested its members to give further study to means of perfecting a procedure for the examination of petitions,

Considering that the number of petitions received has been increasing from year to year,

1. *Recommends* that the Trusteeship Council:

(a) Constitute a standing committee for the examination of petitions which shall meet as soon as possible whenever necessary between sessions of the Council as well as during sessions of the Council;

(b) Devise a procedure by which the standing committee will examine each petition in a preliminary way, within a prescribed period of time after the receipt of the petition by the Administering Authority concerned, and in conjunction with such observations as may be submitted thereon by the Administering Authority on its own initiative or at the request of the standing committee, or as may be obtained by the standing committee from any other official or responsible source which it deems useful, and will prepare, on the basis of this preliminary examination, proposals for action to be taken on each petition by the Council;

2. *Requests* the Administering Authorities to submit to the Trusteeship Council each year special information concerning action taken on the recommendations of the Council in respect of all petitions examined, except in those cases where the Council does not deem it necessary.

*361st plenary meeting,
18 January 1952.*

553 (VI). Organization and methods of functioning of visiting missions

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 434 (V) of 2 December 1950 it recommended that the Trusteeship Council review the organization and functioning of visiting mis-

² See Trusteeship Council resolution 347 (IX).

sions to the Trust Territories, taking into account in particular the advisability of reducing the number of Trust Territories to be visited by a single visiting mission and of extending the duration of visits without diminishing their frequency,

1. *Notes* that in organizing its Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa in 1951 the Trusteeship Council decided, in its resolution 344 (X) of 5 July 1951, that the Mission should visit three Trust Territories as compared with two visited by the previous Mission to that area in 1948;

2. *Notes* that, by fixing in the same resolution an interval of time between the dispatch of the 1951 Visiting Mission and the submission of its report only slightly in excess of the corresponding period of time taken by the 1948 Visiting Mission, the Trusteeship Council precluded any possibility of the 1951 Visiting Mission spending an appreciably longer time in the Trust Territories concerned;

3. *Notes further* that, in its resolution 343 (IX) of 6 June 1951, the Trusteeship Council also decided that, in making arrangements for future visiting missions, it would take into account the observations and suggestions of a committee of the Council which considered, *inter alia*, that, while two separate missions should be sent, if possible, to the four Trust Territories in the Pacific area every three years, one mission only was sufficient to cover the four West African Trust Territories and one the three East African Trust Territories;

4. *Recommends* that the Trusteeship Council again review its procedures in respect of the organization and functioning of visiting missions, bearing in mind the financial implications, with a view to:

(a) Increasing the duration of each visit to each Trust Territory;

(b) Reducing the number of Trust Territories to be visited by a single visiting mission; and

(c) Achieving these ends without diminishing the frequency of visits to the Trust Territories;

5. *Reaffirms* the desirability of each visiting mission being constituted as much as possible from among representatives who sit on the Trusteeship Council;

6. *Recommends*, however, that, whenever it is necessary for practical reasons to appoint members other than representatives who sit on the Trusteeship Council, the Council consider inviting Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Trusteeship Council to nominate suitably qualified persons.

*361st plenary meeting,
18 January 1952.*

554 (VI). Participation of the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories in the work of the Trusteeship Council

The General Assembly,

Considering that point 9 of the Secretary-General's "Memorandum³ of points for consideration in the development of a twenty-year programme for achieving peace through the United Nations" advocates the use of the United Nations to promote by peaceful means

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 60.