

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

T/C.2/SR.529
19 February 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 28 January 1960, at 11.15 a.m.

CONTENTS

Twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-second reports of the Committee
on Classification of Communications: draft 24³rd report of the
Standing Committee on Petitions (T/C.2/L.406)

Organization of work (continued)

PRESENT:

Chairman:

Mr. RASGOTRA

India

Members:

Miss TENZER

Belgium

Mr. YIN

China

Mr. de CAMARET

France

Mr. ANTONOV

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Mr. CASTON

United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

Secretariat:

Mr. PROTITCH

Under-Secretary for Trusteeship
and Information from Non-Self-
Governing Territories

Mr. MINCHIN

Secretary of the Committee

TWENTIETH, TWENTY-FIRST AND TWENTY-SECOND REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CLASSIFICATION OF COMMUNICATIONS: DRAFT 243RD REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (T/C.2/L.406)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft report (T/C.2/L.406) paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 were adopted.

Paragraph 3

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the date of 31 December 1959 in the second sentence should be changed to 1 January 1960, which was in accordance with the facts and with General Assembly resolution 1349 (XIII).

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Committee felt that it should submit a formal suggestion for action to the Trusteeship Council, as in the last sentence, or should leave the Council to take the initiative.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) said that it was entirely proper for the Committee to submit specific suggestions to the Council.

Paragraph 3, as amended, was adopted with a minor drafting change.

Paragraph 4

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the communication in T/COM.5/L.235 related to the former Cameroons under French administration, which was no longer a Trust Territory. The Committee could not recommend any action with regard to a petitioner who was a national of a sovereign State.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that all reference to that communication should be deleted, with consequential drafting changes in the rest of the paragraph.

It was so decided.

Paragraph 4, as amended, was adopted with a minor drafting change.

Paragraph 5 was adopted.

Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the fact that paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 should be renumbered 6, 7 and 8.

Those paragraphs were adopted with minor drafting changes.

The draft report as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

/...

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (continued)

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had approximately 300 petitions to examine during the current session, excluding those from the Cameroons under French administration.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the representatives of Belgium and the United Kingdom to clarify their position with respect to petitions from the Trust Territories of Ruanda-Urundi and the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration respectively. In particular, he wished to know how soon the Special Representative for those Territories could come to New York and whether the Administering Authorities concerned might consent to have the relevant petitions examined in the absence of Special Representatives. It was of vital importance, in recognition of the Charter principle that the interests of the inhabitants of the Territories were paramount, that the examination of those petitions should not be delayed.

Miss TENZER (Belgium) said that for reasons which the Belgian representative had given in the Trusteeship Council it was not possible for the Special Representative for Ruanda-Urundi to be present during the current session of the Council. The Belgian representative in the Council was prepared to take part in the examination of those few Ruanda-Urundi petitions on which he had the necessary information. It should be noted that a number of Ruanda-Urundi petitions dealt specifically with the disturbances which had taken place in the Territory towards the end of 1959 and that, under its terms of reference, the Visiting Mission which was to go to Ruanda-Urundi shortly would investigate the causes of those disturbances, taking into account the contents of petitions on the subject. The Visiting Mission on the spot would be in a better position than the Committee to examine the facts reported in those petitions.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) said that the Special Representative for the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration could not be brought to New York before the close of the Council's current session and the United Kingdom representative was not in a position to provide the Committee with the information required for a proper examination of petitions from that Territory.

/...

(Mr. Caston, United Kingdom)

The Special Representative would, however, arrive within two or three months. He hoped that the Committee would defer its examination of the petitions until his arrival.

Mr. ANTONOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that if the Administering Authorities concerned would not consent to an examination of petitions in the absence of the Special Representatives, and if the latter could not be present, it might be advisable, particularly in the case of the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi, to transmit all the relevant petitions to the Visiting Mission. In order to ensure that the Mission would take into account not merely the general content of the petitions but the specific complaints contained in each, the Committee should prepare an exhaustive list of petitions for its use.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that, under its terms of reference, the Visiting Mission would normally take account of the substance of each petition and that it was not in order for the Committee to instruct it to do so.

It was estimated that the Committee would have to meet for six weeks in order to complete the examination of all the petitions before it. Its work could be satisfactorily accomplished, provided the Administering Authorities could send their Special Representatives to New York sufficiently in advance of the Council's summer session. As the representative of India, he would present the situation to the Council when it considered the Standing Committee's report and leave the decision to the Council's discretion.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) observed that six weeks seemed excessive for the examination of the petitions before the Committee. Past experience had shown that petitions from Territories which would very soon achieve independence consumed less time than those from Territories where independence was not so imminent. There were quite a number in the first category and the Committee should plan its work accordingly.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee would meet only once a day, holding between twenty and twenty-five meetings in six weeks. The estimate that a six-week period would be required for the completion of its work was based on previous experience.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.