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SEVENTEENTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON PETITIONS

Chairman: Mr. R.A. PEACHEY (Australia)

1. The Standing Committee on Petitions established by the Trusteeship Council at the 397th meeting, tenth session, and composed of the representatives of Australia, China, El Salvador, New Zealand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, examined at its 33rd and 37th meetings, on 2 and 11 July 1952, the following petitions concerning Togoland under United Kingdom administration:

- (1) Petition from the Togoland Congress (T/PET.6/314)
- (2) Petition from Nana Atorsah Agyeman, head chief of the Nawuris, Kpandai (T/PET.6/315)
- (3) Petition from the Chairman of the Togoland Congress (T/PET.6/316)

2. Mr. M. Ensor participated in the examination as the special representative of the Administering Authority.

3. The Standing Committee submits herewith to the Council its report on these petitions, and recommends that the Council decide that no special information is required concerning the action taken on resolutions Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

4. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics voted against the present report in view of the fact that it contained draft resolutions adopted by the Committee which were unacceptable to the Delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics because in his view

those draft resolutions did not take into consideration the interests of the indigenous inhabitants and did not recommend that the Administering Authority take urgent measures to satisfy the requests of the petitioners and to put an end to the violation of the rights and interests of the indigenous populations.

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(1) PETITION FROM THE TOGOLAND CONGRESS (T/PET.6/314)

A. Summary of the petition

5. The petition is in the form of a cablegram in which it is stated that the United Kingdom Government has approved the title of Prime Minister for the leader of the Gold Coast Government and that the Territory has virtually attained Dominion status. Furthermore, the Minister for Defence and External Affairs has made an official statement on the policy and intentions of the Gold Coast Government declaring the annexation or integration of British Togoland was against the national interest and the expressed wishes of the inhabitants of Togoland. The petitioners add that tension is rising and demand that immediate action be taken to implement the General Assembly's decision of last January.^{1/}

B. Observations of the Administering Authority

6. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the allegations contained in the petition are exaggerated. He denied that the Gold Coast had virtually attained Dominion status and said that the statement of the Minister of Defence and External Affairs did not necessarily represent the official view of the Administering Authority. In any event the statement did not show that the Gold Coast Government had any improper designs on Togoland; on the contrary, the Minister of Defence and External Affairs had simply drawn the attention of Togoland to the benefits to be derived from the continued close association of their Territory with the Gold Coast and had expressed the hope that they would eventually wish to throw in their lot with the new nation being formed in the Gold Coast. He added that there does not exist any significant tension among the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territory and that the assertion of the petitioners that tension is rising is the sort of meaningless formula frequently employed by the Togoland Congress.

7. As regards the petitioners request that action be taken to implement General Assembly resolution 555 (VI), the special representative stated that

^{1/} Secretariat note: This presumably refers to General Assembly resolution 555 (VI).

/it was

it was decided to hold elections for the Joint Togoland Council on 1 or 2 July 1952. He had not as yet received any information concerning the results of those elections.

C. Action taken by the Standing Committee

8. The petition was examined and discussed at the 33rd and 37th meetings of the Standing Committee on 2 and 11 July 1952. The relevant discussion is contained in documents T/C.2/SR.33 and 37.
9. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the Committee insert in the draft resolution a paragraph whereby the Trusteeship Council would recommend that the Administering Authority establish in the Trust Territory legislative and administrative organs which would not be subordinate to the organs created on the basis of the union of the Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration with the adjacent British colony and that, with this objective in view, the Administering Authority take legislative and other steps guaranteeing participation of the indigenous population in the legislative, executive and judicial organs of the Trust Territory. As a result of the Committee's rejection of this proposal by 4 votes to 1 with 1 abstention, he was not in a position to support the draft resolution.
10. At its 37th meeting the Committee adopted by 5 votes to 1, the draft resolution which is reproduced below as resolution (1).

(3) PETITION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TOGOLAND CONGRESS (T/PET.6/316)

A. Summary of the petition

19. The petitioner, in a cablegram, states that the Togoland Congress and statutory bodies in Southern Togoland have submitted a resolution suspending the registration for local government elections in the Trust Territory, until such time as a Joint Council has been established. Adding that 53 natural rulers, including chiefs from the Northern Territories, signed the resolution, he states that the Ministers for Local Government, Defence and External Affairs must bear the responsibility for any consequences of the disregard for democratic principles in Togoland. He concludes by stating that the people of Togoland are mobilized for any emergency.

B. Observations of the Administering Authority

20. The special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the Togoland Congress had adopted a resolution to the effect that the elections to the Joint Togoland Council should precede the elections to the local councils. A similar decision had been taken by the Southern Togoland Council but had subsequently been reversed.

21. He explained that with the exception of the Yingor local council, which had already been established, no other elections of local councils in the Southern Section would be held until the middle of August by which time the Joint Togoland Council would not only have been elected but would probably have held its first meeting.

22. He added that the Togoland Congress did not represent the Northern Section and that, with the exception of some Nanjuros and Nawuris, the people of the Northern Section were not represented on the Togoland Congress.

23. As regards the final statement of the petitioner to the effect that the people of Togoland are mobilized for any emergency, the special representative drew attention to his observations on a similar statement contained in petition T/PET.6/314.^{1/}

^{1/} See paragraph 6 above.

C. Action taken by the Standing Committee

24. The petition was examined and discussed at the 33rd and 37th meetings of the Standing Committee on 2 and 11 July 1952. The relevant discussion is contained in documents T/C.2/SR.33 and 37.
25. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the Committee insert in the draft resolution a paragraph whereby the Trusteeship Council would recommend that the Administering Authority establish in the Trust Territory legislative and administrative organs which would not be subordinate to the organs created on the basis of the union of the Trust Territory of Togoland under British administration with the adjacent British colony and that, with this objective in view, the Administering Authority take legislative and other steps guaranteeing participation of the indigenous population in the legislative, executive and judicial organs of the Trust Territory. As a result of the Committee's rejection of this proposal by 4 votes to 1 with 1 abstention, he was not in a position to support the draft resolution.
26. At its 37th meeting, the Committee adopted by 5 votes to 1, the draft resolution which is reproduced below as resolution (3).

RESOLUTION (1)

PETITION FROM THE TOGOLAND CONGRESS (T/PET.6/314) CONCERNING
TOGOLAND UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

Acting under Article 87 b of the Charter and in accordance with its rules of procedure,

Having accepted and examined at its eleventh session the petition from The Togoland Congress (T/PET.6/314) in consultation with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the Administering Authority concerned, which designated Mr. M. Ensor as special representative,

Having taken note of the oral statement of the special representative, in particular that:

- (a) the Gold Coast has not virtually attained Dominion status,
- (b) the statement of the Minister for Defence and External Affairs did not show that the Gold Coast Government had any improper designs on Togoland,
- (c) there does not exist any significant tension among the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territory,
- (d) it was decided to hold elections for the Joint Togoland Council on 1 or 2 July 1952.

The Trusteeship Council

1. Draws the attention of the petitioners to the observations of the Administering Authority;
2. Further draws the attention of the petitioners to the recommendation concerning administrative arrangements between Togoland under United Kingdom administration and the Gold Coast adopted by the Council at its eleventh session;^{1/}
3. Considers that the request of the petitioners concerning implementation of resolution 555 (VI) of the General Assembly is being met;

^{1/} If any.

4. Informs the petitioners that, pursuant to the above-mentioned resolution, a United Nations Visiting Mission charged with investigating conditions in the Trust Territory will visit Togoland under British administration during September 1952;
5. Invites the Secretary-General to inform the Administering Authority and the petitioners of this resolution in accordance with rule 93 of the Rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council.

RESOLUTION (2).

PETITION FROM NANA ATORSAH AGYEMAN, HEAD CHIEF OF THE NAWURIS,
KPANDAI (T/PET.6/315) CONCERNING TOGOLAND
UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

Acting under Article 87 b of the Charter and in accordance with its rules of procedure,

Having accepted and examined at its eleventh session the petition from Nana Atorsah Agyeman, Head Chief of the Nawuris, Kpandai (T/PET.6/315) in consultation with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the Administering Authority concerned, which designated Mr. M. Ensor as special representative,

Having taken note of the oral statement of the special representative, in particular that:

(a) the Nanjuro and Nawuri tribesmen failed to register for the elections to the Kpandai local council until after the prescribed time limit for registration,

(b) the Administering Authority has decided to hold new elections in the two electoral wards predominantly inhabited by the Nanjuro and Nawuri tribes,

The Trusteeship Council

1. Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority;
2. Notes with satisfaction the decision of the Administering Authority to give the inhabitants of the two electoral wards occupied by the Nanjuro and Nawuri tribes a further opportunity to participate in the elections to the Kpandai local council;
3. Hopes that the indigenous inhabitants of these two wards will co-operate with the Administering Authority by participating in the election;
4. Invites the Secretary-General to inform the Administering Authority and the petitioner of this resolution in accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council.

/RESOLUTION (3)

RESOLUTION (3)

PETITION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TOGOLAND CONGRESS (T/PET.6/316)
CONCERNING TOGOLAND UNDER UNITED KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION

Acting under Article 87 b of the Charter and in accordance with its rules of procedure,

Having accepted and examined at its eleventh session the petition from the Chairman of the Togoland Congress (T/PET.6/316) in consultation with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the Administering Authority concerned, which designated Mr. M. Ensor as special representative,

Having taken note of the oral statement of the special representative, in particular that the Togoland Congress did not in any way represent the Northern Section of Togoland under British administration and with the exception of the Yingor local council which has already been established no other elections of local councils in the Southern Section will be held until the Joint Togoland Council has been elected and probably not until after that body has held its first meeting.

The Trusteeship Council

1. Draws the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority;
2. Notes that the request of the petitioner has been largely met;
3. Considers that under the circumstances no recommendation by the Council is necessary;
4. Invites the Secretary-General to inform the Administering Authority and the petitioner of this resolution in accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council.
