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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York  
on Friday, 4 June 1954, at 2 p.m.

President:

Mr. URQUIA

(El Salvador)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.528 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 789 (VIII): CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION:  
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (T/1120) [Agenda item 13] (continued)

GENERAL PROCEDURE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL [Agenda item 8]

(a) SEVENTY-SIXTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (T/L.465)

(b) SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR THE EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS: PROPOSAL  
BY SYRIA (T/L.446) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): As the members of the Council recall, the situation at the close of yesterday's meeting was as follows: we had decided that the three points which make up the first two items of the agenda would be studied today, after the long discussion in which a certain number of members of the Council took part following the presentation by the Secretary-General of his report on the control and limitation of documentation (T/1120).

I also recall to you the proposal that I formulated with a view to submitting the first point with respect to the reduction of documentation itself and the Syrian proposal (T/L.446) concerning the supplementary information for the examination of annual reports to a special sub-committee charged with the study of that question.

As regards the seventy-sixth report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.465) it has not been joined to the first two because the Council considered that it would be useless to give this examination to a new sub-committee while our organ is seized of it.

Moreover, various speakers have announced their intention to speak in the debate today on the Syrian proposal, among whom were Mr. Hoo, Assistant Secretary-General, and the representative of Syria.

Mr. HOO (Assistant Secretary-General): I listened with great interest to the comments of members of the Council to the proposals of the Secretary-General concerning the documentation of the Council, and I was pleased to note that these proposals have been commended by the majority of the members of the Council. There have been a number of criticisms of detail, some of which seem to be based on misunderstanding of the proposals, and I therefore wish to clarify certain points.

First, the suggestion made by the Secretary-General that the drafting committee should prepare draft conclusions and recommendations of the Council on the basis of written proposals by delegations does not mean that it would be necessary for delegations to submit such written proposals separately from their speeches in the general debate. In fact, as was suggested by some delegations, it would serve the same purpose if delegations, having made their statements in the debates, would conclude them with a formulation of those proposals which they wished the drafting committee to consider. Indeed, this is the practice already adopted by some delegations.

Secondly, the Secretary-General's suggestion does not mean that these written proposals should be considered outside the context of the opinions expressed by all delegations in the course of the discussions in the Council. The terms of reference of the drafting committee would still be to propose, for the consideration of the Council, conclusions and recommendations which it considered as reflecting the majority opinion of the Council. And for this purpose the verbatim record of such meetings of the Council would be available to the drafting committee.

With respect to the proposal of the Secretary-General that the written observations of individual members to be included in the report of the Council to the General Assembly should be prepared in succinct manner and so as to avoid duplication, I wish to reiterate that these observations are, in accordance with the current directive of the Council, prepared in a very lengthy manner and occupy nearly one-half of the report of the Council on any one Territory.

In fact, they duplicate and are longer than the record of the discussions contained in the official records of the Council. Under the Secretary-General's proposal, no limit whatsoever would be placed on the right of any delegation to have its opinion on any subject included in the report of the Council, but the proposal of the Secretary-General would change the present practice of almost automatic reproduction in that report of the lengthy and diffuse material prepared <sup>by the Secretariat</sup> in the first instance for a different purpose, namely, to help the drafting committee to ascertain the various shades of opinion in the Council so as to formulate draft conclusions and recommendations of the Council.

With respect to the working papers on outline of conditions in the Trust Territories, I wish first to state that these papers, called working papers, as they are now drafted are not summaries of the report of the Administering Authorities, but are preliminary drafts of the reports of the Council to the General Assembly on the Territories in question. They are therefore drawn up in accordance with the directives of General Assembly resolution 473 (V) so as to include all pertinent information on conditions in the Territory, whether derived from the report of the Administering Authority or from the reports of the visiting mission or from the petitions, as well as information concerning the implementation of General Assembly and Trusteeship Council recommendations. It is realized that it is of convenience to members in preparing for the examination of the annual report to have these papers, and for that reason they have been circulated to members shortly before the opening of discussions on conditions in a particular Territory in the Council. But they are not intended to be, nor are they, for consideration by the Council during its examination of annual reports. They are prepared to facilitate the work of the drafting Committee in drafting the chapter on conditions in the Trust Territories and are used as the basis of the Council's report to the General Assembly.

As regards the two suggestions put forward by the Secretary-General for the changing of the form of the annual reports, I will clarify only alternative A, since there appears to have been no support in the Council for alternative B. The essence of this proposal is certainly not, as has been suggested by one delegation, that the Council should conduct a detailed examination of the conditions in any one Territory only once every three years -- still less that the



Administering Authorities should be required to provide detailed information on the Territory only at such an interval. The procedure for examination of annual reports would remain unchanged. The difference from the present procedure would lie only in that in the Council's report to the General Assembly a full description of conditions in the Territory would be given only in the years when the report of a visiting mission relating to that Territory was examined. However, in the intervening years the Council would still report on every significant event or development that occurred during the interval, and the necessary factual background would be supplied for every conclusion and recommendation which the Council adopted.

It has been suggested that the proposal affecting the form of the report of the Council to the General Assembly should not be considered in this Council, since the report is being prepared in accordance with a resolution of the General Assembly. It seems to me, however, quite appropriate and expedient for the Council to consider the detailed implications of any change in the form of its report and to bring them to the attention of the General Assembly. I would remind the members of this Council that several members of the Fourth Committee at the last session of the General Assembly expressed apprehension at the continuing increase in size of the Council's report and made suggestions for changes in its form. I am sure that any proposal which the Council might wish to make along the lines suggested by the Secretary-General would receive a ready acceptance in the General Assembly.

Finally, in the name of the Secretary-General I wish to once again urge upon members of this Council the utmost importance, not only from the point of view of the economies to be achieved, but also from the point of view of the increased usefulness of the report of the Council to the General Assembly, to adopt procedures which will enable the Council to prepare its report in a more concise form.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I wish to thank the Assistant Secretary-General for the statement which he has just made.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): I must say that I was not altogether happy at first about the suggestion made yesterday that the Syrian draft resolution, which has been held over from our last session, should be disposed of simply by sending it to the proposed committee which is to consider the Secretary-General's report on document and other procedural matters. I was not happy about this because the Syrian proposal has a somewhat different and special history from these other proposals. It will be recalled that we submitted this proposal several months ago at the thirteenth session of the Council, after we had raised the same question more than once as an informal suggestion in connexion with the examination of annual reports.

I do not think it is necessary again to repeat at any length the point at issue. Very briefly, the idea is that all of us in this Council would be able more thoroughly, more efficiently and more intelligently to study conditions in each Trust Territory if we were given in advance a statement setting out the more important events and developments in each Territory since the end of the period covered by the annual report, instead of having to wait until the very last minute when the special representative makes his opening statement.

It will also be recalled that we put this proposal in very moderate and, I would say, gentle terms, merely asking the Administering Authorities to give their favourable consideration to this idea. It would have done them no harm to have accepted that resolution on the spot, since it would only have committed them to consider the idea sympathetically. But the fact is that they, or some of them at least, resisted it at that time. I do not know how many of the Administering Authorities still resist it today. They resisted it very politely perhaps because there were other Syrian proposals which they were resisting much more strongly and much more vigorously. But the fact is that they resisted it and asked for time to think it over.

Enough time has been given to all of us, and I feel certain that the Administering Authorities will now be able to make up their minds. I hope indeed that some of them may have come to a favourable decision and may have voluntarily decided to go ahead with the idea and that even at this session we shall get statements in advance as to recent developments, for instance, in the Pacific Territories.

I must say, however, that I regret that this does not seem to be true of the first of the Territories on our present agenda. We are due to start discussion on a Territory today. I have seen no sign of an advance statement covering recent developments in the Territory, and it appears that we shall get this information in the same old way at the very last minute.

I mention this case, and I want to be sure that there is no reflection on any Administering Authority at all. I am not singling out the item which we might consider later this afternoon. But we ought to hear without further delay the final opinions of the Administering Authorities on this matter.

There is nothing mysterious in the Syrian draft resolution (T/L.466). It speaks for itself, and the only operative paragraph in it reads: "Invites the Administering Authorities to give favourable consideration to this matter" -- that is, to the matter of submitting in advance a statement of the most recent and most important events.

I trust that the representatives of the Administering Authorities in this Council will see fit to adopt the Syrian proposal unanimously.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): I was grateful to the representative of Syria at the last session of the Council when he consented to defer the consideration of this matter to the present session. I am now able to assure him that I am prepared to vote in favour of his proposal, which I may not have been able to do at the last session.

I would like, however, to make one point. A statement such as he suggests, which must necessarily be a brief one, could only serve as a background to the discussions relating to the Territory and these discussions could only be properly and usefully conducted on the basis of the comprehensive reports prepared in accordance with the terms of the Charter. While not prepared to undertake any obligations in addition to those carefully thought out and provided for in the Charter, the United Kingdom delegation is always ready to take any practical steps which would assist members of the Council in their deliberations. It is for that reason that we are willing to support the proposal now made by the representative of Syria.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): My delegation would like to make some preliminary comments on the draft resolution presented by the representative of Syria (T/L.446). This draft resolution invites the Administering Authorities to give favourable consideration to the submission, approximately one month in advance of the relevant session of the Trusteeship Council, of written statements outlining such of the more important events and developments as have occurred in the Trust Territories in the period between the end of the year covered by the annual report and the examination of that report in the Council.

The New Zealand delegation has always endeavoured to assist the Council in its examination of the Trust Territory of Western Samoa by making available the fullest information on conditions in Western Samoa. We shall continue to follow that policy.

Technically, I suppose the Council is only concerned in its annual examination of conditions in Trust Territories with the period covered by the annual report, and I believe that formally no obligation lies on any Administering Authority to present the Council with supplementary information covering a period more recent than that covered by the annual report. However, it is a well-established practice that special representatives of the Administering Powers, in their opening statements to the Council, endeavour, in addition to pointing out the important events that have occurred in the Trust Territory during the year under review, to bring the Council up to date on any developments of significance which may have occurred since the period covered by the annual report. In this way, the Council's work has no doubt been facilitated.

I believe that the intention of the representative of Syria in moving his proposal was simply to ensure that the Council had at its disposal the latest information on any Trust Territory in good time for that information to be carefully studied.

I assume from the first paragraph of the draft resolution, which mentions in particular the six African Trust Territories, that the representative of Syria is mainly concerned with the situation which arises from an earlier decision of this Council. I refer to the decision that the Council would postpone the examination of the reports on certain Trust Territories until one year after the period covered by the annual report. This decision was taken to give members of the Council, of the Secretariat and of the specialized agencies sufficient time to examine the annual reports before their discussion in the Council. There are two annual reports, however, which, under the present system, are examined approximately six months after the period to which they refer. These are the annual reports on Italian Somaliland and Western Samoa. I may be correct in believing that the general intent of the Syrian draft resolution is primarily directed to the examination of all other annual reports, which are taken up by the Council a year after the period covered by them.



In our case compliance with the Syrian proposal would mean that a supplementary statement on Western Samoa would normally be transmitted by 1 May in each year, whereas, in accordance with the rules of procedure, the annual report is not formally due to be submitted until the end of June in the same year. In practice the New Zealand Government makes a considerable effort to have the annual report submitted before the end of May. Thus the curious anomaly would arise of the submission of the supplementary report before the submission of the annual report. I would not like to assume that the task of preparing the supplementary report would be a welcome one to the very busy but limited administrative officers in Western Samoa.

For these reasons my delegation cannot, unfortunately, regard with any enthusiasm the proposal put forward by the representative of Syria, but I repeat that we are prepared to co-operate fully with the Council, as we have done in the past, in making available all reports and useful information which will help the Council in its examination of conditions in Western Samoa. I should like at this stage merely to reserve my Government's position with regard to the submission of supplementary information as proposed by the draft resolution submitted by the Syrian representative in the event that that proposal is adopted.

Mr. QUIROS (El Salvador) (interpretation from Spanish): At our last session my delegation expressed its sympathy with the draft resolution presented so eloquently by the representative of Syria, and gave its reasons for considering that proposal with favour. We said that in effect the presentation of a statement by the Administering Authorities relating to the most important events and developments in a given territory during the time between the end of the period covered by the annual report and the date when that report was considered would be of great value to the Council. It would greatly facilitate the work of members of the Council and would enable them to form a better picture of what had happened in a territory. Since we stated our views in this connexion at the last session there is no need for us to expatiate thereon now.



We believe furthermore that, as has been said by the representative of Syria, this is a draft resolution which contains no binding commitments to be undertaken by the Administering Authorities. It is simply an invitation issued to them and asking them to give favourable consideration to this matter. I was, therefore, very happy to hear from the representative of the United Kingdom that his delegation had no objection to supporting this draft resolution. However, as I listened to the representative of New Zealand, certain doubts arose in my mind with regard to the appropriateness of such a statement in connexion with territories such as the Pacific Territories, the reports on which are considered comparatively soon after the end of the period to which they refer. It is my view, therefore, that we must take into consideration what has been said by the representative of New Zealand. But in any case my delegation will support the draft resolution because it feels that in the case of all the other Territories, and especially those in Africa where the reports are considered as much as a year after the period with which they deal, it will be very useful to have a statement in advance giving details of the most important events and developments. This would, as I have said, greatly facilitate the work of the Council and would spare us the necessity of putting many questions here arising from the lack of advance information with regard to events which have taken place. Finally, it would facilitate the work of the special representative himself because his task would be considerably lightened if he had not to answer questions already satisfied by the advance statement. If we had such a statement about one month in advance, for example, that would help the Council greatly. Therefore, if the Syrian draft resolution comes to a vote at this meeting my delegation will vote in favour of it.

Mr. GUIDOTTI (Italy): I should like to refer briefly to what has been said by the representative of Syria, and to say also that I have taken his remarks exactly in the spirit in which they were made -- that is to say that I have taken them as reflecting in no way upon my delegation or upon the administration of Somaliland.

I gather that it has been the custom of the Council to have the special representative for each Territory give any information that was available relating to the period intervening between the end of the year covered by the report and the date of the meeting at which the report itself was being examined. This practice has certainly been followed by my delegation every year up until now, and I am glad to note that it is being followed also this year. The statement which the Administrator of Somaliland, Mr. Martino, will make as soon as the President invites him to this table, will do exactly that. In other words, it will cover the period between the end of 1953 and today.

As for the proposal contained in the Syrian draft resolution, I should like to state that while my delegation would be pleased to circulate such statements a few days in advance it must, nevertheless, reserve its position with regard to the possibility of introducing real supplementary reports on the interim period. The question is still under consideration in Rome, but I feel that there is some perplexity about the practical possibility of producing such reports in time.

Mr. PIGNON (France) (interpretation from French): I should like first to assure the representative of Syria that my Government has examined his proposal on its merits, without connecting it in any way with other proposals submitted by the delegation of Syria during the thirteenth session of the Trusteeship Council.

I admit willingly that the formula used in the Syrian draft resolution does not bind the Administering Powers in any way and that it affords them a certain latitude. But I should like the representative of Syria to acknowledge for his part the fact that voting in favour of his proposal would amount to assuming at least a moral obligation, and that when one is not sure of being able to fulfil an obligation it is not honest to vote in favour of a proposal which represents such an obligation. It is impossible for my Government to assume additional obligations, for various reasons of principle and fact.

As all members of the Council know, it is only after a comparatively long time has elapsed beyond the end of the given year that it is possible to assemble the details of what has taken place in that year in, for example, the financial field, the economic field, and so on. The submission of a supplementary report would represent a considerable burden for the Administration.

Nevertheless, my Government has asked me to inform the Trusteeship Council that it has authorized its permanent representative to the United Nations to distribute in advance the new material which, traditionally, is contained in the statement of the special representative. I understand this to mean that, if possible, the permanent French delegation in New York will, ten or fifteen days before the discussion of the annual report relating to a Territory under French Trusteeship, endeavour to transmit to members of the Council a supplementary document which will take the place to a large extent of the statement normally made by the special representative. In this case, the statement of the special representative will be limited to a simple commentary.

Mr. FORSYTH (Australia): We have nothing to hide in New Guinea. We report each year and we have had two visiting missions there. Those visiting missions saw everything they wanted to see, and anything they wanted to hear they had access to. Nor have we any objection to supplying the most recent possible information although we do reserve the Charter position that the basis of the examination of the Administration is the annual report. We have, in fact, been in the habit of supplying the most recent information.

At each session, when New Guinea has been under consideration, the special representative has made an opening statement bringing the Council completely up to date -- that is to say, covering the gap between the period of the annual report and the date on which the Territory is examined by the Council. We feel that this meets the objectives of the proposal of the representative of Syria. We do not think it necessary or desirable to produce a formal supplementary report in addition to the annual report in advance of the meetings of the Trusteeship Council. In fact, the special representative's opening statement is more up to date than any such prepared statement could be. Like the representative of New Zealand, I will be unable, therefore, to support the proposal of the representative of Syria.

It is true that the Syrian proposal is only an invitation to consider, but we have had several weeks since he originally tabled his proposal. My Government has in fact considered this idea as have the Governments, no doubt, of all the other Administering Authorities here. My Government has considered it and does not favour this proposal; it would, therefore, be most illogical for me as its representative to support an invitation to it to consider the matter, and I am, therefore, quite unable to support it.

I am sure that my friend, the representative of Syria, will understand our position. There is no hostility about this matter and there is no desire to deny information, the most recent and up-to-date information. The proof of that will appear, as in the case of Somaliland, when the special representative for New Guinea arrives and makes his opening statement. It will cover the most recent information since the period with which the annual report deals, and there will be plenty of time, I think, during the period of

interrogation for the representative of Syria and all other representatives to study the text of what the special representative said in his opening statement. There will be no lack of time for the Council to bring itself fully up to date. For these reasons, my Government considers the proposal an unnecessary one, and I am therefore instructed not to support it.

I should like to add that I do not see any reason for this question to go to a sub-committee. We have had the proposal in our minds for quite a long time. Everybody is perfectly familiar with all its implications. Moreover, we have in front of us a concrete resolution. What more can a sub-committee do? What can it add to what we already have? I believe the matter could be dealt with by a vote at this meeting today, and I sincerely hope that this course will be taken in the interests of saving time, manpower and documentation.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): My delegation will vote for the Syrian draft resolution. If it is adopted, we will do our best next year to submit the supplementary information on the Pacific Islands in advance.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): My delegation finds itself in approximately the same position as the Australian delegation. The draft resolution submitted by the representative of Syria is, of course, drafted in rather moderate terms; it simply asks the Governments of the Administering Authorities to give favourable consideration to this matter.

The Belgian Government, after having studied the question, has arrived at the conclusion that the supplementary report which it is proposed to be furnished one month in advance of each relevant session of the Trusteeship Council -- in our case it would be the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi -- is not desirable in principle or in fact. We have assumed the obligation to submit an annual report. The drawing-up of this report represents a considerable amount of work which, very often, prevents the carrying out of other work. If it were necessary to submit a supplementary report that would constitute an additional task which the Administering Authority is not in a position to perform.



On the other hand, we have always made very effort to keep the Council abreast of developments which have occurred since 31 December of the year covered by the annual report, and the special representative in his statement has always made an effort to avoid having the members of the Council make observations on situations which have been overtaken by later developments. When important legislation has been introduced during the year, when an important event has taken place during the course of the year, the special representative informs the Trusteeship Council before the beginning of the discussion of the report. To go beyond that would, in my opinion, be more inconvenient than it would be advantageous. If we prepared a supplementary report covering the period since the end of the year, we would probably have a discussion on that supplementary report while the question before the Council is actually to consider in detail the complete report of the situation as it appears at the end of the year under review. In our view, therefore, there would be no advantage to drawing up supplementary reports which would be submitted one month in advance of the time of the meeting of the Trusteeship Council.

In view of this, it is impossible for us to vote in favour of the draft resolution of Syria.

Mr. DAYAL (India): The proposal contained in the draft resolution tabled by our colleague from Syria is in fact a very simple one. In our view, it is both timely and helpful.

In order to enable this Council to discharge the heavy responsibilities placed upon it by the General Assembly, it is essential for us to have the most accurate information, the most complete information and the most up-to-date information about each Territory. It is to enable the Council to have the most up-to-date information that this proposal by our Syrian colleague has been introduced.

It has been said on previous occasions that special representatives often find themselves in the position of being subjected to a lengthy cross-examination. That questioning becomes necessary because the information at the disposal of the members of the Council is often incomplete and out of date. The Syrian draft resolution is intended to correct that situation. If adopted, it will,



I think, reduce the pressure on the special representatives and will to that extent help the Administering Powers and help the members of this Council to arrive at satisfactory conclusions on the progress made in each Territory.

The resolution has been couched in extremely moderate language. It merely "invites the Administering Authorities to give favourable consideration to this matter". We greatly appreciate the spirit of conciliation and compromise and co-operation which has been shown by the United Kingdom representative, and my delegation very much hopes that all the other Administering Powers will show a similar spirit of co-operation.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): My delegation will support the draft resolution submitted by the representative of Syria because we believe that it is well-founded.

The special representatives do, of course, make statements concerning the situation in the Trust Territories as it has developed since the preparation of the reports submitted by the Administering Authorities. These statements take account of everything that may have intervened during the period between the year on which the report is based and the time at which it is submitted, and these statements of the special representatives are appreciated by the members of the Council. What the representative of Syria proposes in his draft resolution is that written statements outlining the intervening developments in the Trust Territories should be submitted in sufficient time to make it possible for delegations to study the recent events.

Various reactions to this proposal have been expressed by members of the Council. Some are prepared to support the draft resolution; others say that the instructions of their Governments make it impossible for them to vote in favour of it. My delegation does not see why the Governments concerned should find any difficulty in supporting the proposal. The work involved would not be very considerable. Whether the information is submitted in printed form or not does not really matter; what we want is to have the information in sufficient time for us to be able to study it thoroughly.

My delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution because we believe that its adoption and implementation would facilitate the work of the Council and, as stated by the representative of India, would obviate the necessity for the lengthy questions which are asked the special representatives by various delegations. These lengthy questions result from the fact that one wishes to obtain as detailed information as possible. They are put when we are pressed for time and in an effort to obtain as much information as possible. If we had one month in advance of each relevant session, as the draft resolution suggests, in which to study the information, it would be of great advantage to representatives. Of course, if it should be impossible to adhere to this period of time, no one would be criticized for submitting the information a little later. The main idea is that members of the Council should have time to study the written reports.

I should like to believe that, if the draft resolution is adopted, the Governments which have made certain reservations will make every effort to submit supplementary reports at a reasonable time.

Mr. S.S. LIU (China): My delegation believes that the draft resolution presented by the representative of Syria is a reasonable one. I share the opinions which have been expressed in support of it and I also appreciate the spirit in which a number of Administering Authorities have reacted to the proposal.

We have been discussing the reduction of documentation. I think that if anything could reduce documentation, it would be the adoption and implementation of the draft resolution because, if a supplementary report is submitted by the Administering Authorities it will do away with the up-to-date information which is usually contained in the opening statements of the special representatives, and in this manner the records will be shortened very considerably. I think that is one way of reducing documentation.

However, I differ with the last point mentioned by the representative of Belgium. He said that our job was to consider only the annual reports -- that is to say, the conditions in each Trust Territory during the period covered by the report -- and that we should not go beyond the confines of that year. That is, of course, true, but in actual practice we have always gone beyond that year and we have always had up-to-date information in the opening statements of the special representatives, and we have always considered them at the same time. Therefore, there would be no difference whether a supplementary report were submitted or not. As it is now, when no supplementary report is submitted, the same information is contained in the opening statements of the special representatives. I do not think that there would be any difference at all.

For all these reasons my delegation will be pleased to vote in favour of the draft resolution before us.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): I should like to make a few observations on the various comments that have been made.

In the first place, there seems to be some misunderstanding. I have heard repeatedly from representatives the words "supplementary report", "formal report". If one reads my draft resolution it will be seen that it contains no such words. It says "written statements". They are not formal reports; they are written statements. Therefore, I hope that all representatives will understand that we are not asking for an additional report such as that submitted by the Administering Authorities every year.

With respect to a remark made by the representative of New Zealand, naturally we do not wish to have a written statement containing more recent information before we receive the annual report. The report comes first. If there is anything to be added, we shall welcome it; if there is nothing, no one is obliged to do anything about it.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank those delegations -- particularly the United Kingdom, El Salvador, the United States, India, Haiti, China, Italy and others -- which have supported my proposal and understood the spirit which motivated my delegation in submitting it.

It has been argued -- and I do not need to repeat it -- that it will be helpful in many ways. What concerns us here is that when the special representative makes his statement in the Council, we should proceed immediately to question him. We finish the questioning in a day or two; then we have to make our comments. If any important events have taken place in the Trust Territory which were referred to by the special representative, I do not believe that anyone would be expected to reach his conclusions within forty-eight hours.

Therefore, for all that has been said here by my friends who have supported the proposal, I do ask my friends who have not accepted that spirit to reconsider their position in order to have a unanimous vote on the proposal.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): As no one else wishes to speak I should like briefly to refer to the situation in which we find ourselves.

Yesterday, we had a long discussion with regard to the first point, namely, the control and limitation of documentation; and today, we have referred to the question of supplementary information for the examination of annual reports: proposal by Syria. With regard to the proposal by Syria, a considerable number of representatives have stated that they are now in a position to vote either for or against it. Therefore, it seems to me that the Committee which was suggested by the Chair might very well limit itself to a study of the question of the control and limitation of documentation. Of course, a majority of delegations are now in a position to vote on this Syrian proposal. This is a simple document which does not require further study by a committee.

If this is the case and is accepted by other representatives here, are we now in a position to vote? We could vote first on the designation of a committee which would undertake to study the Secretary-General's report on control and limitation of documentation. Once we have decided that, we could proceed to vote on the Syrian proposal with the understanding, of course, that the committee would simply study the question of control and limitation of documentation and the Syrian proposal would be voted on this very afternoon here in the Council.

As there is no objection to this procedure, we shall now vote on the proposal to establish a committee to study the report of the Secretary-General on the control and limitation of documentation and report back to the Council.

The proposal was adopted by 8 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Consequently we have established the Committee. I propose the following four members for that Committee: Belgium, India, Syria and the United States of America. As there is no objection, the Committee is so established.

We shall now vote on the proposal of Syria with respect to supplementary information for the examination of annual reports.

The proposal was adopted by 8 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We now come to a consideration of item 2 (a), general procedure of the Trusteeship Council, seventy-sixth report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.465). As you can see in this document, the Standing Committee on Petitions makes several considerations and finally, in paragraph 24 on pages 8 and 9 of the English text, it proposes certain modifications in the rules of procedure of the Council.

I now invite the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Petitions to make any statement he wishes with regard to this report. The document is now submitted to the Council for its consideration, especially with regard to the draft resolution contained on pages 8 and 9.

Mr. MASSONET (Belgium)(Chairman, Standing Committee on Petitions) (interpretation from French): Document T/L.465 which you have before you is the report of the Standing Committee on Petitions concerning procedure for the examination of petitions. That report was drawn up by the Committee in the light of the provisions of resolution 467 (XI) of the Council. The Council fixed the terms of reference of the Committee as follows:

"The Trusteeship Council,

"Having considered the report of the Committee on General Procedure,

"Decides

"1. To approve the report of the Committee;

"2. To adopt provisionally the amendments proposed therein to rules 19, 24, 39, 41, 72, 84, 85, 86 and 90 of the rules of procedure and to reconsider them in the light of experience at the twelfth regular session of the Council;

"3. To invite the Standing Committee on Petitions to report to the Council at its twelfth regular session on the effectiveness of the new rules of procedure affecting the handling of petitions which have been provisionally approved by the present resolution."



This resolution 467 (XI), therefore, with respect to the examination of petitions, concerns articles 24, 84, 85, 86 and 90. The members of the Council will find in part E of the report under the title "Draft resolution" the modifications which the Committee suggests that the Council adopt with respect to paragraph 4 of rule 86 and paragraphs 2 and 4 of rule 90. This suggestion implies, naturally, that the Committee does not propose amendments with regard to rules 24, 84, 85 and the other paragraphs of rules 86 and 90 provisionally adopted at the eleventh session of the Trusteeship Council.

The considerations which led the Committee to make this proposal will be found in the body of the report and were drawn up by the Committee in the course of five meetings.

I wish to draw the attention of the Council to certain practical suggestions which will be found in document T/L.465. In the first place, in paragraph 8, in order to reduce the time interval between the receipt of petitions and the drawing up of observations, the Committee proposes that the Secretariat should have authority to send directly to the Government of the Territory a copy of the petition. This will be effected at the moment when the Secretariat transmits the petition to the Administering Authority.

The second practical suggestion will be found in paragraph 20. It wishes to annex to the working document of each Territory a resumé of the different general petitions and the communications which have interesting elements with respect to the study of the entire situation of the Territory.

Mr. FORSYTH (Australia): I do not wish to speak at any length on this item. Members of my delegation have been associated with the work of the Petitions Committee over long periods, and we are fully appreciative of the arduous nature of its work. We know that the volume of petitions has delayed the presentation of this report, but we are glad that it is now available and, moreover, that it has not been found necessary to make any substantial recommendations.

We are called upon to adopt a draft resolution which is contained on pages 8 and 9 of the report. This draft resolution gives formal approval to the recommendations of the Committee, and follows this up by making the necessary changes in the rules of procedure. My delegation is prepared to support this draft resolution, but we would wish to make some general observations which we consider necessary.

We note, first of all, that the report, besides containing recommendations, also contains certain views, suggestions and expressions of hope. In other words, there is somewhat more in the report itself than is reflected in the draft resolution.

We would agree with the general observations of the report that the scope of the powers of the Petitions Committee is sufficiently broad to give it the necessary means for the thorough examination of petitions. The Petitions Committee is not, of course, a court of law with powers of hearing evidence on the spot; indeed, it functions thousands of miles away from the source of petitions. But, within its scope and within the experience of members of my delegation, considerable time and pains have been taken in assessing and reaching decisions on petitions.

My delegation appreciates the need for submitting written observations on petitions as early as possible, and accepts the recommendation to increase the time-limit from two to three months, as contained in paragraph 7 of the report and paragraph 2 (a) of the draft resolution. As far as my country is concerned, we would draw attention to the difficulties of communication with the Island of Nauru and within the Territory of New Guinea. While we accept the

recommendation in question, we are bound to point out that there may still be exceptional cases in which the Administering Authority may not be able to submit information on time, and to this extent we would have some reservations to make. However, for our part we will do our utmost to see that such eventualities do not arise.

We can also appreciate the suggestion that it would be helpful in shortening the interval between the receipt of a petition and the submission of observations if the Secretariat were to despatch a copy of the petition to the Government of the Territory concerned at the same time as the petition is formally transmitted to the Administering Authority. It may, however, be even more rapid if the Secretariat, instead of sending the petition direct to the Government of a Territory, were to send it to the office of the delegation in question in New York for onward transmission to the Territory. For our part, we would prefer this practice, and as the suggestion in paragraph 8 may not be a "recommendation" in the strict sense, we would assume that the Secretariat would consult us as occasion arose.

As to the observations themselves, we appreciate the need for making observations as complete and as clear as possible and accept the proposed change in the rules of procedure to this effect. It is often difficult for the Administering Authority to make these observations as complete as they would like, particularly since some of the petitions may require a considerable number of enquiries.

We agree with the proposal to amend the rules of procedure to enable the Standing Committee on Petitions to meet as often as necessary, depending on the volume of its work. In other words, we agree that the Committee should be able to arrange its work to fit in with the convenience of its members and of the members of the Trusteeship Council. We do not, however, see an easy way of overcoming the difficulty presented by the fact that the special representatives cannot be available for meetings held between sessions of the Council. We would also draw attention to the difficulty which members of the Committee itself may find in having meetings of the Committee in between sessions of the Council, as they invariably have work and meetings of a different nature to attend to during these periods. It seems to my delegation that it will be necessary to hold Committee meetings for the most part during or near the time of Council meetings.

We note another recommendation to the effect that summaries of general petitions should be contained in an annex to the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on conditions in the Territories. We are not inclined to question this, although we would have thought it possible for delegations to make their own classifications of petitions circulated to them so that they would have the necessary information before them. We would also like to be sure that this recommendation would not involve a great deal more documentation. We would also assume that any particular comments by Administering Authorities on general petitions which may be submitted will also be indicated by the Secretariat.

Subject to these comments, we are prepared to accept the draft resolution contained on pages 8 and 9 of the report.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): I have only one or two brief comments to make on the report, which my delegation considers is a useful and helpful report. Having served on the Petitions Committee, I am aware of the problems concerned, and my delegation will vote for the draft resolution which is contained at the end of the report.

Of the two comments I have to make, my first relates to paragraph 13 of the report and the statement in that paragraph that "the Committee considers that the ideal would be that Committee meetings during sessions of the Council would be held only exceptionally". From my own experience of sitting in the Petitions Committee, I regard this perhaps as rather a subjective comment than an objective comment when one considers the amount of time that is taken up during sessions by meetings of the Committee and the inconvenience, very often, that representatives are put to in attending the Petitions Committee at the same time as the Council is in session. However, I think these facts should be remembered: that the Administering Authorities are entitled to have special representatives present during the examination of annual reports; that normally petitions from the Territories concerned are examined by the Council at the same session as the annual report is examined; that the special representatives very often can be of more assistance to the Petitions Committee and to the

Council in the examination of petitions than the permanent officers stationed in New York with the delegations of the Administering Powers; that the Administering Powers are not likely to send special representatives to New York outside the sessions of the Council merely to examine a few, or indeed a number of, petitions; that if the Administering Authority feels that the presence of the special representative would assist in the examination of a petition, I believe that the Council and the Standing Committee on Petitions should accede to such a request. All these arguments, I think, tend to the conclusion that it may not be possible for the Standing Committee on Petitions to abandon entirely its meetings during the sessions of the Council.

My second comment, a very short one, relates to paragraph 20. As I read paragraph 20, it seemed to me that the effect of the proposal therein would be to increase the documentation of this Council.

I repeat that my delegation will vote for the draft resolution appearing on pages 8 and 9 of the report.

The draft resolution contained in document T/L.465 was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.



Mr. MASSONET (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The Belgian delegation could not/<sup>fully</sup>support the report contained in document T/L.465 owing to the considerations which modify the changes in the rules which were under study. Moreover, we consider that the rules adopted provisionally at the eleventh session of the Council made it possible for the Committee to fulfil its task effectively. Finally, I should like to put forward reservations which I submitted to the Committee. The Belgian delegation cannot accept without reservation paragraph 8 of the report, which concerns the despatch by the Secretariat of copies of the petition to the Administering Authorities.

Mr. PIGNON (France) (interpretation from French): In the Committee I voted for this report. If I have abstained in the vote today, it was because of certain considerations which are contained in the report. I am not opposed to the formal recommendations of the report.

Mr. QUIROS (El Salvador) (interpretation from Spanish): First, I believe that we must praise the effort made by the Standing Committee on Petitions. I know from experience that it is very easy to believe that a procedure is imperfect. However, it is very difficult to propose concrete solutions to improve the present procedure. My delegation believes that the procedure might indeed be improved and that further suggestions might be made. However, for the present, we believe that the modifications made in the resolution do improve considerably the procedure which has been in practice up to now.

Certain other suggestions might also have been taken into consideration, for example suggestions concerning the classification of petitions, which in effect does not seem to satisfy fully the desires of various members of the Council. Although it is true that in principle the classification is not bad, it is also true that in practice the procedure becomes somewhat confused. In addition, petitions of a general nature are practically forgotten by the members of the Council, and in reality the Council does not give them due consideration.

Although my delegation feels that the procedure is not yet perfect, we nevertheless believe that the suggestions made do improve it. We believe that these suggestions will facilitate our work in the handling of petitions. The action taken in the Standing Committee shows that there was no real opposition to

this. It is quite possible that the abstentions in the vote were simply due to the fact that some delegations did not receive everything they wanted concerning modification of the procedure. However, these modifications have been supported by the majority, and I believe they really do improve the situation.

Mr. TSARAPKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have two observations to make at this time concerning the reasons which led the Soviet Union delegation to abstain in the vote on this draft resolution. In this document everything again is based on the classification of petitions, that is, the sorting of petitions into those which we consider to be petitions, those which we do not consider to be petitions, those to which we reply and those to which we do not reply, and there are some whose disposition we do not know. This is no way to deal with questions concerning the indigenous population. We opposed resolution 467 (XI) at the eleventh session of the Council when the rules according to which petitions are arbitrarily classified were confirmed. These rules provide for the so-called classification of petitions. Because of this, we could not approve the document which has been submitted to us.

My second observation relates to the increase in the time during which the Administering Authority is permitted to make its observations on petitions. This period of time has been extended from two months to three months. It is not at all clear to me why this extension was proposed. We all know that when petitions are sent to us from Trust Territories they are known on the same day or during the same week to the special representatives of the Administering Authorities and to their subordinate officials. Therefore, it can be said that the petitions are known to the Administering Authority several months before they are known to us. To extend the period of time by another month is an approach which we do not understand and one which we cannot support. This is all the more so because it is a measure which is directed against the interests of the petitioners.

These are the two considerations which led the Soviet Union delegation to abstain in the vote on the draft resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 752 (VIII) AND TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
866 (XIII): ATTAINMENT BY THE TRUST TERRITORIES OF THE OBJECTIVE OF SELF-  
GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (T/L.464)  
[Agenda item 11] (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We shall now proceed to the consideration of this item, which was left pending yesterday.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): Yesterday I asked permission to delay until today my preliminary remarks on the report which the Secretary-General has prepared on the question of the attainment by the Trust Territories of self-government or independence, document T/L.464. I requested that delay because at the last minute I found it essential, in the light of conference room paper No. 2 setting out the relevant conclusions and recommendations already adopted by the Council, to think over again the implications of the draft report and the manner in which we shall have to set about completing it. I have had time to consider this matter, and I should like to make a few preliminary remarks.

I should like first of all to associate myself very closely with what the representative of India said yesterday, and in particular to thank the Secretary-General and his staff for what is, indeed, a most valuable review of the situation in the Trust Territories so far dealt with. I agree with him that the material contained in the report cannot and should not be further reduced in length, and I agree with him also that the Secretary-General should proceed to apply the same method to the three Pacific Trust Territories concerned. But I would go further and attach a certain urgency to this work of completing the report so that it covers all of the Trust Territories concerned. I ask for this urgency in order that the completed report should be before us not too late in the session and certainly not in the very last days thereof.

The reason for that is that we ourselves -- that is to say the Council as a whole -- will have the responsibility of finally completing this document before it goes to the General Assembly. There will still be gaps in it, blank spaces, which the Secretary-General himself cannot fill -- the blank spaces where the General Assembly requires us to fill in the conclusions and recommendations of the Council arising from the information that the Secretary-General has assembled. I must say that to fill in those blank spaces with appropriate conclusions and recommendations -- appropriate, that is, to the principles and objectives of the Trusteeship System -- may turn out to be the most difficult part of the preparation of this report. I say that because, having examined the conclusions and recommendations stated in Conference Paper 2 which we adopted in the course of our examination of the Trust Territories individually, I have been alarmed to see how inadequate -- I emphasize the word "inadequate" -- they are in many cases to meet the real situation in the Territories concerned. Seeing this has also led my delegation to realize that there are also still certain gaps in the information already provided by the Secretary-General on the Territories which he covers in this first part of the interim draft report.

I shall not go into this matter exhaustively at this juncture, but I wish to state that among all the Territories dealt with here it is clear that only one Administering Authority has so far made any real effort whatsoever to consult the people themselves as to the fundamental constitutional and political measures affecting their development towards self-government.

On the basis of the information which is set out for us here by the Secretary-General there are certain conclusions and recommendations which the Council will be obliged to formulate from the facts. We cannot admit that there should be double standards of development under the Trusteeship System. We cannot admit that some peoples -- that is to say, peoples under Trusteeship -- can be given the right to speak for themselves as to their constitutional progress, while others need have no such right.

As I have said, these are only preliminary remarks. I repeat that we must have -- or, rather, should have -- more information, not only about Pacific Territories but also about the Territories already included in this draft report, before we can begin to draw up our conclusions and recommendations in the most responsible fashion. I hope that such information will be forthcoming. Whether it is or not my delegation will certainly have some proposal to make at a later stage, but I should like to emphasize that the stage should not be left too late and that we should return to this item well in advance of the end of the session. It has been our experience in this Council and in other bodies that when important matters are left to the very last days of our meetings the results are most unfortunate and lead to no improvement in the work to which we have dedicated ourselves.

Mr. EGUIZABAL (El Salvador)(interpretation from Spanish): I should like to state briefly the point of view of my delegation with regard to the report prepared by the Secretariat and relating to resolution 866 (XIII). Of course, I completely agree with what was said yesterday very precisely by the representative of India, and I should like to emphasize one fact. It concerns paragraph 3 of document T/L.464, which implies the question whether it would be possible further to reduce the report referred to by simply using references or footnotes. I should like to say that in the view of my delegation this would not be possible since it would reduce the report almost to the form of an index of symbols and figures, whereas we feel that the present form should be maintained.



With regard to the suggestion made by the representative of Syria, my delegation is very pleased by his proposal to regard this question as being of an urgent nature in order that the Council may have sufficient time to study an item which is of such great interest both to members of the Council itself and to Members of the General Assembly.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): It seems that no other representative wishes to speak on this item. Since certain representatives, including those of India, Syria and El Salvador, have expressed their desire that the Secretariat should continue to gather information along these lines, I believe that that is the only decision we can take now -- namely, to postpone consideration of this question until such time as the Secretariat, having gathered information with regard to the three Territories for inclusion, presents us with a complete report. If there are no objections I shall take it that that is the decision of the Council.

It was so decided.



The meeting was suspended at 3.50 p.m. and was resumed at 4.15 p.m.

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION:

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (T/1116, 1117 and Add.1, 1122) [Agenda item 4 (a)]
- (b) PETITIONS CIRCULATED UNDER RULE 85, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (T/PET.11/L.9 TO 11) ([Agenda item 5])

At the invitation of the President, Mr. de Holte Castello, representative of Colombia, Mr. Salah, representative of Egypt, Mr. Lopez, representative of the Philippines, members of the Advisory Council for Somaliland, and Mr. Martino, special representative for Somaliland under Italian Administration, took places at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): As President of the Trusteeship Council, I take great pleasure in extending my warmest welcome to the distinguished special representative for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration, Ambassador Martino.

Mr. GUIDOTTI (Italy) (interpretation from French): As permanent representative for the Italian Government in the Trusteeship Council, I have the honour and the pleasure of presenting to you the fourth annual report of the Italian Administration of the Trust Territory of Somaliland. This is my usual task.

However, this year it is more than a mere formality because we have with us the Administrator of the Territory, Ambassador Martino, who has succeeded Ambassador Fornari.

The Trusteeship Council will be able to learn from the lips of Ambassador Martino what are the plans and programmes which my Government intends to carry out in Somaliland in order to assure the social, political and economic development of the Territory. On the other hand, the special representative for the Territory, who this year is Mr. Mochi, will be present as usual during the debates so as to give to the representatives on the Council all the necessary and detailed explanations concerning the past, present and future of the Administration.

Under these circumstances, my introduction to the report will be very brief.

I shall first of all discuss the question of economic development.

Ambassador Martino, the administrator for the Territory, intends to present to the Council the general outline of economic development plans which will be carried out in Somaliland during the period 1954-1960. These plans are primarily concerned with the development of agriculture, irrigation, cattle raising and the creation of a stable agricultural population; finally, they are concerned with the gradual abolition of nomadism. Unfortunately, in Somaliland, as in all under-developed countries which have very limited economic resources, it is not only a matter of outlining programmes, or modernizing the economic and social structure of the Territory, or assuring the indigenous population of all kinds of technical assistance; it is, above all, a question of finding capital, both private and public, Italian or foreign, which would be available to support the efforts of the Administration and the very limited financial resources of the Territory.

Although the general economic plan which Ambassador Martino will explain to the Council corresponds exactly to the invitation contained in paragraph 2 (c) of resolution 755 (VIII), adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 1953, it is, nevertheless, a fact that that plan was drawn up by the Italian Administration long before that date. This shows that my Government has always given the place it deserves to problems of economic development of the Territory and the utilization of its meagre resources.

Concerning the development of political institutions there and the gradual transfer of the administration of the Territory to the indigenous population, I take the greatest pleasure and satisfaction in announcing to the Council that on 28 March of this year elections were held in Somaliland for the first time. I am referring to municipal elections.

These elections, which took place in an atmosphere of calm and order, were preceded by a census of the population in the thirty-five cities and villages of the Territory. Some 80 per cent of those qualified to vote did so, and an analysis of the results of the elections and, above all, the success achieved by the Somali Youth League shows quite clearly that the preparation and the conduct of this historic event were based upon democratic criteria; namely, respect for public order and the will of the people.

Naturally, I have no intention of stating that everything in the municipal elections functioned perfectly. It would be absurd to make such a claim, since this is a territory whose social structure is primitive, whose population is half nomadic, and whose experience with democratic systems, up to the present time, has been almost nil. What is important is that the elections did take place, that the population participated with enthusiasm and a sense of responsibility and that the foundation was laid for the coming elections to the Territorial Council; that is to say, to the organ to which will be transferred gradually the deliberative and legislative powers of the Territory. It can be said, without exaggeration, that this is an experience which has no precedent in this region of Africa. Above all, it can be said that it constitutes a decisive step in the direction of the independence which the Territory is to achieve in 1960.

In this connexion, Mr. President, permit me to quote the words of the President of the Council of the Republic of Italy in Parliament on 10 March last. Our Prime Minister stated:

"In Somaliland the Italian Government, de jure and de facto, has accepted a task which was clearly established by the Trusteeship Agreement. This Agreement was accepted by us quite freely, and the task which arises out of it will have the definite result of nothing more nor less than the independence of the Territory in 1960. On this point no mental reservation is possible."

I shall conclude this brief introduction to the report with a reference to the problem of the boundary between Somaliland and Ethiopia. My Government has remarked several times that this Council attaches the greatest importance to a rapid and satisfactory solution of this problem. I stated last year that the Ethiopian Government had given, in principle, its agreement to the nomination of two delegations charged with finding a solution of the problem of the boundary between Somaliland and Ethiopia, a solution based on bilateral negotiations. In the fourth annual report which I have just presented to the Council, the situation is described on page 27 as follows:



"In June 1953 the Italian Ambassador to Addis Ababa sent to the Ethiopian Government a note verbale renewing the proposal to designate two delegations to undertake negotiations. In its reply, the Government of Ethiopia proposed the designation by the two parties of two experts, having as their preliminary task that of gathering the necessary information and of determining the principle to be followed in the later work of the two delegations. This proposal was accepted immediately by the Italian Government, which, however, is still awaiting whatever further action the Ethiopian Government wishes to take in the matter."

Since that time we have had no further advice in the matter. However, my Government feels that a final ruling, which would be definite and satisfactory, on the part of Ethiopia and Italy, will not meet with any insurmountable difficulties.

Mr. MARTINO (Special representative) (interpretation from French):

Mr. President, first of all, I wish to thank you for the kind words of welcome which you addressed to me. I should like to express the honour and the satisfaction which I feel in speaking before the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations in my capacity as Administrator of Somaliland.

This occasion gives me the opportunity to emphasize, as a former fighter for the liberty of my country, my absolute commitment to the principles and ideals of the United Nations, which are those of all free men and of all those who are sincerely democratic, and which inspire the policy of the Government of the Republic of Italy.

The Trusteeship Council can thus understand the full support given by the Administration of Somaliland to the preparation and operation of the International Seminar for Education on the United Nations which took place in Mogadiscio in October last and in which representatives of many African peoples participated. And you will understand above all why the Administration seeks the active co-operation of the Advisory Council which has its seat at Mogadiscio, which is the best guarantee that we shall pursue in Somaliland a policy that is in accordance with the aims of the mandate of which Italy has freely accepted the burden and the honour.

The Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, in its resolution 755 (VIII) of 9 December 1953, while it took note with satisfaction of the efforts made in Somaliland by the Administering Authority, deemed it appropriate to formulate a series of recommendations concerning various fields of the Administering Authority's activities. Permit me to observe, Mr. President, quite frankly, that these recommendations, which the Italian Administration accepted with the greatest respect, were, in a sense, superfluous. The arguments which were invoked in the resolution to which I have just referred constituted in fact the main purposes which must guide any Administration in whatever Territory under the Trusteeship of the United Nations. Therefore, the Administration has always included in its annual reports information which was ample and detailed on each of the questions which was put to it. Even more detailed explanations have been furnished by the special representatives who have had the honour of participating in the debates of the Council. I believe that, as stated in paragraph 1 of that resolution, any impartial observer will recognize that the greatest efforts have been made by the Italian Government and by the Administration in Somaliland in the brief period of four years and that these efforts were always devoted to leading the people of the Territory gradually towards complete independence and to becoming associated more closely with the efforts which the Administering Authority is making in every field in the discharge of its task.

Since I have had the honour to participate directly in this work since the month of February 1953, may I illustrate the phases through which the Somali people passed last year and during the last months along the road towards political, social and economic progress.

In the political field the representative organs have gradually assumed the character of elected organs and deliberating bodies. It has been necessary to proceed gradually in this field. To act otherwise would have been to risk creating giants with clay feet.

The experience of recent years has brought the members of these bodies into contact with the problems of the Territory. The thorough study of these problems and their understanding have developed in them a sense of balance and responsibility.

The contribution of the Territorial Council to the drawing up of laws and the suggestions of the Municipal Council have become so precious that the Administration and Chiefs of Municipalities receive them almost always with favour.

After an initial stage which was devoted to the training of people, and which politically speaking was initially limited, it was possible to advance to the more progressive stage of the election of candidates to these bodies. It would have been dangerous to have done this before. After having proceeded with the census of the population of thirty-five inhabited centres of the Territory -- which was the pre-condition in order to have a serious basis for elections and which constituted, naturally, a difficult preparatory task -- the municipal elections with universal male suffrage by direct and secret vote and on the basis of a proportional system took place in Somaliland for the first time in its history.

I believe that the significance and the success of these elections will never be overestimated. This was an event of truly historical proportions because of the number of inhabited centres called simultaneously to the ballot place and the climate of freedom and order in which it took place. It may justly be considered as the first of its kind in that eastern sector of the African continent.

The Somali people have shown proof of a civic consciousness by the order in which the electoral meetings took place and by the large participation of the population in the voting -- which reached approximately 75 per cent -- and by the very small number of invalid ballots.

For its part, the Administration granted the greatest freedom with respect to propaganda. Nothing was spared in order to enable the Somalis to express their vote in independence, freedom and the most absolute secrecy.

The results of these elections furnish the most convincing proof of what I have said. It is the Somali Youth League that has affirmed this position; that is to say, the party which is considered to be the least favourable to the Administration. In fact, the central authorities have taken all necessary steps in order that the elections should take place without interference of any kind and so that the electoral machinery should function in accordance with the provisions which govern the matter.

After this initial stage, it will be easier to reach the others; that is to say, political elections, and then, the granting of deliberative and legislative powers to the democratically elected bodies. They are working very hard and without respite and, above all, with the spirit to create stable institutions. I must assure you that Somaliland, when it will attain its independence, will certainly have bodies which are representative and conscious of their duties. To claim that it is possible now to have in Somaliland a Parliament which would function in the same manner as Parliaments in countries which are more advanced would only be proof of lightness and an inclination to build on sand.

The most cultivated of the Somalis, of whatever political party, are in agreement that the training of cadres must necessarily precede the "Somalization" so to speak, and that it would be dangerous and unjust to entrust to unprepared personnel posts of responsibility which must be reserved for those groups of people, already numerous, which are ready and prepared to fulfil their tasks with devotion and a serious taste for their studies. I am referring to the young people in the Political and Administrative Preparatory Schools, who have already been graduated. Some of them will follow courses of further studies. Such people will gradually be trained also in the field of education.

May I recall to the Council that last year political and administrative responsibilities had been entrusted to other Somalis, as can be seen in the report of the Italian Government. Moreover, the eight first officers of the Somali Police, who have just returned from Italy, will assume their commands very shortly after a special course. Other subordinate officers of Somali nationality will follow courses in order to become officers. If one considers that in 1960 twenty-five police officers will suffice in order to ensure this service throughout the

Territory, it seems clear that the training of police cadres for Somaliland is well under way.

In view of the "Somalization" which is taking place and in view of the fact that 9,000 Somalis hold public office, an ordinance has been promulgated and published after thorough examination on the part of the Advisory Council and the Territorial Council in order to ensure to them a legal status which is clearly defined as stability in employment and an economic situation which is in line with their responsibilities.

In the political field, I must recall to the Council that I had the honour to promulgate the ordinances with respect to freedom of association and freedom to hold meetings.

The administration of justice is moving towards complete organization and the full independence of judges. In order to implement the principle of the separation of judicial and executive powers, an ordinance is being promulgated, which will give the presidency of the regional tribunals -- which today is entrusted to the commissioners -- to the regional judges.

During the year, the reorganization of judicial power will be crowned by the establishment of the Court of Justice, which will function as a fiscal and administrative court. Thus, soon in the Territory there will be all the different stages of jurisdiction although some of them, for the time being, are still in the hands of Italian magistrates. It is clear that the principle of the absolute independence of judges will also be strengthened when the latter, in the exercise of their functions, will depend exclusively on the President of the Court of Justice of the Territory.

In spite of the seriousness of the misgivings of the Administration in connexion with the problem of the suppression of collective penalties -- a serious problem for the Administration which is responsible for public order and calm in the Territory and which has not failed to express its concern to the Advisory Council with detailed reasons -- it has nevertheless been decided to suspend the application of these penalties for a period of two years. I hope that this experiment, which is in line with desires expressed by the United Nations, will not have a disastrous influence upon the struggles among the tribes, which struggles periodically disturb the calm in the Territory and which might increase.



Political, administrative, judicial and military institutions, civil life and progress would be empty words if there were no cultivated and trained citizens. When Italy assumed its trusteeship in Somaliland, the number of Somalis who had attained a certain level of education was very limited. The Administration, in order to hasten this development, has established the Political and Administrative School to which I have referred in order to enable Somalis who are capable, even though they have no diplomas, to fill the first administrative cadres. Some of them have already received diplomas and will be able to pursue superior studies.

But the Administration has not lost sight of the fact that it is necessary to organize a course of training which will ensure the development of culture and a solid training.

A new impulse has been given to primary, secondary and professional education by the five-year scholastic plan. The report of the Italian Government to the United Nations submits detailed documentation on the number of school buildings constructed, the number of students, and so forth.

I wish to mention here in particular that in addition to regular students, approximately 3,000 individuals are trained in thirty-seven elementary classes and in specialized courses which are conducted by members of the security corps and the police force who, in addition to their functional role, make a valuable contribution to the training of the Somali people.

After having referred to what has been achieved in the intellectual and moral fields, I need not go into detail concerning what the Administration has done for the public health in Somaliland. The annual report submitted to the United Nations deals with that subject in detail.

This year much has been accomplished against social diseases, and in particular against malaria and tuberculosis. Anti-malaria spraying has been extended to all centres requiring such measures. Dispensaries with the most modern equipment have been opened in the main regional hospitals. Thanks to the first anti-tuberculosis campaign which took place in July 1953, public opinion has been drawn to the need for measures to prevent this terrible illness.

The Administration hopes that a sizeable contribution will be made in this struggle by the operation of two mobile sanitary units, which will make it possible, among other things, to conduct health investigations in the most remote sectors of the Territory.

Before concluding this brief statement of progress achieved in the fields of education and public health, I wish to express the gratitude of my Government for the technical assistance given by the United Nations and the specialized agencies to the Territory. I take pleasure in adding that new proposals have been presented by the Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations, which provide for the allocation of a maximum of \$75,000 for the year 1955. This sum will be utilized by WHO, UNESCO and FAO. Plans are now being prepared for the best use of this international aid.

I wish to conclude this first part of my statement by recalling that, in the field of the defence and protection of the people, of labour, of ordinances on child labour and women labour, of private insurance and compulsory insurance against illness, legislation has already been extended. We are proud to be able to consider ourselves as having advanced considerably in the African continent in this important field of social activity.

Of course, the development projects in the fields to which I have referred involve the gradual increase of expenditures, which would be a heavy burden for the budget of an independent Somaliland. The erection of new buildings, the purchase of new equipment and the increase of technical personnel will undoubtedly result in an increase of expenditures for maintenance, operation and salaries. I sometimes wonder whether the requests which are addressed to us and our natural desire to act on them take sufficient account of the actual financial possibilities of an independent Somaliland.

Meanwhile, in order to meet the new expenditures, the Administration has made considerable effort to achieve savings in the administrative field. Last year, the Italian staff, civil and military, was reduced by 273 units. It will gradually be reduced more, but one cannot go too far in this field. Things do not get done by themselves. If it was possible in four years to obtain such remarkable results, it was due to the ability and the work of the group of officials and employees. A further reduction of the military force is made impossible not only by the need to ensure a minimum of security throughout the Territory, but also by the need to provide for the organization and training of armed forces for Somaliland. We must not forget that aviation units are necessary for civil transport, and that naval units assist in the telecommunications system of the Territory. These are activities which are a source of income to the budget of Somaliland.

Once the development in the political and social fields began, the Administration undertook determined action in the economic field in order to increase production and to raise the standard of living of the population. It has also endeavoured to reduce the budgetary deficit and to improve the balance of payments. The report submitted to the United Nations gives full particulars on what has been done in 1953.

I take pleasure in referring to a number of measures, some of which have already been undertaken during the first months of this year, which will have a favourable effect on the economy of the Territory:

The establishment of new agricultural co-operatives and of new irrigation enterprises;

The establishment of a large artificial basin at Coriolei, which will make it possible to provide water for approximately 60,000 heads of cattle;

Considerable liberalization of exchange;

The establishment of stocks of grain, which have made it possible to suppress speculation and to ensure fair prices to the farmers;

An increase in the importation of bananas by Italy, which results in an increase in income from the customs of the Territory;

The undertaking of works for the digging of 150 wells, the results of which have already been more than satisfactory;

The establishment of a Credito Somalo in order to grant loans to Somali agriculturalists, tradesmen and industrialists.

It is gratifying to note that the participation of the Somali people in the productive and trade activities is ever growing. Agricultural co-operatives, building enterprises and transportation activities are always made up exclusively of Somalis. Gradually, they will also participate in the growing of bananas and in import and export.

In the economic field, as in other fields, progress is due to the gradual development of initiative. Previously this was characteristic primarily of such communities as the Arab, Indian and Pakistani.

I now wish to refer to something fundamental in the development of the Territory. Studies which have been made during fifty years, the report of the Technical Assistance Mission of the United Nations, the account of Mr. Malagodi, an economist and member of the Italian Parliament, who was entrusted by my Government with the task of drafting a report on the possibilities of development of the Territory, and, above all, the experience of four years of observation and work on the spot, have made it possible for the Administration of Somaliland to draw up development plans in all fields of economy in general and in the agricultural field and the field of animal husbandry in particular. These latter constitute, and have constituted for a long time, the main sources of wealth of the Territory.

The drafting of these plans, which are in line with the recommendations put forward by the Trusteeship Council during its eleventh session, cannot, of course, be final and complete, particularly so far as the long-term possibilities are concerned. For instance, account has not been taken for the moment of the development of agricultural establishments and industrial enterprises which are already functioning in the Territory. These developments depend upon the increased use of private capital and the carrying out of vast plans which cannot be brought to completion without substantial assistance from international sources. Unfortunately, this assistance is not yet in sight.

I wish, on this occasion, to express our deep gratitude to the Government of the United States of America for the contribution which it has made to us by means of the Foreign Operation Administration. It is a contribution which will allow us to carry out a vast plan for the drilling of wells, and there will be further aid of this kind, according to a decision recently taken. This will allow us to carry out plans of economic development.

The Trusteeship Council, in the recommendation I have just quoted, emphasized the necessity of encouraging the investment of private capital, as well as the necessity for international assistance. There can be no doubt that such capital, whether private, public or international, would give a very decisive encouragement to the economic development of the Territory.

However, in spite of the publicity work which the Administration is constantly carrying out in this connexion, the uncertainty of the fate of private investments after 1960 and the greater profits which this capital can obtain in the vaster and richer regions of Africa continue to discourage capital investment in Somaliland.

The Territorial Council in Somaliland, in conformity with the general principles of law concerning the respect of private property, even foreign property, last January unanimously adopted a motion by virtue of which the Council itself, interpreting the will of the Somali people, gave the most formal assurance that all foreign interests in the Territory, including capital investments, will be respected and safeguarded and will enjoy equality of treatment with indigenous capital and activities, even in the future organization of the Territory.



However, this action did not succeed in removing the hesitation which continues to be manifested. The Territorial Council, in order to strengthen its own action, formulated the desire that international organizations should take notice of this motion.

I need scarcely say that the Administration will follow with great interest and sympathy any further development which the United Nations and other international institutions concerned will deem useful in order to give effect to the aforementioned action of the Territorial Council so as to encourage private investments in the Territory and so as to bring further international aid.

The plans for development which I have had the honour of presenting to the Council, and which we will carry out in consultation with the Advisory Council, are more than mere perspectives. This is a working programme which has been studied in its technical and financial aspects, and the Administration proposes to carry these plans out. We have already started in various fields. If there are certain gaps, and certainly there must be a few, they will be filled in during a further study. The kind appreciation of the Council with regard to these efforts will serve as a great encouragement in the future.

The development plans which I submit to the Council describe the work which the Administration proposes to undertake between now and 1960. In the field of agriculture, we plan to increase the production of cereals in order to ensure self-sufficiency and to allow, if possible, the export of that which is not required in the Territory. We also foresee the development of commercial crops required for local industries such as textiles, sugar, oil and so on, and we hope to make the Territory self-sufficient in this respect as soon as possible.

We contemplate the modernization of agriculture by the use of more machinery.

In the zone of the Middle and Lower Scebeli, we contemplate the construction of water intakes from the river, and we are attempting to prevent floods and provide irrigation canals. All these works will ensure the regularity and the continuity of irrigation for some 30,000 hectares of land. In this, 100,000 farmers, more than 20,000 families, are interested.

In the Middle and Lower Giuba, we intend to improve irrigation methods. We intend to fill up numerous depressions, called "desceks", which border along the course of the Giuba. Since there are two types of "desceks", one situated

at a higher level and the other at a lower level than the summer level of the water in the river, two approaches will be followed in order to give the farms in this zone rational water intake from the river. This will be done by building rational intakes and dykes at suitable places in order to prevent flooding and to provide suitable channels. This will be done where the "descek" is at a higher level than the summer level of the river.

We shall also set up simple canals for the distribution of water in the case of "desceks" where the level is lower than the summer level of the river.

This development programme concerns 30,000 farmers, a total of 6,000 families, cultivating an area of 9,000 hectares.

In the zone between the two rivers where the economy is both agricultural and pastoral, the development plans are designed to settle, as far as possible, the farmers on their "sciamba". Today, most of the cattle grazers are obliged most of the time to neglect their agricultural activities in order to move their cattle from one pasture to another in order to find water. These journeys from pasture to pasture represent the only way in which the cattle can survive, since the very fate of these cattle is linked to the question of rain. The development plans envisage the establishment of 2,300 farms and the creation of 240 reservoirs for rain water, and equipment will be distributed for the installation of silos on each farm.

The land to be brought into production in this zone will amount to 13,000 hectares, and 13,000 farmer-grazers, consisting of 2,6000 families, are concerned.

We hope that by these development plans the indigenous farmers will be able to develop, alongside their fundamental crops, other more profitable crops of an industrial and commercial value, which would intensify exports from the Territory.

These works to which I refer consist of clearing land, building permanent water intakes alongside the river, the digging of canals, the construction of pumping installations, and certain other public works such as roads, cereal storage depots, etc.

About 50,000 persons, that is to say, some 10,000 families, are involved in this work, and the total area to be brought into cultivation is about 15,000 hectares.

To these works must be added other undertakings which affect the whole of the Territory. These include the distribution of machinery and tools for the handling of corn and for the pressing oleaginous seeds, the establishment of seven centres of mechanized labour, the construction of depots for the storing of 55,000 quintals of cereals.

The over-all cost of this agricultural development work for the period 1954-1960 is in the region of 20,844,000 somalos, or about \$3,000,000, and it will bring into production an area of 74,000 hectares affecting some 200,000 farmers whose standard of living will be appreciably improved.

In the field of cattle-raising the Administration intends to check the phenomenon of nomadism, which is bound up with the well-known lack of water supplies for watering cattle. About two-thirds of the inhabitants of the Territory are today dependent for their living upon the raising of cattle. The Administration also proposes to transform cattle-raising into a stable activity, which should make it possible to obtain a better return either by limiting losses due to thirst and to suffering involved in moving from well to well, or by increasing production as the result of better living, watering and grazing conditions. It proposes also to modernize methods of branding, stripping, and hide-drying. The primitive nature of these operations is at present the cause of a depreciation in the price of Somali hides on the international market.

The Administration proposes, further, to ensure, as the result of increased production and an improvement in the quality of what is produced, a greater contribution to the trade balance of the Territory and the supply of cattle on the hoof to meat-preserving industries which it intends to develop.

In order to achieve these results the Administration intends to drill some 220 deep wells and 450 open wells, and to set up river basins with a total capacity of about 1,000,000 cubic metres, an experimental cattle-raising farm for the selection of more profitable types of cattle which have a better resistance to climatic conditions/<sup>and</sup> collection centres for the initial use and preparation of cattle products, with particular attention being paid to the industrial and commercial exploitation of milk and butter with a view to obtaining products for export. It intends also to perfect the veterinary service, paying special attention to the equipment of cattle-vaccination caravans which will be sent into all the cattle-raising zones of the Territory, even those which are most remote.

The achievement of this vast programme, in accordance with the plans drawn up, will involve a total expenditure of about 17,000,000 somalos, or more than two and a half million dollars. The construction of wells and river basins which is planned will supply more than ten million litres of water a day and will thus make possible the watering of 360,000 head of cattle daily.

Results of this kind are of supreme importance for the future and development of Somali cattle-raising. The programme of wells and river basins will provide a solution for the serious problem of travelling from well to well, which is bound up with the phenomenon of nomadism and which has negative effects not only on the economy but also in the social field in general and in education in particular.

The geographical distribution of the first wells has been studied in such a way as to favour pacification among the ethnic groups, which are often in conflict over the possession of wells or over questions of precedence around the wells because the very life of the cattle depends upon the water there.

We have calculated that the production of cattle capital will increase on the average by 7,000,000 somalos each year. This will result in an increase of exports of not less than 3,000,000 somalos.

I have described to the Council the plans which we propose to put into effect in the fields of agriculture and cattle-raising and which are fundamental for the economic development of Somaliland. I do not intend to fatigue representatives any further by describing the plans relating to other fields -- that is to say to communications, urban sanitation, hydraulic and electric installations, industry and crafts, trade and credit. I shall limit myself merely to stressing the fact that if negative and unforeseen factors do not develop remarkable results may be achieved once we have completed the works and projects which we contemplate for the purpose of increasing the per capita income and ensuring the equilibrium of both the Territory's domestic budget and its balance of payments.

The per capita income of the agricultural and cattle-raising classes should show an increase varying from 62 to 200 somalos a year, while the average per capita income, calculated on the basis of the population as a whole, should rise from 160 to 180 somalos annually.



But that is not all. While the Territory's budget should benefit from the increase in taxes, customs duties, and so on, the balance of payments should also increase notably and the present deficit should be reduced by more than 22,000,000 somalos.

That is the end of my statement. I thank the President and all members of the Trusteeship Council for having listened to me with so much patience. I hope that the enthusiasm and interest shown by the Administration in its daily activity may excuse me in the eyes of the Council if, in my statement of the Territory's problems, I have spoken at some length.

It will be sufficient for me to hope that I may have convinced the Council that my words and my work are as direct as possible an expression of the aspirations and anxieties of more than a million Somalis who desire progress, liberty and independence.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Council thanks the special representative for the statement which he has just made.

Mr. SALAH (Egypt)(Chairman of the Advisory Council for Somaliland): I believe it was the position here that the Chairman of the Advisory Council would have the honour of presenting to this Council the annual report on the activities of the Advisory Council for Somaliland. This year it happened that my colleague from Colombia was the only member in the Territory during the time of the preparation of this report, and it was he himself who prepared and drafted this report. For this reason, I believe that it is his right to have the honour this year of presenting this report to the Council.

Mr. de HOLTE CASTELLO (Colombia)(Advisory Council for Somaliland) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Colombia has the honour of presenting to the Trusteeship Council the report which we felt it necessary to prepare concerning the activities of the Advisory Council of the United Nations for the Trust Territory of Somaliland, covering the period from 1 April 1953 to 30 March 1954. The Secretary-General of this Organization was good enough to circulate this report to the members of this Council and to the Governments concerned (T/1116).

The delegation of Colombia, finding itself alone in the Territory at the time that the Council had to make its annual report, felt it necessary to present this document, without which the activities of the Advisory Council during the past year would not have been brought to the knowledge of the responsible organs of the United Nations.

In the first place, I should like to deal with the essential question concerning the functioning of the Advisory Council, and then I would present to the Trusteeship Council certain comments concerning our activities during the year which has just ended. Finally, I should like to call the attention of the Council to two problems which are of particular importance for the Territory of Somaliland.

As is indicated in the first chapter of this report, the Advisory Council during this last year could only get three of its representatives to meet during twenty-eight days, and it achieved a quorum of two of its members during twenty-three days.

I should like to recall the statements made by the delegation of Colombia in 1952 during the eleventh meeting of this Trusteeship Council as follows:

"The absence of one or more delegations in the Territory for many months led the delegation of Colombia to think that for the better functioning of this organ it would be better simply to convene twice each year for a period of three months each year before the Territorial Council begins its meeting in order to be in a position to give an opinion concerning the various topics about which it might be consulted by the Administration or about the initiative to be taken by the Council within the framework of Article 8, paragraph 1 of the Trusteeship Agreement. My delegation is also convinced of the inefficiency and ineffectiveness of the Advisory Council unless all members of the Council are present in the Territory since it is an international organ comprising three States, and when only two of them are present there is logically a minority which may exercise a clear right of veto in the organ and thus paralyse its functioning.

"I am the first, having resided for a long time in Mogadiscio, to appreciate the rigours of the climate and the lack of comfort. These are the elements which seem to prevent the three Governments from guaranteeing to continue the presence of their representatives in the Territory. However, since these representatives must attend the meetings of the Trusteeship Council once a year and must also take part in the discussions in the General Assembly, I do not think that my proposal to improve the effectiveness of this organ is out of order."

I cannot believe that the well-founded suggestion made by the delegation of Colombia of recommending that the members of the Advisory Council be present in the Territory during certain periods has been proven to be incorrect by the force of the facts. The only comment which I could add is that it is not sufficient to be present in the Territory for a certain number of days per year. It is necessary for the Council to meet during certain useful periods -- that is to say, when the Administering Authority needs the advice of the Advisory Council.

Concerning the activities of the Advisory Council from the month of April 1953 up to the end of March 1954, circumstances permitted that, in spite of the prolonged absence from the Territory by reason of its participation in the debates of this Trusteeship Council and in the debates of the General Assembly, nevertheless, the delegation of Colombia was present in Mogadiscio during the most important period of the year -- that is to say, from January to the end of March 1954, during the time when the Administering Authority was taking very important measures for the development of the Territory in the political and economic fields. The representative of Egypt in the Advisory Council was also able, during his stay in December, to become familiar with local conditions and to begin, with the assistance of the secretariat of the Council, the studies of the problems which the latter was going to examine. ... I must add that the Administering Authority placed at the disposal of the Advisory Council all the information which the Council required and which the secretariat undertook to study.

These are the reasons which contributed largely to the Council's being in a position to take a stand in a relatively short time on a great number of very important problems. As a matter of fact, the most important aspects of the economic life of the Territory; namely, the exportation of bananas, the production of sugar, the importation of agricultural and industrial materials, the annual budget, the establishment of the Instituto de Crédito Somali, and the political plan for the preparation of the municipal elections -- the first popular election organized in the Territory -- as well as the statute for Somali personnel, were all studied both in Mogadiscio by the delegation of Egypt and the secretariat as well as in New York, the place where the delegation of Colombia was carefully following all this work. It was under such circumstances that the Advisory Council could carry out a true tour de force so as to provide the Administering Authority during its last session -- and during which, I can say, we worked sixteen days consecutively -- with very detailed advice concerning problems of the greatest importance. We consequently received unlimited praise, orally and in writing, from the Administration.

The report which I have the honour of presenting describes as faithfully as possible the activities of the Advisory Council during the last year, activities which, as I have just stated, took the form of advice given to the Administering Authority in the month of January 1954. It has not been possible to annex to this report the correspondence between the Advisory Council and the Administering Authority nor the complete text to which reference is made in the report, since such annexes might have been as long as 200 pages. The delegation of Colombia, therefore, believes it to be its duty to present a summary, sufficiently brief to be easily read and sufficiently long to give a clear idea of the efforts of the Administering Authority in the course of the past year, as well as of the activities of the Advisory Council.

The delegation of Colombia desires, finally, to point out that it has introduced into this report a certain number of questions concerning which the Advisory Council has not yet concluded its examination, but the importance of which, in the development of the Territory, did not permit us to pass over them in silence; for instance, the plan for the drilling of wells, the budget of the Territory, and the five-year educational plan. It was desired to adhere as closely as possible to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 755 (VIII) of 9 December 1953.

In the political field we must emphasize the efforts made both by the Administering Authority and by the responsible Chiefs of the political parties in order that the municipal elections of 28 March should be carried out in good order and be a complete success. These elections took place in an atmosphere of tranquillity, which indicates the political maturity achieved by the population.

In the economic field the Administering Authority is continuing with enthusiasm and vigour its programme for the drilling of wells, which, it is hoped, will soon be able to provide the water resources necessary for the welfare of the inhabitants as well as for the development of agriculture and cattle raising. At the present time it is pursuing a study, in close collaboration with FAO, directed towards the improvement of certain regions near





the Juba River, in order to encourage cultivation in the upper Juba, the development of a co-operative system of agriculture, et.

In the field of education, the five-year plan has been brought into conformity with the conceptions of UNESCO. I should like to pay tribute here to the co-operation of the Egyptian Government in the field of education. Since 1950 up to the present time Egypt has granted 87 scholarships to Somali students, in addition to having contributed, at the beginning of 1953, to the opening of an Institute of Islamic Studies in the city of Mogadiscio by sending five professors from the University of El-Azhar. Sixty students have followed that course of study during the first year, and these will be replaced by sixty others when the first group have proceeded to the second year.

During its work the Advisory Council bore in mind the spirit and the letter of resolution 755 (VIII) of the General Assembly, which recommends to the Administering Authority that, "in consultation with the Advisory Council it should continue to take the necessary steps to prepare the Somali people progressively for the attainment of complete independence ...". The same resolution requests the Advisory Council, "in its annual report, to give precise information on the implementation of the present resolution, together with its observations, comments or suggestions as to the means of carrying out the recommendations contained in the resolution."

Allow me to read to the Council paragraphs 8 to 12 of the report (T/1116) in which the delegation of Colombia deals in detail with this resolution.

"8. The Advisory Council did not fail to appreciate the importance of the terms of this resolution and to take note of the expressed wish of the General Assembly to follow very closely the progress towards independence of the Trust Territory of Somalia under Italian Administration. In fact, it can be considered that the recommendations of the General Assembly have to a certain extent already received implementation through the eagerness with which the Advisory Council has seen to it that the necessary steps be taken in order to prepare the Territory for independence, when it addressed detailed advices or requests for information to the Administering Authority, more particularly regarding questions related to the economic development of the Territory. The observations and recommendations which the Advisory Council formulated concerning all

questions directly related to the economic prosperity of the Territory and to balancing the budget are specifically based on the said General Assembly resolution.

"9. The recent advices given by the Council, as well as the preceding ones, contain a great number of observations, comments and even suggestions answering in advance the wishes expressed in Resolution 755 (VII).

"10. In the past, the Council has been able to examine an important number of the problems facing the Administering Authority in connexion with the laying of the political, economic, social and educational foundations of the Territory's development. The Colombian<sup>delegation</sup> has however to report that since 9 December 1953, the date on which Resolution 755 (VIII) was adopted, the Advisory Council has had insufficient time at its disposal to be able either to make a general study of all the essential problems mentioned by the General Assembly, or even to go sufficiently deeply into the questions it had already examined in order to be able, in close co-operation with the Administering Authority, to formulate general suggestions which, once communicated to the Trusteeship Council, would definitively affect the whole evolution of the Territory. The aims to be pursued by the Administering Authority are, indeed, perfectly clear, but most of the ways and means to be adopted for their attainment still need to be determined.

"11. In the opinion of the Colombian delegation, it would seem advisable that the Advisory Council, before implementing the recommendations contained in paragraph 4 of Resolution 755 (VIII), wait until the Administering Authority has gone further into the preparation or the execution of plans connected with the recommendations contained in paragraph 4 of the said resolution.

"It appears, in fact, that the Advisory Council's intervention would be all the more effective if the Council were to be consulted in advance by the Administering Authority regarding the problems mentioned in resolution 755 (VIII). Thus, having been able to study those problems in co-operation with the Administering Authority, the Council would be in a better position to comment on the activities of that Authority and, whenever necessary, to formulate any suggestion which the circumstances might justify. It is, therefore, with regard to activities during the period 1954-1955 that the Council will be fully able to begin giving effect to the recommendations contained in paragraph 4 of resolution 755 (VIII), in accordance with the General Assembly's wish.

12. Finally, the Advisory Council did not fail to notice the particular interest the General Assembly attaches to the Council's work, and to the role it plays in the preparation of Somalia for independence; it is the Colombian delegation's opinion that the Advisory Council has the right to enter into direct contact with the General Assembly whenever the latter is examining questions concerning the Trust Territory and that such a right has been reinforced by the terms of resolution 755 (VIII)."

I should like to draw the Council's attention to two problems, the importance of which cannot be determined. The first of these is the motion approved by the Territorial Council relating to foreign capital investment, and the second relates to the settlement of the boundary question between Somaliland and Ethiopia. The efforts made by the Administering Authority to prepare Somaliland for independence are considerable indeed. They are not just nominal in nature but are based upon sufficient resources and allowing Somaliland to achieve effective freedom. The Authority has paid great attention to aspects of economic organization of the country and the development of its resources. You need only read the pages dealing with economic questions in the report which my delegation has the honour of presenting to you to see that these problems occupy a very important position in the activities and efforts being made by the Administering Authority. This constant attention is also shared by the population. The Territorial Council showed it when it voted unanimously on 4 January 1954 the motion annexed to this report (T/1116). I shall read the exact text in French.

(Mr. de Holte Castello then read the motion contained on page 2 of the Annex to document T/1116.)

The members of the Territorial Council addressed themselves to the Advisory Council of the United Nations. They expressed the same desires with regard to the Administering Authority to the effect that this had been made known here.

It would be desirable that the problem of the economic development of Somaliland be given special attention by international bodies. We need only take as an example the Kingdom of Libya where the development of its resources is the object of some hundreds of foreign experts. This example proves that it is absolutely necessary that we have all possible assistance. This is a very complex problem. On the one hand, we have to determine, along with the Administering Authority, in what way the economy of the Territory could receive international assistance and, on the other hand, we have to determine which would be the most competent bodies or organs to deal with these problems -- the Technical Assistance Administration, the Economic and Social Council or certain others.

Certain delegations, especially the delegations of France and Belgium, in the course of previous sessions of the Trusteeship Council, have expressed their profound concern with respect to the economic conditions in Somaliland. They feel that a considerable effort must be made if we want this country to achieve real independence. The delegation of Colombia has always stated this same concern before this Council and in the General Assembly. It is difficult for the United Nations today not to hear the appeal made to it by the Territorial Council and to pass over the fact that by giving foreign investments in Somaliland the most formal guarantees, the representatives of the people have done everything possible.

I come now to the very delicate problem of the boundary between Somaliland and Ethiopia. Mr. Martino dwelt on that in his statement a few moments ago. I did not realize he was going to touch upon it. Perhaps I will somewhat duplicate his statement.



Article 1 of the Trusteeship Agreement relating to the Territory of Somaliland provides that the boundaries of Somaliland "shall be those fixed by international agreement and ..... shall be delimited in accordance with a procedure approved by the General Assembly".

We must recall that General Assembly resolution 392 (V) of 15 December 1950 recommended that the boundary between Ethiopia and Somaliland should be determined by an agreement between Italy and Ethiopia or by means of a mediator nominated by the United Nations. At its twelfth session, the Trusteeship Council recalled the conclusion which it had reached at its eleventh session and decided that the settlement of this boundary question was an urgent problem inasmuch as the Territory would achieve its independence in 1960. The Trusteeship Council also expressed the hope that the satisfactory agreement should be reached as soon as possible. Finally, in resolution 755 (VIII), adopted on 9 December 1953, the General Assembly recommended that the Governments of Italy and Ethiopia should intensify their efforts to achieve a final, just, equitable and friendly settlement of this problem, and also that this solution be found before the date set for the independence of the Territory.

Up to the present time, such an agreement has not been reached. It is not for me to determine whether the frequent incidents which occur in the border zone are due to the fact that the boundary is only provisional or whether they are due to the fact that certain nomadic peoples are deprived of their traditional access to pasture lands and wells which are of such vital importance to them. But we cannot overlook the fact that these incidents, in spite of the efforts of the Administering Authority's police, keep the tribes in a state of permanent tension. Grave and serious razzias are always taking place, and the Advisory Council is always being called upon to hear serious complaints from these people. The representatives of the great tribes occupying the region of Mudugh, who have notable and warlike traditions, recently declared to the Advisory Council and to the Administering Authority that if their collective security continues to be threatened, as it constantly is, they themselves would undertake to ensure their protection and to carry out the reprisals which they deemed necessary.

We must realize that unless the Administering Authority maintains, night and day, armed forces all along the frontier, which is several hundreds of kilometres in length, it will be almost impossible to keep rival groups from entering Somaliland. It would also be almost impossible for the Administering

Authority to prevent these frontier incidents from degenerating into very grave conflicts if the Somali people involved should lose their patience.

It is not only evident that the agreement provided for by resolution 392 should be achieved as soon as possible, it is also evident that some other formula must be found finally to determine the boundary so as to avoid these terrible raids. The delegation of Colombia has sufficient reason to believe that if the population involved does not rapidly see some means of putting an end to uncertainty and insecurity, they may refuse to listen any longer to advice of patience and moderation which the Administering Authority has been giving them, and much graver incidents may take place, threatening peace in the regions and converting what today is considered very unimportant into grave problems which may fall within the competence and the jurisdiction of the Security Council.

The PRESIDENT (intepretation from Spanish): The hour is quite late, and we now have to begin our questioning of the special representative, so that it will not be possible for us to continue this afternoon. Our next meeting will be on Monday at 2 p.m., and the item on the agenda will be that which we began this afternoon, namely, the consideration of conditions in Somaliland under Italian administration.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.