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COMMITTEE ON RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE TRUST TERRITORIES
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 15 April 1952, at 10.30 a.m.

CONTENTS:

- Election of Chairman
- Consideration of Trusteeship Council resolution 421 (X) of
28 February 1952 (T/L.234)
- Programme of future work

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. de MARCHENA	Dominican Republic
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. LIU Yu-Wan	China
	Mr. PIGNON	France
	Mr. DEVAKUL	Thailand
	Mr. MATHIESON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. FOWLER	United States of America
<u>Representative of a specialized agency:</u>	Miss BAÑOS	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
<u>Secretariat:</u>	Mr. HARRIS	Secretary of the Committee

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. HARRIS (Secretary of the Committee) declared the meeting open and requested the members of the Committee to elect a new Chairman in place of Prince Wan Waithayakon, who had been appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand and had therefore been obliged to return to his country.

Mr. FOWLER (United States of America) nominated Mr. de Marchena, representative of the Dominican Republic.

Mr. PIGNON (France) seconded that nomination.

Mr. de Marchena was elected by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee, in his own name and in the name of his country. He paid a tribute to the admirable manner in which the previous Chairman, Prince Wan Waithayakon, had fulfilled the duties of his office.

CONSIDERATION OF TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESOLUTION 421 (X) OF 28 FEBRUARY 1952 (T/L.234)

The CHAIRMAN called upon the Secretary of the Committee to make a statement regarding the Committee's work and its future programme.

Mr. HARRIS (Secretary of the Committee) recalled that the Committee had sent three questionnaires to each of the Administering Authorities: one on land legislation, one on alienation of land and population distribution, and one on land utilization, and had asked the Secretariat to prepare memoranda on the first and second of these problems on the basis of the replies received.

With regard to land tenure and land legislation, replies had been received from all the Administering Authorities, on the basis of which the Secretariat had prepared working papers for each of the Trust Territories except Somaliland. The reason for that exception was that the Italian Government was at present setting up new land legislation to conform with the Trusteeship Agreement.

With regard to alienation of land and population distribution, the Secretariat had received replies concerning all the Trust Territories except Ruanda-Urundi.

Replies had been received concerning the utilization of land from all the Administering Authorities except those responsible for the Trust Territories of Nauru, Western Samoa, Somaliland and New Guinea.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that those Administering Authorities might again be asked to give the information required.

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) suggested that the Committee might proceed to the next stage of its work, modifying its conclusions later, if necessary, in the light of further information received.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the operative part of the Trusteeship Council resolution (T/L.234), authorizing the Committee to consider the contribution which the specialized agencies might make to its work.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Miss Baños, representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization, took a place at the Committee table.

Miss BAÑCS (Food and Agriculture Organization) thanked the Committee for giving her the opportunity to take part in its work.

She explained that she was Liaison Officer between the United Nations and FAO and that her instructions were to transmit the Committee's wishes to FAO. FAO had for some years been closely associated with the work of the Trusteeship Council and the reason for her presence was to reiterate the desire already expressed by the organization to contribute to the Committee's work.

FAO was interested in the Trust Territories in so far as they formed a part of the agricultural economy of Africa and the South Pacific.

If the Committee would like a technical expert from FAO to be present at its future meetings, she would be pleased to transmit the request to FAO headquarters.

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) thought that, since all the members of the Committee could not be familiar with every phase of the work of the specialized agencies, it was difficult for the Committee to judge exactly how the agencies could most usefully contribute to its work. It might perhaps be better for the agencies themselves to make suggestions.

/The Committee

The Committee should also consider which of the specialized agencies it would invite to participate in its work. The Council's resolution mentioned only FAO and ILO, and it was open to question whether any others, with the possible exception of WHO, were in a position to make a useful contribution. They might, however, be given the opportunity to inform the Committee if they felt they could be helpful.

He had been impressed by the amount of work which would have to be done by the Secretariat on the subject of rural economic development in the Trust Territories, and he wondered whether it would be possible for FAO to second an official to the Trusteeship Department to undertake part of the work in connexion with that specialized subject.

Mr. HARRIS (Secretary of the Committee) welcomed the suggestion, particularly in view of General Assembly Resolution 561 (VI) and the Trusteeship Council resolution 401 (X) which referred to the complex and exacting technical nature of the study and to the contributions which might be made thereto by FAO and other specialized agencies and possibly by other experts.

Miss BAÑOS (Food and Agriculture Organization) promised to transmit the proposal to the Director-General of FAO.

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) suggested that in communicating with the specialized agencies the Secretariat might say that the Committee had decided, in the light of the Council's resolution, to invite them to consider in what way they could assist it in its task; the letter could also inform the other specialized agencies that the Committee had already decided to ask FAO if it could make an official available and suggest that they should bear that fact in mind in considering what contribution they could make.

Mr. PIGNON (France) entirely supported that proposal. He emphasized the desirability of obtaining the collaboration of WHO.

Mr. LIU (China) thought that the Committee would do better to adhere closely to its terms of reference and to indicate to the specialized agencies in what way it desired their help. It could begin by studying the suggested outline for its report submitted by the United States delegation, and pick out any special points on which it felt the specialized agencies could be helpful, and then approach them and explain what it would like them to do.

/ Mr. MATHIESON

Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) maintained that the specialized agencies might be able to suggest certain fields in which they could be of use and of which the Committee was not aware. The latter might, however, as the Chinese representative had proposed, pick out certain salient points on which they could help; that need not preclude their offering suggestions.

With reference to FAO, one of the most valuable tasks that organization could perform would be to examine the problems arising out of the impact of modern agricultural techniques on traditional systems of landholding, and experiences in countries other than Trust Territories in meeting those problems. That subject was touched on briefly in document E/2003/Rev.1, a joint production of FAO and the United Nations. A fundamental problem was involved: that of the steps which could best be taken by Governments to combine modern agricultural techniques with existing traditional systems without producing intolerable stresses.

Mr. PIGNON (France) entirely agreed with the United Kingdom representative. One of the most valuable contributions that could be made by the specialized agencies would be to acquaint the Committee with the experience gained in a larger sphere than the Trust Territories.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the fact that the Council's resolution referred to "other experts" as well as the specialized agencies.

He asked the United States representative to make a statement with regard to the suggested outline for the report submitted by his delegation.

Mr. FOWLER (United States of America) said that his delegation had submitted the suggested outline because it felt that the Committee had reached a stage at which it might begin to consider the form in which its report should ultimately be drawn up. It would welcome any suggestions or amendments.

He pointed out that the draft consisted of two parts, Part I, a general descriptive section containing an analysis of the problem, which could be brief, and Part II, which dealt with each Trust Territory separately. Each section of Part II would begin with a detailed description of conditions in the Trust Territory concerned, based largely on information supplied by the Administering Authority. On the basis of that description the Committee could discuss tentative conclusions and recommendations.

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not preclude a detailed report, but neither did they demand it, and a general synthesis might be more useful than too much detail. Conclusions and recommendations concerning individual Territories were more proper as part of the Trusteeship Council's study of annual reports.

He would be prepared to agree at once that Part I should be adopted as the framework of the draft report which FAO might be invited to prepare on the basis of the documentation already provided for the Committee. It would then be possible to decide whether detailed sections on the individual Territories were necessary.

The CHAIRMAN, like the French representative, would like to have time to study the document, which might be the cornerstone of the Committee's work. He proposed that the meeting should adjourn. At its next meeting the Committee could discuss the document as a whole and decide whether or not Part II should be included. He was in favour of including it.

Mr. PIGNON (France) agreed with the United Kingdom representative, but would not express a definite opinion until he had had time to study the document.

What was essential in his view was Section C of Part I -- "General Conclusions" -- because it would adumbrate the policy which the Trusteeship Council would have to follow in examining the annual reports.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.