

Third Session

DELEGATION OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS ON THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL'S REPORT
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE TRUST TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA

The Trusteeship Council has considered at its Third Session the Report of the Administering Authority for 1947 on the situation in the Trust Territory of New Guinea.

During the drafting of the Trusteeship Council's Report to the General Assembly on the situation in the Trust Territory of New Guinea, a number of conclusions and proposals made by the representative of the Soviet Union, did not receive the majority vote and for these reasons were not included in the Trusteeship Council's Report to the General Assembly. Therefore, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Trusteeship Council considers it necessary to append to the Report of the Trusteeship Council, in accordance with Rule 64 of the Rules of Procedure, the following conclusions and proposals.

1. THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE

NOTES the fact that the Bill for the union of the Trust Territory of New Guinea and the Colony of Papua is not in accordance with the basic objectives of the trusteeship system and does not take into account those provisions which are set down in the Charter, specifically, under Article 76(b).

CONSIDERS that the assurances of the Administering Authority, to the effect that the unification of New Guinea with the Colony of Papua will not bring the loss of the status of Trust Territory of New Guinea, could not in practice be an obstacle to, nor prevent or preclude the process of absorption of New Guinea politically, administratively and economically. The union will bring inevitably to the annexation of the Trust Territory instead of its independence.

NOTES that with regard to the unification of the two territories - the Colony of Papua and the Trust Territory of New Guinea - under one legislative and one administrative and one judicial body with common services, no distinction is made under this Bill between the population

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of the Trust Territory and the adjacent Colony of Papua. However, very definite distinctions do exist. These distinctions are set down in Article 76(b) of the Charter which deals with the rights given to the inhabitants of the Trust Territories.

CONSIDERS that the Bill for unification did not provide for any measures which are directed to the establishing in the Trust Territory of bodies for self-government of the people of New Guinea.

The Soviet representative could not but remark that this Bill is being imposed upon the indigenous population by the Administering Authorities. This Bill is not a result of a discussion by native population; it is not a result of the freely expressed will of the indigenous population. However, Article 76(b) of the Charter deals with the basic objectives of the trusteeship system and it states, directly, that measures should be taken towards the progressive development to self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of each Territory, and that it should be in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the native population.

2. The village councils, which will be created by the Administering Authority, could not be considered as organs of self-government because they cannot take any decisions. The same can be said concerning the advisory councils, which are also not organs of self-government.

Thus, in this respect, we can only note that the administrative structure does not correspond to the aims and principles of the trusteeship system. Therefore, this structure should also be changed, and the natives should receive a constantly increasing part in the legislative organs, in the high administrative organs, and conditions should be created to allow the natives to create their organs of self-government, for, without achievement of such political progress of the indigenous population, the progress in other fields is practically impossible.

3. In view of the fact that this Bill actually means a fusion of a colony and a Trust Territory; in view of the fact that this Bill gives no opportunity, no possibilities for the population of a Trust Territory to develop along the way set forth under international trusteeship system of the United Nations, and because this Bill does not provide for any organs of self-government for the native population; in view of the fact that this Bill does not allow the native population in the administration of their own Territory, it is considered that this Bill does not reflect the basic aims and purposes of the trusteeship system. For that reason, the Bill cannot be considered as appropriate and acceptable for New Guinea, and the unification of the Trust Territory of New Guinea and the colonial

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Territory of Papua should be considered as inconsistent with the Charter and of the trusteeship system.

Therefore, the Soviet Delegation recommends that the Australian Government should not put into force the Bill on unification of the Trust Territory of New Guinea with the adjacent Australian Colony of Papua and recommends that a separate administration for the Trust Territory of New Guinea be created.

It is also necessary that the Administering Authority should take appropriate legislative and administrative measures which will contribute to the creation and development of indigenous organs of self-government on the basis of the popular representation (electoral system).
