

# UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



GENERAL

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## PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE PEOPLES OF TRUST TERRITORIES

### Report of the Secretary-General

Note: The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith to the members of the Trusteeship Council a report on the implementation of the provisions of Trusteeship Council resolution 36 (III), as required by that resolution.

#### I. Dispatch of material

1. By resolution 36 (III) on the provision of information to the peoples of Trust Territories, the Council in the first place invited members responsible for the administration of Trust Territories to furnish the Secretary-General with the names and addresses of officials in Trust Territories to whom should be sent, for information, records of the activities of the Trusteeship Council and other suitable material concerning the United Nations.
2. In his first report<sup>1/</sup> submitted on 29 January 1951 in accordance with this resolution, the Secretary-General notified the Council of information which had been received from the Governments of Australia, Belgium, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America as to the arrangements which they had made for the receipt of such material. Since that date the Secretary-General has received from the Administering Authorities further lists of officials in Trust Territories to whom they requested the material to be sent.
3. The following table shows the number of copies of official records which are now sent to these addresses in the Trust Territories.

<sup>1/</sup> T/824.

<u>Territory</u>	<u>Addresses in</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Number of Copies of Official Records</u>
Somaliland under Italian Administration	Somaliland	45	45
Tanganyika	Tanganyika	11	150
Ruanda-Urundi	Ruanda-Urundi	36	38
Togoland under British Administration	Togoland	1	1 )
	Gold Coast	1	30 )
Togoland under French Administration	Togoland	16	19
Cameroons under British Administration	Cameroons	1	30 )
	Nigeria	2	51 )
Cameroons under French Administration	Cameroons	24	25
Western Samoa	Western Samoa	1	30
New Guinea	New Guinea	43	43 )
	Papua	37	40 )
	Australia	1	1
Nauru	Nauru	5	6
Pacific Islands	Honolulu	1	50

4. The official records which are sent are the following:

Trusteeship Council: Official Records

Trusteeship Council: Reports to the General Assembly.

General Assembly: Resolutions; printed fascicules of summary records of the Fourth Committee.

"United Nations Bulletin": Reprints of reports on the work of the Trusteeship Council and the Fourth Committee.

Mimeographed documents are not considered as official records and are not included in the above.

/II. Means

## II. Means of dissemination

### (a) General

5. By resolution 36 (III) the Council also invited members responsible for the administration of Trust Territories to furnish the Secretary-General with suggestions as to the appropriate channels through which information concerning the aims and activities of the United Nations might be communicated to the general public, e.g., Press, radio, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other public organizations, educational and religious institutions, teachers, missionaries etc.
6. No Administering Authority has formally made any specific suggestion to the Secretary-General in this respect. In his previous report, however, the Secretary-General drew attention to statements which had been submitted by the Administering Authorities as to information activities in the Trust Territories. He now draws attention to further information of this kind which has since been submitted by letter or is contained in the annual reports on the administration of the Trust Territories, and also to observations made by the Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1951, in respect of the dissemination of information about the United Nations in those territories as the result of the study requested of it by its terms of reference and in accordance with Council resolution 311 (VIII).

### (b) Somaliland under Italian administration

7. By letter dated 20 April 1951 and addressed to the President of the United Nations Advisory Council, the Administrator of Somaliland under Italian administration stated that during the previous school year the Administering Authority had taken care to teach the principles of the United Nations Organization, in conformity with the obligation proceeding from article 4 (c) of the Trusteeship Agreement, and taking into consideration the resolution adopted on 24 July 1950 by the Economic and Social Council. Teachers of the fifth elementary class had explained to their pupils how the United Nations Organization was born, and how the principles on which the organization was based represented the most important step made by humanity towards fraternity

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among the peoples of the world. Teachers of the sixth elementary class had explained how the administration of Somaliland under trusteeship functioned, and emphasized the mediation work done by the United Nations in the immense field of political, social, economic relations among Nations. In particular, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been read and commented upon.

8. As regards intermediate schools, teachers of history and geography, after the necessary preliminaries on the special political structure of the Territory, and on the mission that the Italian Republic had accepted to carry out by virtue of the Trusteeship Agreement, had outlined the Organization's principles and aspects as well as the objects at which it aimed. Teachers had drawn the pupils' special attention to the following points: plans of associations among Nations, indicated by history; federative experience of the United States of America; the world-wide character of modern civilization, and the necessity of union among the various States; the League of Nations and President Wilson's work - its values and deficiencies; the new political demands after the Second World War; the United Nations Organization, the Security Council and other organs; beneficial consequences of the United Nations' work in Africa; Italian trusteeship administration in Africa; the Trusteeship Agreement; salient features in the functioning of the Agreement.

9. In the programme of studies of the School of Political Administration there was a course on rudiments of international law, in which during the school year, the objectives and activities of the United Nations had been elucidated, also by the Egyptian representative on the Advisory Council.

10. The Administration had contacted the Advisory Council's secretariat in connexion with future action to be carried out in the whole Territory in order to give wider diffusion to knowledge of the United Nations' principles. Arrangements had been made with persons at the head of the Social-Cultural Institute for the creation of a first "Information Centre", with booklets, posters and films of an educational character. All possible support would be given to the creation of similar centres in other localities of the Territory, beginning with those where the Cultural Institute intended to open new branches. In agreement with the Advisory Council's Secretariat, there was under examination the drawing-up of a booklet, in Italian and Arabic

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especially suited to the mentality of elementary school pupils, in which it was proposed to follow the system of questions and answers, so that knowledge of the essential features of the United Nations might remain impressed upon their young minds for all time.

11. In its report on Somaliland (T/947), the Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1951, stated that it had especially noted the extent to which the United Nations was known throughout the Territory. The number of copies of official records received printed in English had been sufficient, but the number of readers would naturally be greater if the records were published in Italian or Arabic. The Administration had requested, through the Secretariat of the Advisory Committee 5,000 copies in Arabic and 5,000 in Italian of a Department of Public Information booklet entitled "The United Nations, What It Is, What It Does, and How It Works". The Mission noted that the first elementary text book prepared for use in the Territory and printed in Italian, contained a simple statement of the purpose of the United Nations. The Mission suggested that the United Nations Department of Public Information pay special attention to the matter of providing the Territory with an adequate supply of suitable information materials.

(c) Tanganyika

12. The annual report for the year 1951 on the administration of Tanganyika stated that records of the proceedings of the United Nations and literature and posters supplied by its Department of Public Information were distributed throughout the Territory to schools, missions, social welfare centres and libraries and also to centres of provincial administration, where they were available for reference purposes to any interested persons.

13. The annual report also stated that the Administering Authority had taken full note of the resolution on the subject adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth session.<sup>1/</sup> Action had continued along the lines indicated in previous annual reports in conformity with Trusteeship Council resolution 36 (III). During the year under review the Administration had taken advantage of the opportunity when replying to a detailed questionnaire presented by the

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<sup>1/</sup> Resolution 556 (VI).

Visiting Mission, to offer suggestions for improving the distribution system and to furnish a list of what were considered in present circumstances to be the most useful items of information material. Stress had been laid on the value of pictorial matter and other visual aids and of material suitable for translation into Swahili, both for broadcasting purposes and for distribution to the vernacular press. If the United Nations Department of Public Information was able to supply material in the quantity and the variety requested the problem of the dissemination of information would be greatly facilitated and a wider distribution of material would be possible.

14. In its report on Tanganyika (T/946) the Visiting Mission of 1951 stated that the number of copies of the official records which had so far been sent to Tanganyika had been found to be insufficient and it had been suggested by the Tanganyika Government that the number be increased and that there should be direct mailings of materials from United Nations to designated officials in the Territory, thus obviating unnecessary labour and delays in the Territory itself. The Mission considered that official records alone did not provide an adequate means for disseminating information about the United Nations to the majority of the African population of Tanganyika. Also, their value was decreased owing to the lapse of time before they were received. The report of the 1948 Mission to East Africa (T/218) had not been seen by some of the people who had talked to the Mission.

15. The Mission found posters prepared by the United Nations Department of Public Information in all middle and secondary schools it visited. It considered a small booklet about the United Nations and the Trusteeship System prepared by the Tanganyika Government for post-primary schools to be adequate and well written. It learned that pamphlets in Swahili for use in primary schools and for distribution to Native Authorities had also been prepared.

16. The Mission noted that the Dar-es-Salaam radio broadcast United Nations programmes in Swahili. Press releases in English and in the vernacular were issued to the local Press.

17. The Mission added that the Administration considered that the material which had hitherto been made available by the United Nations Department of

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Public Information, with the exception of posters, had not been of a type suitable for classroom purposes or for the adult population. The Mission hoped that the United Nations Department of Public Information would be able to produce simple pamphlets suitable for translation into Swahili and for dissemination amongst wide sections of the Tanganyika population.

(d) Ruanda-Urundi

18. The annual report on the administration of Ruanda-Urundi for the year 1950 stated that the "Revue Pédagogique de l'Urundi", written partly in French and partly in Kirundi, - in its fourth issue of 15 October 1950, had published an article about the international position of Ruanda-Urundi, which presented a general study of the United Nations Organization and also of the Trusteeship Council and its aims, as far as Ruanda-Urundi was concerned.

19. The annual report for the year 1951 stated that all the "Revue Pédagogiques" had published articles about the Mission sent in 1951 to Ruanda-Urundi by the Trusteeship Council recalling on that occasion the pamphlet published in 1950 on the international position of Ruanda-Urundi.

20. In its report on Ruanda-Urundi (T/948) the Visiting Mission of 1951 stated that it had gained the impression that the teaching in schools about the United Nations was not very effective, and it believed that inadequate distribution of basic information was mainly responsible for that fact. According to information furnished to the Mission, it appeared that the Administration did not receive adequate supplies of information and publicity materials issued by the United Nations. Besides measures designed to provide wider distribution of regular documents and information materials among the non-indigenous inhabitants and the more educated Africans there was a need for suitable material written in simple language that could be translated

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into vernacular languages in order to reach the much larger number of persons who could not read a European language.

(e) Togoland under British administration

21. The annual report on the administration of Togoland under British administration for the year 1950 stated that information about the United Nations continued to be included in the Civics Courses in schools and Teacher Training Colleges in the Territory.

22. The annual report for the year 1951 stated that United Nations material was received and distributed. In addition, factual information was also sent to the Gold Coast press in the form of Press Releases. During 1951, 61 press releases dealing with Togoland and Togoland affairs had been sent to the Press, and 59 had been published.

23. The annual report stated further that the special representative for the Territory when in New York had held discussions with members of the branches of the United Nations Secretariat concerned with a view to improving and stepping up the distribution of United Nations publications in the Territory and the Gold Coast. It was hoped to bring in in 1952 the new arrangements agreed on and the Legislative Assembly was being invited to approve a vote for the purchase of suitable material for distribution where the United Nations Secretariat was unable to distribute it free of charge.

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(f) Togoland under French administration

24. The annual report on the administration of Togoland under French administration for the year 1950 stated that dissemination of information on United Nations activities had been delayed owing to the difficulty in securing a sufficient number of copies in French of United Nations material. However, during the year, some material had been delivered through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which had immediately been distributed to all schools in the Territory. In every Government school instruction on United Nations Organization and Trusteeship Council was provided.

25. The annual report for the year 1951 stated that booklets containing information about the activities, the aims, the principles and the organization of the United Nations had been distributed in all educational establishments. Courses on these subjects had been given in all government schools. United Nations Day had been celebrated in all schools by lectures on the functioning of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Council.

(g) Cameroons under British administration

26. The annual report on the administration of the Cameroons under British administration for the year 1950 stated that arrangements were being made for distribution to schools of United Nations Bulletins and United Nations explanatory pamphlets.

27. The annual report for the year 1951 stated that the Administering Authority endeavoured to make the general purposes of the United Nations and the Trusteeship System well known in the Territory and had also given distribution, to schools and other associations, of such United Nations explanatory literature as had been made available. It had been suggested to the United Nations Secretariat that they should ask the advice of Education Officers in the Territory regarding the best places to set up United Nations Voluntary Education Centres. The right of petition was well known and freely exercised.

28. The Administering Authority would continue to disseminate within the Territory information concerning the purposes of the United Nations and the Trusteeship System. The Administering Authority would, as in 1949, co-operate fully with the Visiting Mission (of 1952) on its forthcoming visit to the Cameroons and would make every effort to ensure that the objects of the Mission were fully publicized throughout the Territory.

/(h) Cameroons

(h) Cameroons under French administration

29. The annual report on the administration of the Cameroons under French administration for the year 1951 stated that courses on the aims, principles, structure and activities of the United Nations had been given in all government schools of the Territory. The Administering Authority has sent the list of the official organs of the Territory and of private persons to which were to be addressed the records of the Trusteeship Council and appropriate information material about the United Nations. The Administering Authority had also made it known to the Trusteeship Council that courses on the United Nations and more particularly on the aims and functioning of the international Trusteeship System were given in the schools. Also, on different occasions, the Administering Authority had asked the United Nations to send appropriate information material which could be distributed in the schools of the Territory.

(i) Western Samoa

30. By letter dated 6 March 1952 the Minister for External Affairs of New Zealand stated that increasing attention had been given to teaching about the United Nations to children in the Island and Trust Territories under New Zealand administration.

31. By further communication of 13 June 1952, the Minister stated that Samoan children were taught about the United Nations, and the Trusteeship Council in particular, in all schools. Like any other section of the school curriculum these lessons were adapted to circumstances and to the age of pupils, being elementary in the village schools and more detailed in secondary schools and in the training colleges. Recent issues of the Samoan school journals which were prepared in the vernacular by the New Zealand Education Department contained a series of articles devoted to local, regional and international co-operation. Articles on the United Nations, flag-raising day and the South Pacific Conference had appeared and others on Trusteeship, the South Pacific Commission, WHO and FAO were in course of preparation. These journals were read by adults as well as children. Administration and mission schools received copies of United Nations publications whose supply had been arranged with the Secretary-General and use was made of these documents and of films and posters. United Nations Day was celebrated in the schools and the High Commissioner took this opportunity to speak to the children of its significance to their country.

32. Radio broadcasts to schools provided the education authorities with a particular means of disseminating information on the United Nations.

/33. Broadcasts

33. Broadcasts to the community frequently contained information about United Nations activities. It was the accepted practice that special representatives who had attended sessions of the Council during the examination of annual reports on Western Samoa should, on their return, speak of their experiences and of the Council's proceedings. At the same time the Council's suggestions and recommendations were translated into the language and widely distributed. The action taken by United Nations in Korea had also been treated in detail. Many questions on the Trusteeship Council and specialized agencies sent in by listeners were answered during information broadcasts.

34. United Nations information material was given normal distribution and posters were publicly displayed. The Samoa Bulletin, a weekly newspaper in the Samoan and English languages, from time to time featured articles about the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

35. The effectiveness of the documentary and other material available from United Nations sources depended on its relevance to conditions in Western Samoa. Since it was not specifically designed to this end, it was probably of less importance in informing Samoans about the United Nations than was the school and broadcast material adapted for dissemination by the authorities in the Territory. Both had their place, however, and the Administering Authority was fully aware of the need to keep the Samoans informed of current United Nations affairs and would maintain the level of services already provided to the schools and the community.

#### (j) Pacific Islands

36. The annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for the year 1950-51 stated that the study of the United Nations and its organization was included in all curricula under Social Studies and its presentation was being fully implemented. An extensive coverage of the subject was given at PITTS (Pacific Islands Teacher Training School) to all teacher candidates to equip them with the basic information for proper presentation in the elementary and intermediate schools. During the year, United Nations Volunteer Information Centres had been established at each intermediate school and at PITTS and the school principals designated as Directors of the Information Centres. Material concerning the United Nations was available at the Centres and from them was distributed to all schools and libraries.

/III. General

### III. General observations

37. The foregoing data indicate that this preliminary stage in the development of adequate dissemination of information on the United Nations to the peoples of the Trust Territories has brought to light two particular deficiencies. Firstly, there has been an insufficient quantity of information material reaching the peoples of the Trust Territories; and, secondly, the material which is supplied is often in a form not designed to satisfy the varying needs of populations or communities which differ in their present states of social and educational advancement.

38. In the case of official records and documents, the provision of a supply adequate to meet the needs determined and notified to the Secretary-General by the Administering Authorities does not appear to present particular difficulties. The Secretary-General wishes to emphasize that all of these documents, and all other information material are despatched to the addresses supplied by the Administering Authorities and do not bear either reservations or recommendations as to their distribution.

39. In the case, however, of information material specially adapted to the educational and cultural circumstances of the various populations and communities within the Trust Territories, the Secretary-General is, on the one hand, invested with a measure of initiative and, on the other hand, confronted by certain limitations imposed by budgetary and other considerations.

40. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, during the first part of its first session in 1946, when adopting the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee on Information concerning the policies, functions and organization of the Department of Public Information resolved in paragraph 2 of those recommendations<sup>1/</sup> that:

"The activities of the Department of Public Information should be so organized and directed as to promote to the greatest possible extent an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among the peoples of the world. To this end the Department should primarily assist and rely upon the co-operation of the established governmental and non-governmental agencies of information to provide

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<sup>1/</sup> A/64, Annex 1.

the public with information about the United Nations. The Department of Public Information should not engage in propaganda. It should on its own initiative engage in positive informational activities that will supplement the services of existing agencies of information to the extent that these are insufficient to realize the purpose set forth above."

In adopting paragraph 4 the General Assembly resolved that:

"Subject to the general authority of the principal organs of the United Nations, responsibility for the formulation and execution of information policy should be vested in the Secretary-General and under him in the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information."

In adopting paragraph 9 the General Assembly further resolved that:

"The Department should prepare and publish pamphlets and other publications on the aims and activities of the United Nations within the limits of the criteria set forth in recommendation 2."

41. In conformity with these decisions of the General Assembly, and having in mind the particular difficulties confronted in the Trust Territories or difficulties of communications, of diversity of vernaculars and of varying degrees of social and educational advancement, not only as between territories but within the territories themselves and the Department of Public Information has commenced the preparation of information material of a special nature. Financial and other barriers would always prevent the production of any Department of Public Information material in sufficient quantities to satisfy an individual distribution in Trust Territories, but it is hoped that there would always be sufficient copies of productions to enable an adequate distribution to be made to the Administration officials, the Educational and Religious Authorities, and other bodies or persons whose names had been furnished to the Secretary-General by the Administering Authorities.

42. In view of the foregoing recognizable differences and difficulties, the Department of Public Information material sent to Trust Territories, in the main, is obviously to be regarded as prototype material. This material is intended to present basic ideas to those responsible in the Territories for the dissemination of information concerning the United Nations and the Trusteeship System in the Territories, in order that the task of expanding, adapting or translating them for local understanding may be facilitated.

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