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Agenda item 41 (b)

THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER
UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION: REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER ON THE PLEBISCITE IN THE NORTHERN
PART OF THE TERRITORY

Canada, Denmark, Iran, Japan, New Zealand and Sweden: revised draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1350 (XIII) of 13 March 1959, concerning the future of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration, which recommended that a plebiscite should take place in the Northern Cameroons in November 1959, and requested the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner to submit a report on the organization, conduct and results of this plebiscite to the Trusteeship Council in time for consideration by the General Assembly at its fourteenth session,

Having examined the report of the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner (A/4314 and Add.1) and the report of the Trusteeship Council upon it (A/4313),

Noting from the report of the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner that the people of the Northern Cameroons have decided by a substantial majority that they are in favour of deciding their future at a later date,

Noting further that the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner is satisfied that the plebiscite was conducted in a fair and impartial manner,

Noting the statement of the representative of the Administering Authority in the Fourth Committee on 5 December 1959 to the effect that urgent action is being taken to introduce reforms in the system of local administration in the Northern Cameroons,

Having heard the petitioner,

Considering that the extremely close date of the elections to the Legislative Assembly of the Federation of Nigeria makes it impossible for the General Assembly to take a decision with regard to the participation or the non-participation of the peoples of the Northern Cameroons in these elections,

1. Expresses its high appreciation of the work of the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner and the United Nations staff under his direction;

2. Recommends that the Administering Authority, in pursuance of Article 76 (b) of the Charter of the United Nations, and in consultation with the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner, organize under the United Nations supervision a further plebiscite in the Northern Cameroons, the arrangements for which shall begin on 30 September 1960, and that the plebiscite be concluded not later than March 1961;

3. Decides that the two questions to be put at this plebiscite should be:

"(a) Do you wish to achieve independence by joining the independent Republic of the Cameroons?

"(b) Do you wish to achieve independence by joining the independent Federation of Nigeria?

4. Recommends that the plebiscite be conducted on the basis of universal adult suffrage, all those over the age of twenty-one and ordinarily resident in the Northern Cameroons being qualified to vote;

5. Requests the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner to report to the Trusteeship Council on the organization, conduct and results of this plebiscite in order that the Trusteeship Council may transmit its report to the General Assembly together with any recommendations and observations it considers necessary;

6. Recommends that the necessary measures be taken without delay for the further decentralization of governmental functions and the effective democratization of the system of local government in the northern part of the Trust Territory;

7. Recommends that the Administering Authority should without delay initiate the separation of the administration of the Northern Cameroons from that of Nigeria and that this process should be completed by 1 October 1960;

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8. Requests the Administering Authority to report on the process of separation to the Trusteeship Council at its twenty-sixth session and the Trusteeship Council to submit a report on this matter to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session;

9. Declares that the participation of the Northern Cameroons in the elections in the Federal Legislative Assembly should in no way interfere with or influence the free choice of the people of the Northern Cameroons in deciding their future in the forthcoming plebiscite.
