

# UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



Distr.  
LIMITED

T/L.611  
19 July 1955

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixteenth session  
Agenda item 4 (a)

## CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION

Summary of the observations made by individual members of the Council during the general discussion, and of the comments of the representative of Italy and of the special representative of the Administering Authority

### I. GENERAL

#### General considerations

1. The representative of India stated that the one dominant impression he had received was that things had taken a very definite turn for the better. This was an encouraging sign.
2. The representative of India, noting that some doubts had been cast perhaps unconsciously on the viability of the Territory's independence in 1960, felt that that attitude reflected undue pessimism. He did not see how time would make much difference as regards the lack of resources and he considered that self-support was not the only measure of political independence since there were many countries which were not self-supporting. His delegation, therefore, would reaffirm its faith in the ability of the Administering Authority and the people of Somaliland to develop the Territory to become independent in 1960. Any expression of doubt at this stage would be a source of embarrassment to the Administering Authority, not to speak of its effect on the people of the Territory.
3. The representative of the United States of America stated that the Administering Authority deserved commendation for the effect it had given to the recommendations of the General Assembly, the Trusteeship Council, the Advisory Council and the most recent Visiting Mission, and for the impressive list of legislative measures either recently enacted or in draft form.

4. The representative of Australia expressed satisfaction with the policies which had been developed and the results that had been achieved by the Administering Authority.
5. The representative of Australia stated that while his delegation would yield to none in entertaining the highest and most earnest hopes in respect of the political future of the Somali State after 1960, hopes should not be confused with facts and the facts were by no means established. In attempting a realistic assessment of the future situation few comforting facts could be found on which to nourish hopes. The facts in evidence thus far did not lead his delegation either to criticize the Administering Authority or to urge a review of the time-limit established for the granting of independence. He reasserted the importance of a continuing awareness in the Council of the unpleasant, as well as the pleasant, facts which, notwithstanding the best efforts, could in the short run only be alleviated, not revolutionized. He also emphasized that time as a factor in development must never be discounted. He added that he merely intended to express a certain pessimism regarding the social and economic conditions in which Somaliland was likely to find itself at the time it achieves independence.
6. The representative of Syria noted an acceleration of the tempo of progress in the Territory. Much had happened in recent months, particularly in the development of political institutions and the beginning of the transfer to the Somali people of powers and responsibility.
7. The representative of Syria referred to the statement of the representative of Australia and stated that he recognized that the time factor was crucial in the development of the Territory, but that he felt that ten years should be ample time in which to redefine objectives and to advance rapidly towards them. He felt that it was useless to envisage real progress over a period of time if efforts toward providing guidance, stimulation and assistance to the Trust Territory were weak and ineffective. He noted that the Administering Authority had never raised any questions in relation to the time element.
8. The representative of France was of the opinion that the Trusteeship Council could express its full confidence in the Administering Authority on all points.

9. The representative of France considered that the reservations expressed by his delegation at an earlier session concerning the a priori setting of a time-limit within which a Territory should automatically become self-governing or independent were particularly applicable to Somaliland. He stated, however that the principle admitted by the United Nations was not being questioned and that the Organization, at the expiration of the period of trusteeship, would continue to have a moral responsibility. In view of the difficult conditions he considered that the Administering Authority had performed a remarkable task.
10. The representative of Haiti stated that there was evidence of some hesitancy. He felt that at this stage where so much remained to be done, the policy of passively awaiting the termination of the Trusteeship period would have disastrous implications and consequences.
11. The representative of Italy stated that the Italian Government have dedicated themselves, despite the difficulties which confronted them, to bring Somaliland to full independence on 2 December, 1960. It was their sincere desire to bring their contribution to the common and noble ideal which inspired the activities of the United Nations in this field. Italy had not received and did not expect to receive for this undertaking any advantage which was not of a purely moral order.

United Nations Advisory Council

12. The representative of India stated that he was very much impressed by the splendid results produced by the Advisory Council under very difficult conditions.
13. The representatives of India and the United States of America noted with satisfaction the admirable increase in understanding and good feeling between the United Nations Advisory Council and the Administration.
14. The representative of the United Kingdom was particularly gratified to commend the work of the Advisory Council and to express the appreciation of his delegation for its constructive and co-operative approach to the problems of the Territory.

15. The representative of Australia stated that his delegation noted with satisfaction that the Advisory Council was enabled in the year under review to intensify its activities, and that it enjoyed in this period a fruitful and co-operative relationship with the Administration.

16. The representative of Syria noted the excellent report of the Advisory Council and stated that it reflected a very great improvement in the situation so far as the attendance of the members of the Territory was concerned.

17. The representative of China expressed his appreciation to the United Nations Advisory Council for its excellent report and the valuable contributions it had made in advising the Administration on various matters.

#### Question of the frontier with Ethiopia

18. The representative of India noted the danger arising from the unsettled border question. He was glad to hear that negotiations were proceeding in Addis Ababa, that some progress had been made and that it was likely that the preparatory commission might be set up after all. It was clear that progress in negotiations had been very slow, that the people of Somaliland were terribly exercised about the border question and that they wanted this question settled before 1960. The division of tribes into two portions by the present frontier was sufficient reason for its revision. A satisfactory and peaceful solution had to be found soon and he expressed the hope that there would be a very early settlement of this matter. If the present talks proved unfruitful, the next step would be mediation.

19. The representative of India stated that it was desirable that foundations for friendly relations between the two independent States should be laid now for on these would depend not only the solution of the frontier issues but also the far more important question of the establishment of friendly relations between the future independent State of Somaliland and Ethiopia.

20. The representative of the United States of America stated that his delegation wished to express its gratification that the direct negotiations between the Governments of Italy and Ethiopia, in accordance with the General Assembly's wishes, were now taking place at Addis Ababa. It was hopeful that these negotiations would lead to a settlement satisfactory to the interests of all concerned.

21. The representative of Australia stated that his delegation wished to take note of the fact that the Italian Government had not ceased its efforts to proceed with direct negotiations with the Ethiopian Government. He expressed regret that, notwithstanding the lengthy period which had been available, substantive negotiations between the two Governments did not commence until the very day when this question once more came before the Council. That such negotiations had now at last commenced was a matter for qualified satisfaction. He expressed confidence that they would be pursued energetically by the Italian Government, and in this connexion, expressed the hope that, in consonance with the General Assembly's resolutions on this subject, they would be brought to an early and satisfactory conclusion.

22. The representative of New Zealand stressed the importance his delegation attached to an early settlement of the problem of frontiers between Somaliland and Ethiopia, a settlement which must be reached in good time before 1960.

23. The representative of Syria considered that no progress had been made toward the solution of this question. He urged the Administering Authority not to delay beyond a reasonable time the next step open to it, namely to try to initiate the procedure of mediation.

24. The representative of Haiti considered that an appreciable improvement in the border situation had occurred since the adoption of the Assembly's latest resolution. He noted with great interest that officials had been appointed by the Ethiopian and Italian Governments to explore the problem. He expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would continue resolute to explore the possibility of a solution which would be in line with the interests of the Somali population.



25. The representative of China stated that the problem of settlement of the question of boundaries between Somaliland and Ethiopia was an urgent one and should not be left to be tackled by the new State of Somalia. He expressed the hope that the negotiations between Ethiopia and Italy would proceed smoothly.
26. The representative of El Salvador stated that he would enthusiastically support the Syrian draft resolution concerning the question of the frontiers between Somaliland and Ethiopia because it was in line with previous recommendations of the General Assembly and it would be a reply by the Trusteeship Council to the anxieties felt by the population of Somaliland.
27. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the Administration, pending the international settlement of the border question, was always prepared to do its utmost in order to help the people who were more directly concerned.

#### Security and order

28. The representative of India stated that the progressive increase in the number of Somali officers in the Security Corps and the Police as well as the absence of political influence among these units was encouraging.
29. The representative of India stated that he was somewhat anxious about the possibility of tribal hostilities becoming aggravated in the heat of political controversies, and that it was very necessary to tackle this problem with the utmost vigour. The political parties seemed anxious to collaborate in order to put an end to tribal hostilities and deterrent action might well be taken against persons who fostered tribal animosities for personal or political reasons. He felt that the Administering Authority, with the co-operation of the National Front, should be able to work out a plan for studying the causes of tribal tensions and for settling tribal disputes. This should receive the highest priority.
30. The representative of Syria stated that he shared the views expressed by the representative of India on the question of intertribal animosity. He felt that the political parties, tribal chiefs, religious leaders and the Administration could collaborate in finding a solution and he appealed to all

of these groups to study the causes of hostilities and to formulate a programme for their solution.

31. The representative of Haiti stated that the profound causes of tension between tribes should be found and disposed of since this would only retard the political and social advancement. He considered that the Administering Authority should pay continued attention to this state of affairs and that radical measures such as the revocation of the powers of guilty chiefs should be considered.

32. The special representative of the Administering Authority assured the Council that the Administration was greatly concerned about the problem of tribal disputes and that every possible means had been employed to ease the existing tensions. The Administration had already engaged the collaboration of all political parties and it was the hope that with this step, together with the improvement of the general economic conditions of the population concerned and the co-operation of District Councils, tensions could be somewhat eased. This would take time and strenuous efforts on the part of everybody.

#### National flag of the Territory

33. The representative of India congratulated the Administration for having given to the Somali people a flag of their own.

34. The representative of New Zealand stated that the adoption of a national flag had great significance in the process of unifying the Somali people.

## II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

### General situation: administrative structure

35. The representative of India stated that a new note of urgency and speed could be detected in the Administration as well as a most welcome note of determination to lead the Somali people to independence in 1960, which would be one of the finest contributions that Italy could make to the United Nations.

36. The representative of India considered that the various developments in the political field constituted proper and stable foundations for an independent and politically stable Somaliland.

37. The representative of India commended the establishment of a committee of representatives of the various political parties. He considered that there were possibilities that it would evolve into a coalition cabinet or an executive council and suggested that a convention should be established of consulting the committee on all important matters of policy and internal administration. The proposal to appoint the presidents of the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly as parliamentary assistants to the various heads of departments was an excellent one, designed to give sound training in parliamentary democracy.

38. The representative of the United Kingdom considered that the Council would wish to commend the Administering Authority for establishing a committee composed of representatives of the political parties to assist the Administration.

39. The representative of Australia considered that the political institutions of the Territory, at the local as well as the national level, had been substantially developed. Not the least of these developments had been the recent appointment of a committee of representatives of the various political parties to advise the Administrator in the exercise of his executive functions. He noted with satisfaction that it was the intention of the Administering Authority to establish standing committees of the soon to be elected legislative assembly and to appoint the presidents of these committees as parliamentary assistants to the secretaries of the departments of government.



40. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics noted with regret that during the year under review the Administering Authority had not achieved much progress in the development of institutions of self-government in the Territory. It had not done very much to turn over the organs of government to a population which must in five years become fully responsible for the administration of the Territory.

41. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that even after the establishment of the new Territorial Council the local Somali population would continue to be debarred from the higher agencies of the Territory, since the establishment of executive organs in which the Somalis would hold executive posts was not envisaged.

42. The representative of Syria noted that the Administering Authority was appointing a representative administrative committee to advise the Administrator and was planning the establishment of a number of governmental secretaryships and the appointment of Standing Committee Chairmen as assistants to the Secretaries. He expressed the hope that these measures would be implemented with the urgency they deserved.

43. The representative of Haiti considered that the political situation was in general a gratifying one. He expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would soon announce that Somalis with the rank of minister would participate in executive functions since he felt that the time may have come for the Administrator to be relieved of some of his powers.

44. The representative of Belgium noted the fine results which had been achieved in setting up a representative system.

#### Political organizations

45. The representative of India urged the Administering Authority to pay particular attention to the National Front, formed by the political parties, so as to strengthen its basis with active encouragement and guidance and to exploit its usefulness for the benefit of the Territory.

46. The representative of the United States of America noted with pleasure the admirable increase in understanding and good feeling between the local political parties and the Administration.

47. The representative of New Zealand stated that the formation of a Somali National Front was a demonstration of the growing sense of responsibility of the politically active Somalis.

48. The representative of Syria noted the spirit of collaboration and better understanding between the political parties and the new Administration. He considered the establishment of the National Front a welcome action by the political parties and endorsed the recommendation of the representative of India on this matter.

49. The representative of Haiti noted the statements of the two Somali petitioners and stated that these were evidences of the generally good relations which prevailed between the Administration and the population.

50. The special representative of the Administering Authority assured the Council that the Administration was prepared to exploit to the full extent for the benefit of the Somali people its collaboration with the National Front.

#### Territorial Council

51. The representative of India stated that he was glad to hear that the elections to the Territorial Council would take place in 1955 and that the electoral law had been passed by the Territorial Council. The absence of discrimination in the matter of representation, as between urban and nomadic populations was encouraging. He suggested that selected leaders of political parties who were elected members of the Legislative Assembly might be sent to Italy, or elsewhere, to study at first hand the operations of democracy at work. A training programme of a few weeks might be drawn up for them.

52. The representative of Australia stated that his delegation would wish to draw attention to the far-reaching proposals in respect of the constitution of the new legislative assembly. The electoral provisions under which the successor organ of the existing Territorial Council was to be established appeared to have been ably and imaginatively conceived and to constitute a major development in the history of the Territory's political evolution. The new and all inclusive deliberative powers with which, subject to the Administrator's veto, this organ was to be provided, reflected a progressive approach on the

part of the Administering Authority. His delegation was entirely satisfied with the speed and the nature of the changes which were being effected in this field and the hope was expressed that the expectations placed by the Administration and people of Somaliland upon the new organ would be amply satisfied.

53. The representative of Australia recalled that the oral petitioners who appeared before the Council expressed, in the name of the whole Somali people, sincere appreciation and heartfelt gratitude in respect of this development.

54. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that, while recognizing the difficulties arising from the nature of the Territory, his delegation had some misgivings about the effectiveness of the reorganization plan for the Territorial Council and the elections which could hardly be considered as giving a true picture of the wishes of the population. The rural population would not have direct elections and women would not be entitled to vote. In this connexion the Trusteeship Council and the Administering Authority must not be guided by backward traditions. Hence, it could not be admitted that women should not have the right to vote, even in 1955. While the interests of national minorities should be respected, the allocation of seats in the future Territorial Council to representatives of the various ethnic groups constituted an artificial emphasis on the differences in economic and political interests among these groups and would give rise to further divisions of the population and to discrimination against representatives of various nationalities and groups.

55. In respect of the power of the future legislative assembly the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that this body would lack the right to initiate legislation as well as the right to adopt legislative provisions not subject to the veto of the Administrator. He considered that many actions of a legislative nature could be left to the discretion of the assembly. He suggested that until 1960 the Administration could retain certain prerogatives, such as those relating to defence or

foreign affairs, but that legislation and domestic affairs could be fully transferred to the Territorial Council at this time without waiting for the elections of 1958 or the granting of independence in 1960. His delegation believed that the Trusteeship Council should recommend that the Administering Authority should revise its plans with regard to the Territorial Council by turning it into a legislative body with the attendant powers after this year's elections. By "powers", was meant legislative initiative in domestic affairs.

56. The representative of Syria noted that increased powers would be granted to the Territorial Council. He stated, however, that Article 4 of the Declaration of Constitutional Principles annexed to the Trusteeship Agreement did not provide for a veto on the part of the Administrator. By maintaining the veto, the Administrator surely maintained the legislative authority. Hence, there was a conflict here between the powers of the legislature and the responsibilities of the Administering Authority. He felt that this question might be resolved by formal assurances that the veto would never be used unless the letter and spirit of the Trusteeship System were endangered. He felt that the suggestion of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in this connexion was very useful.

57. The representative of Syria noted with some regret that there appeared to be a universal feeling that the new Territorial Council could not yet be elected by direct and universal adult suffrage. Since it appeared that it was the Somali people who had put the electoral law into its final shape, he would not press this point. He noted, however, that no adequate solution had been found to the problem of representation of the ethnic minorities and he looked forward to the day when these groups could be offered Somali citizenship with no special rights or representation.

58. The representative of Syria supported the proposal of the representative of India for a programme of parliamentary training.

59. The representative of Haiti welcomed the assurances offered by the Administering Authority that the general elections scheduled for 1956 would allow the establishment of a new Territorial Council with full deliberative powers.

60. The representative of China welcomed the intention of the Administering Authority to confer full and unreserved deliberative powers on the new Territorial Council after the elections which were scheduled to take place later in the year.
61. The special representative of the Administering Authority felt sure that the Administration would give the most serious and sympathetic consideration to the suggestion that some of the outstanding members of the new Territorial Council be given the possibility of obtaining training in Italy or elsewhere in parliamentary procedures and democracy. He stated that in view of the responsibility arising vis-à-vis the United Nations and the Italian Government, the Administration felt it could not waive its right of veto. This constitutional guaranty was no novelty since it was embodied in many modern democratic constitutions. The Council could rest assured that this right would only be exercised in exceptional circumstances and in particular in such cases where the Administration would be called on to do so in discharging its responsibilities as a trustee.
62. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the Administration was fully prepared to encourage the participation of women in the social and political life of the Territory but that under the circumstances it would be difficult to make any commitments for the future.

#### District Councils

63. The representative of Australia noted the enactment of legislation modernizing the tribal shirs and replacing the former residency councils by district councils which, he felt sure, would receive the Council's approval.
64. The representative of New Zealand stated that his delegation was pleased to note the measures that had been taken by the Administering Authority to develop the activities and broaden the responsibilities of the district councils.
65. The representative of Syria stated that he was disappointed to learn that the district councils were more or less inactive. He referred to the statement of the Visiting Mission that there was an urgent need for re-assessing this problem and for providing organizationally for more effective leadership in local affairs by trained and experienced staff.



### Municipal Councils

66. The representative of Australia considered that the new ordinance concerning the expanded powers of the municipal councils should receive the Council's approval.
67. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the municipalities did not have legal status and therefore had no effective importance as local self-governing units. The Trusteeship Council should recommend to the Administering Authority that, in further development of the measures which had been taken, it should extend the powers of the municipal councils and make them as self-governing as possible.
68. The representative of New Zealand welcomed the reorganization of the municipalities and the enhancing of their powers, including financial responsibilities.
69. The representative of Syria stated that municipal councils should be given wider powers and should meet more frequently if they were to provide adequate experience in self-government.
70. The representative of China shared the view of the 1954 Visiting Mission that greater powers should be bestowed upon the municipal councils and he hoped that the new law which was being drafted would make provision for such enlarged powers.
71. The special representative of the Administering Authority drew attention to the deliberative powers which had been granted municipal councils under Ordinance No. 4 of March 1955 and stated that in the light of experience this legislation would be revised.

### Administrative services

72. The representative of India stated that the Somalization of the services had proceeded well; he was glad to note that a Somali was the head of a region, that twelve out of thirty districts had Somali heads, that four Somali assistant directors were members of the Administrative Council, that twenty-three out of thirty vice-district chiefs were Somali, and that it was proposed to have only Somalis administer one region on an experimental basis.

73. The representatives of India and Haiti congratulated the Administering Authority for attaching to its delegation a young Somali official and stated that greater participation of Somalis in the work of the Trusteeship Council would be most welcome.
74. The representative of the United States of America stated that the Somalization of the Administration itself appeared to be progressing satisfactorily and promised to be completed well before the expiration of the period of trusteeship.
75. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that the progress which had been accomplished in respect of Somalization was perhaps the most heartening feature for the future independent State.
76. The representative of Australia stated that his delegation regarded as a notable and highly satisfactory development the extensive Somalization of the administrative services which had taken place in the higher as well as in the lower levels. He was confident that the intensive programme which was being implemented by the Administering Authority in this field, and which was even now proceeding ahead of its anticipated schedule, would prove economically as well as politically beneficial to the Territory as a whole.
77. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was of the opinion that a rather too complex system of education and training of administrative personnel had been introduced in the Territory and that this made the admission of Somalis contingent on certain extraneous factors. He felt that the Administering Authority had not sufficiently studied the measures that might be taken before 1960 to promote Somalis to more responsible positions by giving them an opportunity to study their future position by actual practice. The Trusteeship Council should recommend to the Administering Authority that, without waiting for graduates from the Institute of Economic, Social and Juridical Studies, it should take steps to appoint representatives from the local population to responsible posts in the Territory.

78. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, noting that the Administering Authority considered that a large number of foreign specialists would be required after 1960, stated that the large number and the categories listed showed perhaps a somewhat too haphazard attitude toward the future administrative organization. He suggested that the question of specialists and experts and the Somalization of administrative personnel should be referred to in the Council's recommendations.
79. The representative of New Zealand expressed the hope that the parliamentary representatives of the political parties would be men who were qualified for election or selection to executive and quasi-executive positions in the future. His delegation was impressed by the vigorous policy which the Administering Authority was following to train and increase the number of Somali officers, so that, for example, one of the six regions of the Territory, Hiran, was already completely entrusted to the administration of Somali officials.
80. The representative of Syria felt that despite the efforts of the Administering Authority to accelerate the training of Somalis for policy-making posts, the present situation was not altogether encouraging or promising. He felt that a more effective programme should be initiated and he suggested that the Administering Authority might explore the opportunities for in-service training and perhaps set up provisional courses. He also considered that the United Nations and the specialized agencies should plan to recruit necessary personnel. He felt that the appointment of a number of Somalis to high administrative positions was an achievement.
81. The representative of Haiti noted with satisfaction the nomination of a Somali as regional commissioner as well as the nomination of five new district commissioners, two more assistant district commissioners and of a number of officials to high offices.
82. The representative of China stated that the training of Somalis for the management of their own affairs was important also in order to effect essential savings in the expenditure of the Territory's government. He also asked for the replacement of the carabinieri, about whom complaints had been heard, as soon as Somali personnel were available, and hoped that the training of such personnel would be expedited.

83. The special representative of the Administering Authority assured the Council that it was the intention of the Administration to foster the participation of Somalis in executive functions as soon as the eligible personnel were available.

Judicial system

84. The representative of India noted that the independence of the judiciary was being maintained.

85. The representative of Syria stated that he had noted with interest the information that draft judicial regulations had been submitted recently to the Advisory Council. He noted that the Visiting Mission had suggested more energetic steps toward developing a suitable judicial system for the Territory. He also believed that one or more Moslem jurists from neighbouring countries should be selected to assist the Administration in the Legislative Assembly and the courts.

86. The representative of China stated that he shared the views emphasizing the separation of powers between the executive and judicial branches of the Administration. He asked for urgent steps to train the judicial personnel required.

### III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

#### General

87. The representative of India stated that the Territory's economic condition caused him the most acute anxiety and that it was a good sign that politically-conscious Somalis were aware of the economic problems facing their country and were willing to co-operate in the solution of these problems.

88. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the so-called economic problem of the Territory arose from the budgetary deficit, the unfavourable balance of trade, the failure to exploit the Territory's resources, the system of land tenure which was a reflection of the outmoded colonial system of land ownership, the absence of control over the export of capital from the Territory and other colonial characteristics present in the economy. However, it had been proven that the Territory could be self-sufficient.

89. The representative of Syria considered that the Council should give special attention to questions concerning economic development and considered that the solution to these would require enormous efforts on the part of the Somali people, the Italian Government, the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

#### Development plans and financing

90. The representative of India stated that the pattern of the economy clearly required to be revised and based on the productive capacity of the people and with a proper survey of the resources of the Territory. He supported the Visiting Mission's recommendation that a team of experts from the International Bank should be sent to Somaliland without delay to survey the position, assess the economic potential and advise on development possibilities. He noted that the Government of Italy would be glad to address a direct invitation to the Bank and he commended that Government for this very practical step. In the opinion of his delegation a Bank Mission would be more satisfactory than a team of experts organized by the Secretary-General. It was hoped that the Bank would reconsider this matter



sympathetically and make available as soon as possible a team of experts.

91. The representative of India stated that he was glad to see that the Administering Authority hoped to implement its economic development plan fully before 1960. He noted that implementation had just begun and suggested that in the annual statements of the future some prominence should be given to details of progress made, the difficulties encountered, and the progress yet to be attained.

92. The representative of the United States of America stated that his delegation favoured the dispatch of an economic survey mission of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to the Territory for the production of a report on the actual status of the economy and to formulate concrete recommendations for the future development of the Territory. While regretting that initial hopes in this fundamental matter had not yet been realized, he wished to encourage the Government of Italy in its willingness to enter into further discussions with the Bank.

93. His delegation believed that any assistance extended to the nascent state must stress the importance of the application of the principle of self-help. The Council at this time could not overstress the need for local initiative in relation to the development of Somaliland.

94. The representative of Australia stated that his delegation would wish to note with satisfaction that the economic development plan was being executed energetically and had drawn the highest praise from the petitioners who appeared before the Council. His delegation was gratified that in this field additional aid of a substantial nature had also been received from the Governments of the United States and Egypt. The cumulative effective of these programmes appeared already to be reflected in significant improvements in territorial revenues and in the balance of payment situation.

95. The representative of Australia stated that his delegation would wish particularly to recall to the attention of the Council the fact that the representative of Italy had made it abundantly clear that the Administering Authority not only would welcome but was anxious to obtain a mission of experts

from the International Bank to study the position and the possibilities of economic development in the Territory. His delegation shared with the Administering Authority its appreciation of the real urgency of a decision in this matter as well as its conviction that the International Bank would be the most suitable agency to undertake the task. The Council might wish to endorse the views of the Italian Government in this regard and to express the hope that the Bank will be able to undertake this urgent task.

96. The representative of Haiti stated that the reply of the International Bank had been somewhat disappointing and he wondered to what extent the reticence of the Bank might be based on lack of confidence in the future of the Somali State. The assistance of the Bank was desirable and the United Nations should support the request of the Administering Authority to the International Bank for a technical mission. However, the Administering Authority should resolutely prosecute the plans it had established through its own resources. This would create a climate of confidence both within and outside the Territory and further assistance might, as a result, be forthcoming.

97. The representative of Haiti felt that the Somali Credit Institute should be strengthened. The Administering Authority and the Advisory Council should continue to study very closely the operation of that body with a view to expanding and consolidating its foundations. Full guarantees should be given to the Institute so as to dispel any misgivings which might give rise to a flight of international private capital. A United Nations representative should be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Institute.

98. The representative of Syria was happy to note the Administration's efforts to put its economic development plans into operation. He stated that it was a matter of considerable regret to his delegation that no substantial progress had been made toward the study and evaluation of the possibilities for development

in the economic field. Although a mission organized by the Secretary-General might be better suited to this task, his delegation was inclined to ask the Administering Authority to approach the International Bank with a direct request for a mission to study the economic development possibilities of the Territory and it was its hope that the Council would have before it early in 1956 a report which would be more helpful in indicating where the efforts of the Administering Authority, the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be directed in order to strengthen the economy of the Territory.

99. The representative of Syria endorsed the statement of the representative of Egypt on the Advisory Council that large-scale aid from the United Nations and its specialized agencies was required to accelerate the development of the economic structure. He felt that too much emphasis had been laid in the past on the alleged poverty of the Territory and on the need for capital. He considered that there was the greatest need for technical assistance and that the steps taken to obtain expert assistance in connexion with cotton cultivation were in the proper direction. He hoped that every effort would be made to obtain the advice of competent experts on all aspects of agriculture as well as animal husbandry, crafts and industry during the coming year.

100. The representative of Syria expressed appreciation for the information submitted on the operation of the Somali Credit Institute and he expressed the hope that every effort would be made to expand its scope.

101. The representative of El Salvador stated that he was pleased to hear the statement made by the representative of Italy that his Government wished to ask the International Bank to reconsider the question of sending a team of experts to Somaliland.

102. The representative of Belgium stated that foreign capital was essential for the Territory's development and he considered that guarantees of foreign capital investments were necessary. In view of the reluctance of the International Bank

to send a mission to the Territory, he wondered whether it might not be possible to entrust the study of the question of financing to a group of experts designated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. His delegation wished to pay tribute to the Administering Authority for the economic progress which it had put into effect.

103. The representative of Italy stated that his Government would not fail to renew its approach to the International Bank with a formal and direct request.

104. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that it was the intention of the Administration to put all its weight into the implementation of its plans and to exploit all financial resources, international technical assistance and aid available. The work now underway gave the Administration confidence for the future even though no immediate and outstanding results were to be expected. In drafting this plan the Administration was guided by the purpose of developing the resources of the Territory to their full extent without any prejudice to development in the political, social and educational fields, and at the same time to give a firm foundation to initiatives which the future Somali State would be in a position to pursue after 1960.

#### Public finance and taxation

105. The representative of India stated that the efforts of the Administering Authority to expand the economy, increase production and thus improve the taxable capacity of the people would be watched with the closest interest. It was regrettable, however, that at the moment the revenues of the Territory were barely sufficient to meet the costs of the salaries of the Administration personnel. It was most important to ensure that the salary scales were commensurate with the revenues of the State, and the present inflated scales required to be reviewed. He suggested that this matter be studied in collaboration with the new Committee and the National Front so that the Somali State of 1960 would not be burdened with having to maintain artificial scales of pay and allowances with the help of external financial assistance.

106. The representative of New Zealand stressed the desirability of increasing the revenue by taxation. Although the results of the imposition of a shamba tax last year were not encouraging, the Administration should persevere in this direction. It would be ill-advised to build up false hopes in the Somali people that they can enjoy after 1960 more expensive services than they would be able to afford.

107. The representative of France stated that reduction of the budgetary deficit required special attention and he suggested that the Administering Authority might wish to study the possibility of a cattle tax.

108. The representative of Haiti, noting the chronic deficit in the Territory's budget, considered that once independent the Territory would have to be more modest in its expenditures. So far the Administering Authority had not been able to determine to what extent the budget might be reduced to take account of the resources and potentialities of the Territory five years hence. He was pleased to note that the Visiting Mission's recommendation concerning the breakdown of the budget would be examined sympathetically by the Administering Authority.

109. The representative of Haiti suggested that the Administering Authority continued to revise the list of technicians which might be required by the independent State, keeping in mind the relative importance of services and the scale on which they should be maintained.

110. The representative of Haiti stated that the principle of taxation must be implanted more thoroughly and that the co-operation of the political parties should be enlisted to that end. On the local level the extension of the responsibilities of municipal councils as regards the collection of taxes designed to meet local administrative expenses would be of considerable assistance. At the same time the municipalities should seek the co-operation of the tax-payers by performing tangible functions.

111. The representative of Syria stated that his delegation was deeply concerned with the large deficit in the budget and the high scale of salaries paid to both alien and Native personnel and he urged the Administration to look into this matter with a view toward reducing the burden on the budget. He also endorsed



the suggestion made by the representative of Egypt on the Advisory Council that every effort be made to obtain a marked reduction in expenditure.

112. The representative of Syria stated that his delegation was glad to know that future budgets would be prepared in such a form as to distinguish between the budget of the Trusteeship Administration, the basic Territorial budget, and the development budget. He expressed the hope that the recommendations of the Advisory Council and the Visiting Mission concerning the training of Somali staff in budgeting and auditing of accounts, both territorial and local, would also be accepted.

113. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the Administration fully shared the view that some direct taxation should be imposed on the Somali population and that with the collaboration of the political parties and religious and tribal chiefs, it hoped to initiate a system of taxation which would gradually induce the Somalis to the idea of contributing to the revenues of their Territory. Even if no great results were to be expected, the Administration felt that something could be achieved. The question of readjusting salaries would be considered and the Administration, which had already discussed this point with many responsible political leaders, relied on the collaboration of the political parties and in particular of the National Front on this matter.

#### Trade

114. The representative of India stated that there had been some welcome signs of a liberalization of trade, but that a greater liberalization was necessary in order to restore trade into its normal natural channels. There had been too great a diversion of trade from the Territory's traditional sterling area. The close trade connexions with Italy were somewhat artificial, and it was doubtful whether they could survive under conditions of freer trade. He felt it most necessary to avoid giving the impression that Somaliland had become tied economically to Italy's apron strings.

115. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics pointed out that an important place in the domestic and foreign trade of the Territory was occupied by bananas, the production of which was almost wholly in the hands

of non-Somalis. As petitioners had stated, Somalis were not prohibited from cultivating bananas, but were prohibited from selling them outside the Territory. The Administering Power's attempt to justify that state of affairs on the ground that that branch of agriculture was unprofitable was unconvincing, since the area under banana cultivation had doubled between 1951 and 1953.

116. The representative of Syria stated that the steps taken by the Administering Authority to organize the incense trade were most commendable.

117. His delegation was of the opinion that greater liberalization of trade was essential and that efforts should be exerted to channel Somali trade to areas other than Italy.

118. The representative of France stated that the improvement of the balance of payments required special attention to such products as were in demand as exports.

119. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that every possible effort was being made for the development of trade, which it was the intention of the Administration to liberalize as much as possible, bearing in mind the necessity to reduce the liability in foreign currency of the future State and to convey its trade toward those markets which could become good customers of Somali products.

#### Agriculture and animal husbandry

120. The representative of India, stated that he was somewhat skeptical about the future of the banana and sugar industries. Both were in the hands of non-indigenous inhabitants and the costs of production were abnormally high. Somali participation was very limited and was largely confined to providing labour in one form or another. The industries were situated in the most fertile parts of Somaliland which were few and far between. The high market price, the need for a subsidy, and the unfavourable climatic conditions under which these highly specialized industries existed led him to doubt the wisdom of increasing Somali participation in them.

121. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that it was of considerable interest that the Administration estimated that exports of cotton would eventually amount to a value of no less than So. 5 million.

122. The representative of Australia stated that his delegation noted with interest the steps already taken and others contemplated by the Administering Authority with a view to consolidating the position of the banana export industry, as well as those measures which were calculated to expand the export of meat and animal products. His delegation shared the concern of the Administering Authority that special emphasis should be placed upon the development of these two industries upon which the economic life of the Territory as a whole and the majority of its people must remain largely dependent.

123. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the most profitable sector of the economy, the production of bananas and sugar, was monopolized by foreigners. Furthermore, he had been unable to learn what amount of capital was being exported as profits of the banana industry. The prohibition of capital exports was of vital importance to a young country such as Somaliland.

124. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that although the excavation of wells was praiseworthy, it was also important to provide an outlet for hides, dairy products, etc. The question of the processing of agricultural products did not seem to have been given sufficient attention.

125. The representative of France stated that the Administration's efforts must be directed towards an improvement of the present position in agriculture, in cattle-raising and fisheries. The primordial task was the development of food crops. All this called for the settlement of the nomads, the cessation of the exodus to urban centres and the extension of the co-operative movement.

126. The representative of France warned against the planting of new crops without first exploring the possibilities of marketing on a sound commercial basis. He stated that banana production, which was technically a success, could not be regarded as a financial success so long as production could not be sold on the world market at market prices.

127. The representative of Syria urged the Administration to study the problems of the sugar and banana industries and to report the results of this study to the Council at its eighteenth session. His delegation appreciated the steps taken to expand water supplies and to develop the livestock industry and considered it essential that the canning of meat, the proper preparation of hides for export and other efforts to market livestock products should be pursued with the maximum effort.

#### Land tenure

128. The representative of India, referring to the question of land disputes between Somalis and Italian concessionnaires, stated that the position had become very complicated and that unless it were dealt with immediately with sympathy and co-operation by the people and the political parties the future might be very uneasy for the concessionnaires. He therefore urged the Administering Authority to give this matter its most earnest attention in the interests of peace and security.

129. The representative of China stated that the land disputes which were still pending should be settled as soon as possible and land legislation should be made as complete as possible.

130. The representative of Syria stated that his delegation considered that the Administration ought to look into the complaints of Somalis concerning land disputes and that it should endeavour to find just solutions.

131. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the Administration was also seriously devoting its attention to the settlement of land disputes. Pending the registration of property the Administration, with the participation of the parties concerned and the collaboration of the political parties, would concentrate its efforts in the peaceful settlement of the land disputes.

#### Mining

132. The representative of Syria regretted that the Advisory Council was not consulted prior to the conclusion of the oil agreements. He shared the

views of the Advisory Council on this matter and expressed the hope that the Administering Authority would do what it could to obtain a revision, so that the rights of the Somali people were safeguarded and the benefits would go mainly to Somalis.

133. The representative of India stated that he was disturbed by the manner in which the oil contracts had been issued without proper consultation with the Advisory Council. He agreed with the Advisory Council that greater publicity should have been given to the agreements and he requested more information about them in due course. It was quite likely that the future Government of Somaliland had been committed in advance. Apart from the impropriety of such a step, the agreements, according to the Advisory Council, provided inadequate guarantees, a low share of the Government in the profits, and a limitation on the Government's right to terminate the contracts. These were features that could not readily be endorsed. Moreover, the agreements were very different from similar ones in force in the Middle East. An explanation was clearly necessary, both to the Trusteeship Council and to the Advisory Council and it was clear that the agreements required some revision.

134. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that in addition to the development of an industry for the processing of agricultural products, mining and oil production played an important part in the development of the country's economy. The Administering Authority, without consulting the people of the Territory, had literally sold out the oil concessions to foreign firms for forty-five years in advance. The future Parliament of the Somali State as petitioners had stated, would have to judge for itself which agreements should be accepted and which should be rejected. The Administering Authority should review these agreements and reconsider them. It should not be within the purview of the Italian Administration to contract long-term agreements, and he considered that the Trusteeship Council should see to it that an abuse of these powers was not made beyond that date of 1960.



#### IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

##### General

135. The representative of India suggested that a scientific study be made of the habits, customs, traditions and ways of life of the nomadic peoples. The results would undoubtedly be of assistance to the social development experts of the Administration and the experts on fundamental education at Dinsor might well be able to advise the Administering Authority on this matter. He recommended that an attempt be made on an experimental basis to settle one or two semi-nomadic tribes on a large ranching project.

136. The representative of the United States of America stated that his delegation had taken note of the favourable comments of the Visiting Mission and of the Advisory Council in the social field and expressed the hope that the principal problems in this sphere, the problems of the ex-servicemen and of the urban unemployed, would soon have been met.

137. The representative of Australia stated that his delegation noted that continued efforts were being made to reduce inter-tribal conflict. He had no doubt that the Territory-wide measures now being taken to improve the economic condition of the nomadic population would further alleviate the difficulties which had been experienced in this field in the past. He was confident that the rapid political developments which were taking place in the Territory would result in a steady improvement in the entire social environment of the nomadic peoples.

138. The representative of Syria stated that greater efforts were required, if obstacles in the social field were not to impede political and economic progress. He felt that a careful study of nomadism in all its social aspects should be carried out by competent experts. The information gathered would be useful for both administrative and development purposes.

139. The representative of New Zealand stated that while he appreciated the necessity for training well a small cadre of Somalis in the art of self-government, he felt that close attention should be given to the planning of measures which might bridge the widening gap between this select few and the great majority of

semi-tribal and nomadic people. Perhaps through small and well-organized community schemes some impact could be made upon it with the help and advice of UNESCO.

140. The representative of Haiti noted that an important problem was the transformation of nomads into farmers and stated that the Council should note with interest future reports on the progress achieved in this respect.

141. The representative of Haiti stated that planning and social action should go hand in hand and that time and effort should not be spared in gathering ethnological data for administrative and development services. Such information would be of capital importance in the elaboration of measures of organization and development for the independent State.

142. The representative of Belgium stated that the Administering Authority should give great attention to the Visiting Mission's suggestion regarding a systematic study of the structure of Somali society and the co-ordination of available information in this regard. An analysis of the sociological situation, the forms of organization and the economic and traditional systems of the Territory should guide those who were laying the foundations of the future State.

143. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the Administration felt that there were many possibilities for the urban population to influence the nomads. The danger of splitting into two fragments was still remote. The suggestion to semi-stabilize some semi-nomadic tribes had already been part of a programme now under way in the Upper Giuba region where provisions had been made for the development of 1,600 farms with facilities to induce the farmers to remain on their land as long as possible. The suggestion made of utilizing the experience of other African territories and the assistance of UNESCO would receive careful consideration by the Administration.

#### Social welfare

144. The representative of India considered that the Administering Authority, with the help of the National Front, should explore the use of women's groups in social welfare, public health and educational activities, as well as in the

care of orphans. The problem of orphans was serious and a proper survey should be made of this question.

145. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that attention would be given to the problem of orphans, for whose assistance the Administration will not spare any effort.

#### Press and radio

146. The representative of Syria noted the emphasis being given to radio broadcasts, and expressed the hope that before very long effective programmes would reach a large part of the population.

#### Status of women

147. The representative of Syria urged both the Administering Authority and the political leaders, both urban and rural, to take all possible steps to encourage women to play a more effective and active role in the political and social life of the Territory. He drew attention to the Visiting Mission's emphasis on the importance of providing more education for girls and women.

#### Labour

148. The representative of India considered that the question of unemployment was becoming very important and that a survey of the problem should be undertaken.

149. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the Territory lacked an up-to-date system for protecting labour and that the conditions of work were not such as to enable the Somali worker to demonstrate his capacity for productivity, or to teach him to regard the work in which he was engaged as a permanent occupation. The Trusteeship Council should persistently recommend the Administration to introduce labour legislation which would enable the Somalis to feel that it was interested not only in the concessionaires but also in the local workers. This, of course, could be done through the Legislative Assembly. The Council should also recommend that the Administering Authority eliminate the problem of unemployment.

150. The representative of Haiti stated that the Administering Authority should be congratulated for the social security measures which had been introduced. He drew attention to the Visiting Mission's statement that legislation was required in respect of contracts between employers and employees, wage security and trade incomes.

151. The representative of Syria was pleased to note the steps taken by the Administration with a view to setting up a social security system. He urged the Administering Authority to expedite the enactment of legislation concerning employment contracts, minimum wages and trade unions and stated that the Mission's recommendations regarding the organization of labour services, unemployment and underemployment should be endorsed by the Council.

152. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that as far as unemployment was concerned and all problems related to labour and its relevant legislation, the Administration would consider these questions with the assistance of ILO experts who would also assist in the preparation of a long-range plan for the development of vocational schools.

#### Medical and health services

153. The representative of India commended the observations of the World Health Organization contained in document T/1176 to the serious consideration of the Administering Authority.

154. The representative of Australia noted that the Council had before it a comprehensive analytical report prepared by the World Health Organization and stated that already much progress had been made in developing from insignificant beginnings a comprehensive health service. Much more remained to be done in this field but his delegation was confident that the Administering Authority would address itself energetically to the tasks ahead and that, in doing so, it would not neglect the advice of the appropriate international agencies from which it was already receiving valuable technical and financial assistance.

155. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics noted that there was not a single indigenous doctor in the Territory and he suggested that if there were, the Somali might be more inclined to seek medical assistance. He considered that the blame should not be placed on the local population for not availing itself of medical help and he stated that this anomaly should be dealt with, that expenditure on public health had decreased, while the state of public health in the nomadic areas was unsatisfactory. He noted also that medical care was not free and stated that the Trusteeship Council should recommend that allocations for public health should be increased and that there should be a larger number of Somali doctors.

156. The representative of France considered that an expansion of small bush facilities such as dispensaries and mobile groups was very necessary particularly in order to overcome the reticence of the population to seek treatment. He suggested that direct assistance might be sought from the World Health Organization.

157. The representative of Syria recommended that more men and women students be given scholarships to study medicine in Italy, as there were no Somali doctors in the Territory.

158. The representative of Haiti felt certain that the observations and recommendations submitted by the World Health Organization (T/1176) would be examined carefully by the Administering Authority. It was evident that progress was being made in this field.

159. The representative of China, noting that of the sixty-nine physicians now practising in the Territory none was a Somali, asked for redoubled effort in the training of medical personnel. He trusted that the Administration would avail itself of the offers of assistance made by the World Health Organization.

160. The representative of Belgium paid tribute to the Administering Authority for the improvement in the health situation.



161. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the preparation and training of medical and any other technical personnel to a high level would not be overlooked by the Administration. But it must be borne in mind that it was essential that their preparation and training be carried out according to accepted standards. No Somali could become a doctor in a shorter time than in other parts of the world. In 1950 there was only one student in senior high school. The Administration would be happy to accept the offer made by the World Health Organization for long-term scholarships abroad as soon as eligible students were available.

#### Prison system

162. The representative of Syria hoped that the Administering Authority would soon be able to carry out the modifications of prison structures as recommended by the Visiting Mission and that further consideration would be given to measures for the rehabilitation of prisoners by providing them with more activities during the period of detention.

## V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

### General

163. The representative of India considered that much had been done in the urban areas but that school attendance was still comparatively poor. Continued attention should be given to building more schools for boys and girls, increasing the output of teachers and providing vocational training facilities. He commended the observations of UNESCO contained in document T/1188 to the serious consideration of the Administering Authority,

164. The representative of the United States of America stated that the achievements of the Administering Authority in the field of education during the five short years of its stewardship had already been noted by the Council. His delegation wished to indicate its confidence that the Administration would continue to provide every facility for further study abroad by Somali students and would in each remaining year at least equal its accomplishments in the past year in providing teacher training facilities and in bringing basic education facilities within the reach of the nomadic majority of the population.

165. The representative of the United Kingdom considered that the Council would wish to commend the very substantial progress which had been reported in the year under review. The figures recorded considerable increases in elementary school enrolment and in attendance at adult evening courses. He also noted that during the year there had been established a Higher Institute of Legal Economic and Social Studies.

166. The representative of Australia stated that in education, notwithstanding the great efforts already made by the Administering Authority, rather more remained to be done than had yet been accomplished. His delegation noted that the Council was indebted to UNESCO for another informative report and he suggested that the Council might refer this report to the attention of the Administering Authority.

167. The representative of Syria was pleased to note that a large number of Somalis were pursuing their studies outside the Territory, and that the problem of recruiting Somali teachers had become less difficult. He recommended that

steps be taken for the establishment of vocational, secondary and teacher-training schools outside of Mogadiscio.

168. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics felt that the success achieved by the Administration was too small to give rise to much enthusiasm since the greater part of the population remained illiterate, there were no university graduates among Somalis and only some four per cent of the school-age children attended school. He noted that schools were concentrated in the towns and that there was only one secondary school.

169. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the Administering Authority was not taking sufficient measures to increase the number of teachers; he felt that if this profession was unattractive to the Somalis it was because salaries of teachers were lower than those of the lowest officials of the Administration. He considered that the Administering Authority was obliged during the years that remained before independence was attained to devote all its attention to the development of education. The role of education was enormous. But the Soviet delegation did not make the grant of independence to Somaliland contingent upon the development of education. The Soviet delegation had already pointed out that several States with an even lower percentage of literacy had developed education at a considerably more rapid tempo after the grant of independence than the colonial and the Administering Powers were doing. The Council should recommend that larger financial allocations be devoted to the building of schools, and particularly of secondary schools, to the development of educational facilities in various areas and to the organizing of educational facilities in the nomadic areas in particular.

170. The representative of France stated that encouraging signs were to be noted in the educational field and suggested that there might be greater coverage of the school-age population, especially in regard to girls.

171. The representative of Haiti drew attention to the report of UNESCO (T/1188) which noted the efforts required to increase both urban and rural schools. The problem of teacher training still existed and careful attention should be paid to the establishment of other secondary schools. The need for a medical school was just as evident.

172. The representative of China, referring to the small percentage of school-age children attending school, the shortage of facilities for secondary and technical education, the insufficiency of the teaching staff, etc., urged the Administering Authority to take energetic steps to continue to improve the educational facilities in the Territory in line with the new study made by UNESCO.
173. The representative of Belgium wished to pay tribute to the Administering Authority for the increase which had taken place in the educational field.
174. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that particular attention would be devoted to the possibility of expanding radio services and any other means for the dissemination of education and information. He also informed the Council that as soon as there was a sufficiently large school population to justify the demand, new secondary schools would be opened in other centres of the Territory.

Development of the Somali language; use of the Arabic language

175. The representative of India drew the Council's attention to the difficulties in making Somali the common language of the Territory and was of the opinion that Somali had not yet developed to the point where it could be used wisely as a medium of instruction. The insistence on making Somali the medium of instruction against the wishes of the people presented a very great danger. He considered that the facts of geography, history and religion all pointed to Arabic as being the most suitable language of instruction; furthermore, the people had chosen it. Their wishes in this matter should be respected, recognizing at the same time that they wished to develop their own language in their own way and in their own time.
176. The representative of New Zealand stated that an unhappy feature of the educational conditions in the Territory was the almost complete absence of formal instruction among the nomadic people. In his opinion, the major reason was the complex question of the language of instruction. He associated himself with the view of the 1954 Visiting Mission. He believed that the use of indigenous languages in the education of unlettered people was a well-recognized principle.

177. The representative of China stated that he was in agreement with the view that no one was more qualified to appreciate the value of the Somali language than the Somalis themselves. However this should not in any way prejudice the present inquiry into the suitability of the Somali language as a medium of instruction in elementary schools and in fundamental education.

178. The representative of El Salvador stated that the people of Somalia were in favour of Arabic for reasons of geography, history and religion. The Somali people themselves would take a final decision when they became independent.

179. The representative of Syria stated that it was very clear that the Somalis were desirous of seeing expansion in the use of Arabic in the schools and in government. He fully agreed with the views and conclusions of the representative of India on this matter, and he expressed the hope that a recommendation would be formulated along these lines.

180. The representative of Belgium, referring to the use of the Somali language, stated that the question was not that of teaching the Somali language but of teaching both children and adults to read and write Somali if they were not familiar with any other language. This was only a technical matter and the solution proposed in this connexion had been suggested by experts.

#### Fundamental education

181. The representative of India considered that the experts on fundamental education at Dinsor were doing very valuable work. He had been impressed by the results already achieved by them.

182. The representative of India felt that the experience in French territories in the establishment of schools for nomads and in other matters affecting nomadic life should prove very useful to the Administering Authority.

183. The representative of Syria stated that he had been impressed by the fundamental education programme and he considered that its extension would be of immense value. He therefore recommended that much greater impetus be given to the establishment of a territory-wide programme of fundamental education.



184. The representative of El Salvador stated that the experiment in fundamental education was valuable and he was pleased to hear that new officials were being trained to extend this experiment to other zones of the Territory.

185. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that as soon as personnel was trained the fundamental education programme would be expanded.

-----