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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 28 June 1955, at 2 p.m.

President: Mr. SEARS (United States of America)

Examination of conditions in Somaliland under Italian administration
[Agenda items 4 a, 5, 6, and 17]

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.625 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

WELCOME TO MR. CLAEYS-BOUUAERT

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the Council, I wish to welcome Governor Claeys-Bouuaert, who will represent Belgium on the Trusteeship Council. He will take the place of Governor Ryckmans, whose knowledge and wisdom about African affairs was much respected in this Council. I should like to point out, however, that Governor Claeys-Bouuaert has served for many years as Governor of Ruanda-Urundi, and has spent most of his life in Africa. The Council will be interested to know that the Governor has actually served on visiting missions as a representative of Belgium.

We are glad in every way to welcome you to the Trusteeship Council.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): We should also like to take this opportunity to welcome the ex-Governor of Ruanda-Urundi, Mr. Claeys-Bouuaert, and to wish him a very happy and successful time in New York.

Yesterday, when the representative of Australia made a statement, I was inclined to yield to the impulse of the moment and reply to him immediately, but I did not do so because I wanted to read his statement first. I have now read his statement.

There is only one thing that I should like to comment on at this stage. The representative of Australia was perfectly free to disagree with our statement, but he said that I had not been to New Guinea and that I had not been long in this Council. I do not quite see the relevance of these two points. Members of the Council are not required to visit Trust Territories, nor are they required to be in the Council for a certain length of time before making statements. I feel, therefore, that these personal references to me were unwarranted.

The representative of Australia referred to certain observations reported to have been made by the Indian High Commissioner in Australia. That reference also is not relevant. We are here as a member of this Council. We have read the annual report and the replies of the distinguished special representative, and have made our own observations. Our statement, as I said yesterday, is based on facts drawn from the annual report and from the replies of the special representative.

(Mr. Jaipal, India)

The facts are there. Each person may interpret them differently, and one may disagree with the interpretation of the other. To say that it is a misrepresentation or to attribute unworthy motives is, I feel, most unfortunate. My delegation reserves the right to intervene again if it should be necessary.

I thank the President for having given me this opportunity to clarify our position.

Mr. CLAFYS-BOJUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, and the representative of India for the kind words of welcome which you have addressed to me. I also wish to tell all my colleagues that I shall approach my tasks with a spirit of loyalty. I have confidence in the constructive aims of the Trusteeship Council, which will be achieved through mutual understanding and a frank study of the problems before us.

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION:

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 1954 (T/1174, 1176, 1177, 1188 and 1189) [Agenda item 4a];
- (b) PETITIONS CIRCULATED UNDER RULE 85, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (T/COM.11/L.128; T/PET.11/L.13 to L.17) [Agenda item 5];
- (c) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO TRUST TERRITORIES IN EAST AFRICA, 1954 (T/1143 and 1143/Corr.1, English only) [Agenda item 6];
- (d) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION COVERING THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 1954 TO 31 MARCH 1955 (T/1172) [Agenda item 17].

FINANCING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION [GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 855 (IX)] (T/1186) [Agenda item 13].

The PRESIDENT: Since items 2 and 3 on our agenda are closely related, I should like to suggest that they be considered at the same time. As there is no objection, it is so decided.

It was so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. de Holte Castello (Colombia), Mr. Salah (Egypt), members of the Advisory Council for Somaliland, and Mr. Spinelli, special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration, took places at the Council table.

Mr. CASARDI (Italy): In my capacity as permanent representative of the Italian Government to the Trusteeship Council, I have the honour to submit the annual report of the Italian Trusteeship Administration of Somaliland for 1954. It is completed, in compliance with the recommendation voted last year, by a document summarizing the principal events of the first four months of the current year.

The Council is also in possession of other documents for a comprehensive examination of the situation in Somaliland. We have at hand the annual report of the Advisory Council, which speaks of a year of intense activity and of fruitful co-operation with the Administration; we have the report submitted by the Visiting Mission that went to Somaliland last autumn; we also have a number of observations by the specialized agencies.

Finally, the Italian Government presents an additional document, which, at the turning point representing the half-way mark between Italy's assumption of the Trusteeship Administration and Somaliland's final independence, sums up the aims attained so far and furnishes an outline of the programme for the five remaining years. We believe that this document may be of particular interest in the coming discussions.

The Visiting Mission's report contains, as this Council is aware, various observations upon certain aspects of the Trusteeship Administration's activities, particularly in the economic and financial field. I want to assure you that the competent Italian authorities have given to the report their most careful examination. On the other hand, as my predecessor said in the course of the previous session of the Council, if some of these observations may be considered justified (as such, you will have noticed, we take them into account in the above-mentioned document), with regard to others we beg leave to entertain, in our capacity of Administering Power, a different point of view.

(Mr. Casardi, Italy)

The position is that, in carrying out its concrete work, the Administering Authority daily faces the reality of situations and facts; and these, alas, do not always coincide -- and, indeed, this may be an understatement -- with the desirable optimum and with the theoretical premises upon which we, too, would like to base our action.

We trust, therefore, that our point of view, which leads us to regard some of the critical observations as unjustified -- or, at least, not fully justified -- will be better understood when the Council gets a clearer picture, for an objective evaluation, of the achievements of the past five years, on the one hand, and, on the other, of the organic programme and the aims that the Administration proposes and plans to achieve in the coming five years. And we hope that the document which we now submit will help to maintain the discussion on a realistic and concrete level, as I believe that this would be desirable in the interests of the Territory to which we all dedicate our most vigilant care.

I shall leave to Mr. Spinelli who, until a month ago, has served as Secretary-General to the Trusteeship Administration, the task of illustrating the document and of clarifying the position of the Administering Authority. I feel that no one could be better qualified to do this because of the personal experience and insight in the various complex problems that Mr. Spinelli has acquired in fulfilling the most delicate assignments within the Administration, during the past five years, which, indeed, may I point out, cover the entire stretch of the activity of the Trusteeship ever since it came into being.

For my part, I only wish to add a few considerations concerning three aspects of the situation in Somaliland.

First of all, I should like to mention the development of the political institutions. It is with great pleasure that I avail myself of this opportunity to make an announcement here which I consider of particular importance. On 16 June the Trusteeship Administration adopted various measures designed further to increase the participation of Somalis in the political and administrative life of the Territory. The first of these measures was the appointment of the Somali official, Mr. Hassan Nur Elmi, as head of the Hiran region. Representatives on this Council will realize, no doubt, the

(Mr. Casardi, Italy)

significance of this move: the administration of one of the six regions comprising the Territory is thus entrusted completely to Somali officials. This is a new decisive step in the direction of the progressive "Somalization" of political and administrative services, which has been the consistent policy of the Trusteeship Administration.

The second measure concerns the setting up of a Committee, composed of representatives of the various Somali political parties, with the purpose of assisting the Administration, in an advisory capacity, in the exercise of its executive power. This also is a step the importance of which it is hardly necessary to stress, as it is intended to provide Somali elements with the necessary experience in the delicate functions of government that they will be called upon to fulfil. We foresee that, in its opening session, this new Committee will deal, among other things, with such fundamental questions as the incidents between tribes, which are the object of constant preoccupation on the part of the Italian Administration.

Other measures of 16 June include: first, the appointment of five new Somali district chiefs, in Beletuén, Brava, Itala, Bála and Margherita, respectively, thus raising the total of Somali district chiefs to twelve out of thirty; second, the appointment of two new vice-district chiefs, in Obbia and Itala, respectively, raising the total to twenty-three out of thirty; third, the appointment of the Somali official as assistant to the Director of Economic Development, of another Somali official as head of the secretariat of the Secretary-General, and of a third as member of the Administrator's private secretariat. These last three appointments have the effect of increasing considerably the participation of Somali elements in the activities of the most important and delicate offices of the central Administration.

I wish particularly to point out that these measures are even ahead of the time schedule foreseen by the programme which is before this Council. They also follow, within a few days, the arrival in Mogadiscio of the new Administrator, Ambassador Anzillotti, clearly bearing out -- should proof be required -- his firm intention of giving particular care to the achievement of the process of "Somalization" with the maximum speed and amplitude consistent with the efficient workings of the Administration.

(Mr. Casardi, Italy)

I now come to the question of the economic development of Somaliland and the problem of its financing. The Italian Trusteeship Administration has continued to implement the plan that was submitted to this Council at its fourteenth session. This plan, the Council knows, was drawn up on the lines suggested by the report prepared in 1953 by Dr. Malagodi, an expert of international repute in economic and financial matters. The documents before the Council show the first important steps towards the implementation of the programme.

Naturally, the Territory's limited economic and financial resources are decisive factors in conditioning the possibilities of its development. The Italian Administration is the first to realize that this raises serious questions with regard to the economic and financial situation of the Territory when, after 1960, it will have acquired full independence.

It was precisely for this reason that the Italian Administration viewed most favourably the decision reached last year by the Trusteeship Council and by the General Assembly to ask the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to undertake the study of the situation in Somaliland.

Actually, we are already in possession of a considerable number of reports drafted by internationally well known experts and specialists bearing on the various sectors of economic activity which concern Somali territory. The more important of these reports, enumerated in the list which we distributed last week, are at the disposal of representatives on the Trusteeship Council. But what the Administration would particularly welcome at this point is that the Bank, with all the authority conferred upon it by its specific competence and high technical qualifications, would give an over-all and general opinion on the situation and on the real possibilities of economic development in the Territory.

I know that the Council has been informed by the Secretariat of the contacts which have already taken place with the purpose of carrying out the survey in question and, in particular, of the reply given by the Bank. In view of the considerations which I have already stressed, the Italian Government considers it purposeful to insist that the Bank, as foreshadowed

(Mr. Casardi, Italy)

in its reply, should be willing to consider the matter again and, therefore, to accept to undertake the mission. On its part, the Italian Government will naturally be very glad to address a direct invitation in this sense to the Bank, requesting also that the final report should be presented concurrently to this Council.

In this attitude the Administering Authority is inspired by the sincere concern to have available, with the shortest possible delay, a report which will enable it to present to this Council definite proposals concerning the establishment of the various problems which independent Somaliland will have to deal with after 1960. Thus, the United Nations and Italy may undertake immediately to seek the most adequate means towards the eventual solution of such problems, in the best interests of independent Somaliland and in compliance with General Assembly resolution 855 of 14 December 1954.

I shall close these remarks with a brief reference to the question of the frontier between Somaliland and Ethiopia. Pursuant to the resolutions voted at their most recent sessions by the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly, the Italian Government has not ceased in its efforts to proceed with direct negotiations with the Ethiopian Government. We are perfectly aware, in fact, of the importance that the Council and the Assembly rightly attribute to the solution of this important problem. Accordingly, the question has been raised again, on various occasions, by the Italian Ambassador in Addis Ababa in his contacts with the competent Ethiopian authorities. From a recent message I now understand that, following a new step by the Ambassador on 20 May, the Ethiopian Foreign Minister informed the Ambassador that he would receive him today -- 28 June -- in connexion with our past proposals for direct negotiations. No further detailed information is available so far on this matter. Needless to add, the Italian Government, for its part, sincerely hopes that a final settlement satisfactory to both parties concerned may be reached, and it will continue to make every effort in that direction.

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration): Despite my many years of experience in Somaliland, it will not be easy for me to try to clarify some of the most important aspects of the basic problems of that Territory. I have used the word "clarify" because lately I have read and listened to many ideas about Somaliland which, to anyone familiar with the real problems of the country, sound somewhat confused and certainly unrealistic. I think this is mainly due to a certain tendency which I have noticed lately to "discover" Somaliland or to discover at a certain moment or from time to time that the problems of Somaliland are really very complicated and very difficult to solve.

In my opinion, this is not at all new. The fact that the problems of Somaliland were and are very complicated and very difficult to solve was very well known to the United Nations in 1949 and in 1950 when the United Nations entrusted the administration of the Territory to my country, and requested Italy to foster the development of free political institutions in the country and to promote the social, economic and educational advancement of its inhabitants.

In my opinion, if we really wish to appraise in a realistic way what has been done up till now in Somaliland and what the Administration intends to do in the next five years, we must first of all have a clear idea of what Somaliland was like in 1950. I went to Somaliland in 1950, and I will now try to give the members of the Council a resume of the situation as it was then. In this country of just over a million inhabitants, 80 per cent of the people were living on what may be called a subsistence economy. They led a nomadic life. The remaining 20 per cent of the population lived on the margin of what at that time was the monetary economy of the country. There were no legislative organs of any kind and the Somalis did not take any important part in the administrative organization of the country.

In the other fields, the situation was no more encouraging. I remember that in the health and sanitary institutions of the country there were only twenty physicians, and they were limited to the most important centres of Somaliland. About 2,800 children and adults were attending elementary classes,

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(Mr. Spinelli,
Special representative)

mainly in the three most important cities of the Territory, Mogadiscio, Merca and Kismayu. The only secondary school which was open in 1949 had an enrolment of about 25 young Somalis. Activity in agriculture, industry and trade was very limited on account of the war and the postwar period, and the part played by the Somalis in this activity was very limited and quite insignificant.

I will now try to show what we have done in the last five years and what we intend to do in the next five years. I cannot say that we have registered remarkable or notable progress in all fields, but I can assure the members of the Trusteeship Council that the inadequate results achieved in many instances should not be ascribed to a lack of good will on our part.

In the political field, and to a lesser extent in the educational field, we feel that substantial progress has been made in the last five years. By means of the Territorial Council and the other councils that we have created in the Territory since 1950, we have succeeded in preparing a sufficient number of Somalis for the legislative activities of the Assembly, which will be elected within the next two months by universal suffrage. Up to the present, the Territorial Council has been a consultative and advisory body, but I have to add that in the last few years, although an advisory body, the Council has in fact represented what can be called a real legislative body to the point that the electoral ordinance, which was enacted a few months ago for the new elections, was entirely proposed by this body and was accepted and approved by the Administrator.

As the members of the Council heard a few minutes ago from the representative of Italy, within the last few weeks we have been able to appoint a committee of representatives of different parties to assist the Administrator in his functions as chief executive officer of the country.

In order to prepare personnel qualified for administrative functions in the Territory, in 1950 the Administration founded a political and administrative school. During the last five years this school has been attended by more than 150 students, and the first graduates from that school have already been entrusted with the most important posts in the central and local governments. And as the members of the Council also heard a few minutes ago, about ten days ago one of these graduates was appointed as head of one of the six regions of the country.

(Mr. Spinelli,
Special representative)

Turning from the political to the educational field, I must state that we have encountered some difficulties in our work of developing the educational organization of the country. The main difficulty encountered was that of the limited number of Somali people who entered the vocation of teaching. Until a few months ago, unfortunately we have not been able to find sufficient Somali teachers to open all the schools we intended to open. Luckily, however, in March last when the new teacher training course started, we found there were more than 130 applications for that new course, compared with an average of 30 or 35 during the past four years. This for us was extremely encouraging news, because we feel that from now onwards we shall be able to increase the pace of development in the educational system of the country, in which there are now 23,000 pupils in the elementary schools and about 900 in secondary and professional schools. We hope that it will be easy for us to go even beyond the objective we had set for 1960, that is, to have 50,000 pupils in the elementary schools and about 2,000 students in the secondary and professional schools. When I arrived in Somaliland in 1950, there was one Somali student attending a secondary school abroad.

(Mr. Spinelli, Special
representative)

Now, thanks also to the generosity of the Egyptian Government and the Egyptian people, there are from 300 to 400 young Somalis who are studying abroad. They are following courses in secondary or professional schools in Italy, in Egypt and many other Arab countries and in the United States of America, and some of them are already entering colleges or universities.

If we have encountered a few difficulties in our development plans for education, I am bound to say that the handicaps with which we have had to deal in the social and economic fields were much bigger. In the economic and social fields, the most important factor, much more important than money, is time, and we have realized that in our work in Somaliland the same rule applies to that country. I am not going to say that we have made no real progress in the economic and social fields during the last five years. On the contrary, if you read the documents we have presented to the Council, you will see among other things that the consumption level of the Somali population has substantially increased. You will also see that the internal revenue has increased to over 37 million Somalos from a little more than 20 million Somalos, and that the total figures for external trade, which amounted in 1949 to about 50 million Somalos, has now reached the average figure in the last few years of 130 million Somalos. You will see that Somali-managed firms, which practically did not exist in 1950, are now taking contracts for public works in ever increasing numbers.

You will see that the Somali farmers, through the co-operatives which we have been able to organize and with the help of the new banking institution created and financed by the Administration, are quite rapidly learning new methods and techniques for cultivating the land. You will see that we have started a large-scale programme for transforming the main tracks of the country into what are called "all-weather" roads. In the last six months we were able to stabilize, if that is the right word, about 100 miles of the 500 miles of roads we intend to stabilize by 1960, so that the main communication lines from Mogadiscio to Chisimaio and from Mogadiscio to Belet Uen will, by 1960, be roads which can be used all year round.

(Mr. Spinelli, Special
representative)

You will see in our documents that hospitals and dispensaries have increased in number and that the old ones have been renovated, while against twenty physicians who were in the country in 1950 we have now reached a total of over seventy. You will see that a new social insurance system has been established and that, since the beginning of 1954, the Administration has begun a large programme of well drilling, which is being carried out by special teams organized in the last two years.

While on the subject of this programme of well drilling, I should like to say -- and I hope the members of the Visiting Mission will take this in the right spirit -- that I have been unable to understand the concern of the Visiting Mission about this matter. Before starting on this programme, the Italian Administration asked a number of United States and Italian ground water experts to come to the country and make surveys of the ground water possibilities. After the surveys had been made, we had many teams of Italian specialists travelling through the various regions of the country to select the localities most suitable for the new wells, and naturally in choosing the localities the teams, which as I have just said were composed of Italian specialists who had known the country for many years, took into consideration the ratio between the water supply and the pastures, and they also took into consideration the livestock population of the area. It was not the Administration's idea, at least for the moment, to increase the livestock population of the country by means of this large-scale programme of well drilling. What we really intended to do was to exploit many of the innumerable pastures which existed in Somaliland and which it had not been possible to exploit hitherto because of the lack of water supply. At the same time, we intended that the programme would assure all the tribes of Somaliland sufficient water supplies during all seasons of the year. In addition, the drilling of the wells will naturally induce many of the tribes gradually to change their way of life from a really nomadic life to what might be called a semi-nomadic life.

(Mr. Spinelli, Special
representative)

I cannot understand the preoccupation of the Visiting Mission with the idea of controlling access to the wells, since everybody who knows the country and has a fair knowledge of the habits of the Somali people knows very well that in Somaliland each pasture zone belongs to a certain group of tribes, and naturally once in a while it happens that one group of tribes will try to enter the zone of another group, but the control of access to the wells existed before the new wells were bored. In the great majority of cases the tribes would always use the water which existed in their own pasture zone and it was only in a very small percentage of cases that there was any difficulty. There is therefore no need to worry about the control of access to the water.

On the question of the new wells, all the possible inconveniences that could arise are mentioned in that part of the Visiting Mission's report which is devoted to the problem of the wells. It is stated, for instance, that the pumping facilities might break down. Naturally, that happened quite often at the beginning, but we shall not stop boring new wells just because the pumping machinery is liable to break down. To do so would be as if, fifty years ago, we had refused to use electric power because the machinery was liable to break down. We have to take risks, and it may be that for the next two or three years the arrangements in connexion with the wells will not be the most perfect, but we are improving our organization day by day and this programme of providing new wells is something which the population has greatly appreciated. We have proof of that every day from the different tribes which are using the water.

This is not the only point on which we cannot share the view of the Visiting Mission, but I shall limit myself to one more point, which is concerned with the development plan we presented to the Trusteeship Council last year. According to the Visiting Mission, this is more a catalogue of public works than a comprehensive economic development plan. Apart from the fact that half of that plan is dedicated to the development of the agricultural and zootechnical resources of the Territory, do not the members of the Visiting Mission feel that in a country like Somaliland the creation of what might be called "social capital" -- meaning roads, harbour facilities and so on -- is an essential prerequisite of the real economic development of the country?

(Mr. Spinelli,
Special representative)

I have tried up to now to give you a general idea of what the Italian Administration has been able to do in the last five years and what it intends to do in the next five years.

In the political field, the encouraging results we have had up to now make us feel certain that by 1960 the country, by means of free and democratic institutions, will have reached a stable organization which will allow Somaliland to continue its political life.

In the economic and social field, the results of the large-scale investment plan, the ever-increasing participation of the population, the contribution of the population to the revenue of the country and a decrease in the deficit of the balance of payments -- if these will not allow the new country to reach complete self-sufficiency, it will surely put the country in a position which will be quite near to what I could call "a chance of viability". If the country will not be viable, it will be much nearer to viability than it was five years ago. That is what we expect to accomplish by 1960.

Perhaps, some may feel that that is not enough. Anyhow, I say again that Italy will not spare any effort, as it has not spared any effort in the past, or any financial sacrifice to fulfil its duties. In fulfilling its duties, we hope that we will always be able to count on the help of the Advisory Council which has followed our work very closely and with real and great understanding.

My country has undertaken this duty of helping Somaliland towards independence without expecting any returns -- I repeat, without expecting any returns -- and I think that my country should be considered as one of the great contributors to the cause of the United Nations. I am not going to say how many millions of dollars we spend or leave in Somaliland every year. I do not wish to stress this point. I only want to say -- and I think that I am repeating what I have said previously in this Council -- that in fulfilling our duty we have been able to count on the co-operation of the Somali people, and we consider that our real and best reward.

Mr. de HOLTE CASTELLO (Chairman of the Advisory Council for Somaliland) (interpretation from French): On Behalf of the Advisory Council and in my capacity as Chairman, I have the honour to present to the Council a report on our activities from the period 1 April 1954 to the end of March 1955 (T/1172).

I should like to draw your attention to the special importance not so much of our report, but to the period which it covers. On the one hand, this period marks exactly the half-way mark on the road which Somaliland must cover under the aegis of the United Nations and of the Government of Italy before its independence is proclaimed. The year 1955 therefore constitutes a date of importance in the history of Somaliland for, as we look behind us, we may see the road already covered and the progress achieved since the signing of the Trusteeship Agreement. In looking ahead, we can also begin to form an idea of what this country will be when it receives its national sovereignty.

On the other hand, the period which has just elapsed is of special importance for another reason. It is in fact a period of transition between two epochs; one of these epochs was especially devoted to study and research, while the other saw the implementation, and continues to see the implementation, of final and precise plans and the beginning of their implementation. As can be seen from the report of the Advisory Council, this latter period is characterized by the establishment of specific projects and of decisions which will determine the future of Somaliland, particularly in the political and economic fields.

The fact that the first months of the year 1955 constitute a period of exceptional importance for the development of Somaliland is shown, not only in such achievements and such results as the signing of the Italian-American Agreement for the development of the Territory or the establishment of the district councils, but also by the declaration made on 21 March to the Advisory Council by the Acting Administrator of the Territory, Mr. Spinelli, who, in broad outline and with precision, recalled the results up to now that are leading the Territory to the achievement of its independence. He has indicated the broad outlines of the actions that the Administration contemplates for the coming years.

(Mr. de Holte Castello,
Chairman of the Advisory Council)

The Advisory Council has considered it necessary to reproduce these statements in its report since they constitute the reply of the Administration to important questions which the Council has raised in expressing its views or suggestions. These declarations constitute, in a way, an encouraging conclusion to the work of the Advisory Council for the period which has elapsed, since the measures contemplated by the Administering Authority -- the advice of the Council and now the statements of the Acting Administrator -- constitute a coherent whole.

This period is of great importance in the preparation of Somaliland for independence, and it was accompanied by special activities on the part of the Advisory Council. On the one hand, the Council met for 189 days during the period. This requires a quorum of two members present. For eighty-three days all three members of the Council were in Mogadiscio. These figures have never yet been attained. On the other hand, a rapid and hasty glance at the report of the Advisory Committee suffices to show that the number and importance of the opinions given during this period make it the most active and the most significant in the history of the Council.

In fact, if it was possible to dispose of the backlog which was accumulated for various reasons, and to give these opinions to the Administering Authority, which called for research and for difficult and delicate studies, this was only due to the careful utilization of time and also due to the presence of the members of the Council for a long time in Mogadiscio and to a very close co-operation between the Council and the Secretariat. In fact, the presence in Mogadiscio of two, and then of three, members of the Council in September and in October, and the meeting of three members from January to May 1955, made it possible to study thoroughly, pending questions which were then discussed with the responsible authorities of the Territory.

It was during this latter period that the Administering Authority, in close contact with the Advisory Council, proceeded in the political and economic fields to make a particularly close study of certain problems which are among the most important for the development of Somaliland.

(Mr. de Holte Castello,
Chairman of the Advisory Council)

The Advisory Council has deemed it necessary to submit its report in a different form, a form which is clearer and more adapted to the growing number of problems with which it deals.

The first chapter is devoted to general questions such as the functioning of the Council, its relations with the Administering Authority and the local population, the dissemination of information on the United Nations. The Trusteeship Council will also find in it the statements made to the Advisory Council by the Acting Administrator of Somaliland on 21 March 1955, statements which, as I have pointed out, have a special significance.

The four following chapters deal with political, economic, social and educational questions. Each of them is divided into two parts: on the one hand, a statement of the facts which the Council considered should be presented, so as to make more plausible the advice given to the Administering Authority, and some suggestions were also given; on the other hand, a statement of these opinions was given, accompanied by the action taken, if any.

Chapter II deals with political questions. It is obvious that in this field the Territory has entered a period of rapid development. The activities of political parties, the sense of responsibility which is developing among the political chiefs, the interest which the Somalis take in the administration of public affairs and the establishment of institutions -- whether they be new, like the district councils and the municipalities or old ones which have been improved and better adapted -- are proof that the effort made is general on the part of both the Administration and the populations.

One must note in particular the interest which the Territorial Council has displayed on the question of the organization of the impending general elections. With the agreement of the Advisory Council, the Administering Authority has let the Territorial Council free to choose its electoral procedures which all political parties wish to see followed to the exclusion of all others. The discussion in the Territorial Council lasted for more than one week, and it has shown not only a sense of responsibility, but also the political sense acquired by the members of that Assembly. These elections will take place throughout the Territory, and the rural populations will, for the first time, be in a position

(Mr. de Holte Castello,
Chairman of the Advisory Council)

to participate in the balloting. The Councillors who will thus be elected will remain in office until 1958. New elections will be held on that date which will lead to the formation of the Assembly which will have the job of preparing and adopting the Constitution of the future Somali State.

On the regional level, the number of municipalities will be increased, as will the powers of the municipal councils, while at the same time the new district councils will make it possible for the rural populations to take an ever-increasing part in the administration of local affairs.

It is with special satisfaction that the Advisory Council has welcomed the declaration of the Administering Authority to the effect that an effort will be made after the general elections exclusively to entrust to Somali officials the administration of entire regions. It has also welcomed with the same satisfaction the plan to entrust exclusively to Somali personnel posts of district chiefs and to begin the practical training of territorial councillors for the functions of councillors of the chiefs of the Territory.

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Chairman of the Advisory Council)

I do not wish to overlook the fact that the Territorial Council has chosen the national emblem of Somaliland, a five-point white star on a background of United Nations blue. The Somali flag was raised for the first time in Mogadiscio on 12 October 1954 in the presence of an immense and enthusiastic crowd.

The section of the report on political advancement deals with the difficult problem involved in the settlement of the frontier question between Ethiopia and Somaliland. There is no question but this settlement should be made as early as possible. The Trusteeship Council has received the protest lodged in January of this year by the chiefs of the political parties with the Advisory Council. On the occasion of a demonstration in which approximately 20,000 persons participated, a protest was made against the signing of an agreement between Ethiopia and the United Kingdom concerning the regions in which the provisional frontier line between Ethiopia and Somaliland lies. It is obvious that, in recommending that the populations concerned should be consulted, the Advisory Council had in mind only the population which is directly concerned with the drawing up of the frontier between Ethiopia and Somaliland under Italian administration, and not the populations referred to in the protest of the political parties of Somaliland.

Finally, I should like to point out that, on 20 April 1955, the first organized elections took place in two newly established municipalities and that the number of voters reached such a high proportion as to be worthy of mention. In the community of Dugiuma more than 93 per cent of the registered voters participated in the balloting. We can but congratulate the Somalis on their sense of civic responsibility.

Chapter III is devoted to economic and financial questions. These are the most delicate and complex questions, as the Council is aware, which arise in the Territory. In fact, by means of a real tour de force, one must convert in a few years the economy of a decidedly under-developed country into that of a country which is self-sufficient -- not entirely self-sufficient perhaps, but at least to an extent which will assure it of a certain independence. The Advisory Council, for eighteen months, has

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Chairman of the Advisory Council)

devoted most of its attention to these problems, as may be seen from the report of last year and also from the report which I have the honour to present today. The desire of the Administering Authority to ensure the economic development of the Territory was manifest, first, in the plan drawn up in 1952. It was evident next in the despatch of missions to Somaliland, particularly that of Doctor Malagodi, whose report is a remarkable crystalization of the problems which are faced in promoting the economic and social development of the Territory.

Finally, it was evident in the discussions and from the conclusion of a number of agreements between the Governments of the United States and Italy, a series of agreements which does not yet seem to be exhausted.

Neither should I overlook the precious aid given by certain specialized agencies, particularly by the Foreign Operations Administration of the United States, in the matter of drilling wells, and, finally, by the Egyptian Government in the field of cotton cultivation. I must point out that the advice given by the Advisory Council during recent months could not incorporate the new important fact of the programme of work undertaken under the Italo-American agreements. In fact, it was only at the time of adopting our report that we received the detailed information on these projects. The Advisory Council has welcomed these agreements with satisfaction, since they furnish the prerequisites for the basic structure necessary for the opening up of regions which are the most likely to produce food and industrial crops, without which the population could subsist only precariously and meagerly.

The Advisory Council was anxious to express in its report its recognition of the assistance rendered to Somaliland, this Territory adopted by the United Nations and entrusted to Italy, and of the profound interest shown by the Government of the United States, which has given to Somaliland the technical and financial assistance of which it was in need. Oil prospecting is continuing at an accelerated pace. We must wait a little longer to find out whether Somaliland will be among those which own the black gold, or whether its economy will be based essentially on agriculture and cattle-raising.

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Chairman of the Advisory Council)

The Advisory Council has made known to the Administering Authority its opinion, long withheld for various reasons, on the mining law enforced in the Territory and on the contracts concluded by the Administering Authority with the two companies responsible for oil prospecting and also, possibly the production of oil. We have studied these questions thoroughly. The Advisory Council had in mind impartially the interests of the Territory and the necessity to ensure its development. This was one of the most delicate questions in regard to which the Council had to take a stand. Various aspects of the economic and financial policy of the Territory have also been the subject of numerous studies on the part of the Council and of many conversations with officials of the Administering Authority. The search for outlets for the products of the country, the organization of industrial and agricultural credits, the support of crops and industrial operations, such as sugar and bananas, the revision of import and export duties, and the adaptation of a financial system to the needs of the treasury and the situation of the taxpayers to the organization of the territorial budget, together with its transformation into an independent budget, the launching of municipal, financial and other problems, such as the construction of an economic framework with adequate port facilities and a network of roads, represent the major outline of the preoccupations which obliged the Administering Authority and the Advisory Council to study jointly the problems of economic development in Somaliland last year.

Chapter IV deals with social advancement. Certain information will be found there concerning studies devoted to the improvement of public health facilities and the progress achieved in the carrying out of plans drawn up by the Administering Authority and the ILO for the protection of workers. This chapter also describes a discussion of questions pertaining to hygiene and to the construction of cheap housing. Finally, there is the problem of the revision of the penal system.

The fifth and last chapter is devoted to questions of education. The Advisory Council felt that it should express a detailed opinion on certain questions.

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Chairman of the Advisory
Council)

As regards the five-year plan, from 1952 to 1957, the Council felt that, since it had been drawn up on the spot with the assistance of UNESCO, it would no doubt be desirable that that specialized agency should be consulted on its implementation and on the results achieved.

I should note here the effort made by the Egyptian Government in the field of education. One hundred and fifty scholarship students from Somaliland are studying in Egypt at the expense of the Egyptian Government and, under the same conditions, five Egyptian professors are teaching in the Mogadiscio Institute of Islamic Studies. The Council also noted with interest the statement of the Administrator pertaining to the sending to Italy, at the expense of the Italian Government, of twenty Somali students graduated from the School of Political and Administrative Studies of Mogadiscio, who, after several months of training, will be given responsible positions in Somaliland. The last period, particularly the first months of 1955, have been, without any question, the most productive of decisions and the richest in effort since the signing of the Trusteeship Agreement. Certainly, many decisions remain to be taken and much effort is yet to be made, decisions and effort which might discourage more timid souls, but, during the recent months which we spent in Somaliland, the members of the Advisory Council had the clear impression that a new impulse, a voluntary and determined impulse, to overcome all obstacles has animated both the Administration and the Somalis. The generous aid granted by certain countries, the climate of confidence, of devotion and goodwill which prevails in the Territory, added to the will to succeed, are tokens of future success.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.25 p.m.

Mr. SALAH (Egypt): The report of the Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland has thoroughly covered all aspects of the Territory in question. It is in my capacity as the representative of Egypt that I should like to call the attention of this Council to certain points in the political and economic fields which my delegation considers of particular importance.

Since I had the honour of appearing before this Council last year, I have had the opportunity to undertake a number of field trips into the hinterland of the Trust Territory covering more than 4,000 kilometres by car and about 3,500 kilometres by air. Owing to language facility and religious ties, I was able to speak directly to the local inhabitants in Arabic and they were encouraged to approach me openly on several important matters. This close contact with public opinion has made me more conscious of the urgency of seeking solutions to some of the problems to which I propose to draw the Council's attention at this time.

The report has described adequately the cordial relations that happily exist amongst the Somali political parties on the one hand and between these parties and the Administering Authority on the other. It gives me great pleasure to add that, as a result of a closer and more fruitful collaboration between the various Somali political parties, a Somali National Front has been recently formed which has for its main purpose the unity of action vis-à-vis national issues and problems. This Front which consists of four principal committees, namely, political, economic, educational and administrative, is still a further tangible proof of the growing maturity of the Somali people and constitutes a good omen for a promising future. Another symptom of the political maturity of the Somali nation is the ever increasing interest manifested in the forthcoming national elections for the Territorial Council. During my presence in the Territory since April 1954, I have heard several political leaders explaining to the people, in towns as well as in the hinterland, in simple terms and by simple means their parties' constructive platforms, and this, as well as other achievements of the political parties, fully justifies the confidence of the United Nations in the constructive role of the parties. It is worthwhile noting in this context that the Territorial Council,

(Mr. Salah, Egypt)

realizing the important future role which it will shortly be called upon to play in the progressive political evolution of the Territory, has examined between 24 and 30 March 1955, a draft ordinance on elections to the Territorial Council which was adopted after a number of useful amendments and revisions had been introduced.

This ordinance provides, inter alia, that only Somalis who are thirty years of age or above and who are literate in either Arabic or Italian can present their candidacies to the Territorial Council. This will be a great improvement over the present Territorial Council amongst whose members are a number of illiterates.

These are all promising factors, but it would be erroneous to assume that similar progress is being made in the solution of certain other problems which are essentially of a political nature. The most serious and complex knot that threatens the peace and security of the area, and which is capable of leading to tragic consequences, is the question of the delimitation of the frontier with Ethiopia. This question, as is well known to all of the members of the Council, has been pending since the establishment of the Trusteeship Administration itself. Several resolutions have been adopted by this Council as well as by the General Assembly urging an early delimitation of the frontier, but unfortunately nothing has been done along that line.

In the first two operative paragraphs of its resolution No. 854 (IX) of 14 December 1954, the General Assembly:

"Notes with concern that no progress has been made to date in the direct negotiations between the Governments of Ethiopia and Italy on the delimitation of the frontier between the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration and Ethiopia" ...

"Urges the Governments of Ethiopia and Italy to exert their utmost efforts to achieve a final settlement of the frontier question by direct negotiations" ...

"Recommends that, should direct negotiations fail to achieve any results by July 1955, the two Governments agree to the procedure outlined in General Assembly resolution 392 (V) of 15 December 1950."

(Mr. Salah, Egypt)

We are now at the end of June and I regret very much to say that there is as yet no evidence that direct or indirect negotiations between Italy and Ethiopia have been initiated, notwithstanding the request of the General Assembly to that effect. I visited the frontier area during September 1954, where I met several chiefs and notables of the disputed Ogaden area who had taken refuge inside the Trust Territory and I reported to the Advisory Council on my findings (A/C.4/277 of 10 November 1954). I visited the same area again in April this year and was quite disturbed when I discovered that there had been a new wave of immigration into the Trust Territory. I have been informed by some of these immigrants that the situation has continued to deteriorate and that if no early action was taken to relieve tension, the Somalis of Ogaden would not be able to exercise patience for ever. I was told of a series of incidents, the latest and most serious of which had taken place at Callafo, in the Ogaden area, where eight Somalis were killed and a larger number wounded in a clash with an Ethiopian force.

I must make it clear that most of my information concerning the situation in the disputed areas has been gathered from Ogaden refugees now living in the Trust Territory, and that I have not had the opportunity to visit the Ogaden to confirm the accuracy of this information. My delegation deems it essential, however, that a United Nations Investigation Committee should be sent to these areas as soon as possible to find out the facts and to report to the United Nations.

This frontier problem is the legacy left by the British Military Administration to the future State of Somalia. It is a well-known fact that when the British forces occupied the areas inhabited by Somalis they found a territory previously unified under Italian rule. Even when the Ethiopian Government was restored in 1942, the British Military Administration continued to administer the Ogaden as a Somali province, with headquarters in Mogadiscio. It is known as well that the British conquest and occupation of Somaliland and adjacent areas had been completed by 1942. What was then the reason for the British keeping the whole of the Ogaden, which is now claimed to be Ethiopian, under their rule for a period of six years, namely between 1942 and 1948? The only convincing explanation is that the British authorities, who knew the area well, must have been aware of the historical and geographical fact that this area was always an integral part of Somalia.

(Mr. Salah, Egypt)

It seems that in 1948 a large part of the Ogaden was returned to Ethiopia. In 1950, the British Military Authorities withdrew from the 1948 line marking the eastern boundary of the Ogaden and established the present provisional boundary, much of which is a straight line which cuts across certain tribal areas.

The United Kingdom-Ethiopian agreement of 29 November 1954, made public on 5 January 1955, over the "Havd" and the "Reserved Area", has complicated the problem and was met with widespread demonstrations in Somalia protesting against the ceding to Ethiopia of additional Somali territories inhabited by a purely Somali population, namely, the Havd and the Reserved Area, the eastern part of which adjoins the provisional boundary. We have read about the dissatisfaction and protests even inside the British protected part of Somaliland which culminated in the sending of a Somali delegation to London to protest and to explain the facts and the actual situation to the United Kingdom Government and Parliament.

I have been asked by a number of outstanding political leaders of the Trust Territory to inform the Council that the territory inhabited by Somalis is their own, and not the personal property of any Power which can dispose of it as it pleases. The Somali people detest the terms "Reserved Area" and "Disputed Ogaden Area", and "Provisional frontier line" which denote parts of their own homeland, and consider it a mere political creation by certain Powers to justify arbitrary disposal of pure Somali territory.

My delegation stresses its earnest wish that a fair and satisfactory settlement to this inflammable problem should be sought as soon as possible, and not left to the infant State of Somalia. Taking into consideration the fact that the Ethiopian delegation to the United Nations made it crystal clear in the General Assembly that it no longer recognized any previous agreements concluded with Italy on the Somali-Ethiopian frontier, it seems that the only alternative is to focus our attention on the landmark year of 1935. Ethiopia has the right to claim the areas over which it did then actually exercise rights of sovereignty and administration, but would it be fair and just to cede to Ethiopia territories inhabited by people who are ethnically, religiously, and linguistically foreign to Ethiopia, and over which it has never exercised any vestige of sovereignty?

(Mr. Salah, Egypt)

The United Nations, the champion and guardian of rights of nations, must not lose sight of the sacred right of self-determination in seeking a fair solution to this problem. The Egyptian delegation suggests therefore that a plebiscite should be held in the disputed areas in the very near future, under international supervision, so that the people of these areas can express freely their choice.

Now turning to the economic field, my delegation can only reiterate with greater emphasis what it stated before this Council last year and what has been confirmed in the findings of the Visiting Mission, namely, that the task of leading the Territory to effective independence is the responsibility also of the United Nations and not alone of the Administering Authority, and that in the economic field it is active initiative from the United Nations which is needed.

Great efforts have been made over the past year by the Administering Authority to get the economic development programme started. But the pace is relatively slow considering that only five years remain for the achievement of independence. This is no criticism of the Administering Authority; it takes time to get things started when there still exists a shortage in financial resources and technical personnel.

The United States of America has been actively co-operating with the Administration in economic development; but much more assistance is needed and would, I am confident, be heartily welcomed by the Administering Authority. My Government has been able to assist recently with the services of an expert in cotton cultivation. India has indicated its willingness to give a number of hand looms and I hope the Indian Government will be able to satisfy the Somalis' request and send expert weavers to teach the Somalis how to build and use them. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization fundamental education expert in the Territory has volunteered to direct the work in various centres where the handlooms would be used.

Gratefully though these forms of assistance have been or would be accepted in Somalia, they are far from adequate to the task which confronts the Administering Authority. Large-scale aid from the United Nations and its specialized agencies is required in order to accelerate the development of the economic structure.

(Mr. Salah, Egypt)

Far too much emphasis has been laid in the past on the need for capital and far too much is said of the alleged poverty of the Territory. Loans, grants or equity capital can do little without what the Americans call technical "know-how". The Territory is not poor in natural resources; it only lacks sufficient technical "know-how" for exploiting them. I can say this from my personal impressions gained in the course of many tours throughout the Territory and from my contacts with technical experts. There are two long rivers traversing the whole width of the Territory, with much good soil. With two seasons of flood, there is abundant water; its use only needs to be rationalized. There are excessively large numbers of stock roaming the bush in pursuit of water and sparse pasture and dying of starvation and thirst or of diseases. The highly commendable well-drilling of the Italo-American co-operative programme is improving stock watering; but the balance needs to be maintained between water and forage, by the seeding of pasturage with grasses and the cultivation of fodder on the shambas. To enable the use of draught animals on the cultivable riverine areas, serious efforts need to be made to clear the bush of tsetse fly.

In this connexion, I am glad to report that following the recent investigation made, and views expressed by the Egyptian technical expert on cotton, the Administration realizing the great possibilities of successful cotton cultivation in Somalia has decided to pay special attention and to concentrate greater efforts in that field. As a first step in this direction, the Administration has informed my Government that the services of two experts from Egypt on canal irrigation, are needed to start work before the end of this year on canalization systems.

At the same time, on a new technical basis, agricultural experimental stations are to be established in different parts, particularly for cotton researches, but also for other plants in order to select species which may be cultivated in the Territory. Such scientific selection of crops and proper measures to ensure their cultivation would be really effective in replacing the present virtual monoculture of bananas. In this respect, I wish to pay tribute to the initiative of H.E. Minister Spinelli, who in his capacity as Acting Administrator, endorsed these plans and gave them his full support.

As in agriculture so in animal husbandry, scientific techniques need to be introduced. Hides and skins, even under present primitive and unguided methods of processing, grading, packing and marketing, are second only to bananas as an export of the Territory.

A most commendable effort has been made this year by the Administration to introduce some measure of regulation into the incense gathering of the Midjurtein, by encouraging the creation of co-operatives for sorting, grading and marketing the product.

These three fields of production -- agriculture, animals and incense -- and their commerce, constitute the source of the livelihood of the indigenous people and most of the indigenous exports of the Territory. Their promotion could have far-reaching and beneficial effects on the Territory's economic prosperity within a very short period. It is only in an atmosphere of optimistic progress and prosperity that industrial development can take place naturally and that private capital may be attracted to the Territory.

The balancing of the public budget has always been regarded as a paramount problem. It is sometimes urged that efforts should be made to find new sources of tax revenue. My delegation feels that, only within strict limits such as, perhaps, a livestock tax, should such a course be pursued. Increased revenues must be realized not by increasing tax burdens but from an expanding economy yielding greater revenues at the present, or even reduced levels of taxation.

Foremost in balancing the budget, however, should be drastic reductions in expenditures. The Territory is carrying an excessive burden of expenditure, even exclusive of Italian Administration expenses. At present, the total revenues of the Territory are barely sufficient to meet the pay and allowances alone of indigenous and local non-indigenous personnel in the Administration.

The existing levels of salaries paid to indigenous personnel will, if continued, constitute a heavy burden on the future state. The educational qualifications of the present indigenous staff are usually not even of high school standard. When suitably highly educated Somalis will seek positions in the Government administration in future, how high will the ceiling on salaries necessarily have to be raised in order to give them a remuneration commensurate with their relatively higher qualifications?

This is, I know, a very delicate and even embarrassing problem, but it should not be bequeathed to the infant Somali State. It is clearly essential and urgent that a sound and reasonable system should be established within the means of the Territory's public resources, however drastic and unpopular the re-organization must be. There should be established a chart of departmental staff requirements, and a properly graded system of jobs, with salaries attached to them on the basis of scientific job analysis. If the present incumbent of the job does not have the educational qualifications called for by the job, he should draw a commensurately lower salary. Only in this manner can the way be kept open, without involving dangerous inflation of public expenses, for the gradual filling of administrative posts by Somalis who will have attained the educational qualifications called for by the job.

I must state, however, that in my discussions with the Administration, I have realized that they are quite aware of the problem and that it is the subject of serious study.

Finally, I wish to urge the Council to give some thought to the moral responsibility which rests on the United Nations to assist the Somalis to develop their country in the years beyond 1960. It seems clear that this will require financial aid from the United Nations in the years to come, and I feel that the United Nations must at this stage take a realistic view of the situation and take steps to grant this emergency aid, as it has in the past when the urgent need of such aid was manifested in other parts of the world. The immediate implementation of a programme of international technical aid must be carried out together with a programme, perhaps of necessity a very modest one, of financing worth-while development projects. It would be unrealistic to expect the Somalis to find solutions to their problems without the kind of aid which many countries have received from outside sources. In the case of Somalia it seems clear that the responsibility will rest on the United Nations to provide this assistance.

The PRESIDENT: Before beginning the question period in which the representative of Syria has asked to speak first, the representative of the United Kingdom has asked to speak.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): I merely wish to indicate that tomorrow I should like to reply to certain statements just made by the representative of Egypt.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I apologize to the representative of Syria for intervening before him, but I should like to refer to the remarks made by the representative of Egypt concerning the introduction of hand looms into Somaliland and the possible loan for a few months of some Indian experts to train the Somalis to build hand looms locally and teach them to operate them. If the Administering Authority will make a request to us in such terms, we shall naturally be very happy to consider it sympathetically.

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): I can assure the representative of India that the Administration will be very glad to make that request.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): Before putting my questions to the special representative and the representative of Italy, I wish to express on behalf of my delegation our thanks for the statements made by both those representatives as well as the Chairman of the Advisory Council and the representative of Egypt on that Council. I shall have the opportunity to comment on the statement of the special representative at a later stage, but I will now proceed with my questions.

From all the available documents before us, the impression is gathered that there is still too much centralization of authority in the person of the Administrator, while there is an immediate need to expand Somali participation in policy-making. What steps has the Administering Authority taken in view of this most urgent problem and in view of the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly, and why does the Administrator consider that no Somalis are to be brought into the executive

(Mr. Asha, Syria)

organs of government until the general elections are held? The Visiting Mission has rightly noted in paragraph 38 of its report that a number of Somalis have already risen to positions of political leadership and that their qualifications and experience are sufficient to ensure their effective participation in an executive organ. As we know, time is running out, and by 1960 there will be a vacuum, the consequences of which cannot be minimized. When I formulated this question, I was not aware of the statement which has been made today by the representative of Italy, but my question still remains and needs some kind of an answer. The mere appointment of a few Somalis to some positions of responsibility does not alter our view.

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): As you have heard from the representative of my country, one of the few acts of the new administrator was to speed the process of Somalization as much as possible. This has been in progress for some time. This new committee which will assist the administrator in an executive capacity is just the first step in this direction. We have already appointed one person as head of the region. This position corresponds more or less to a governor of the region. Already twelve out of the thirty districts are headed by Somalis. In what is called the Administrative Council of the Administration, there are four Somalis who hold the posts of Assistant Director; one in the post of Economic Affairs, one in personnel, one in the Legislative Office, and the fourth one is in the Cabinet of the Administrator. They are participating regularly in their official capacity in all the meetings.

If we have decided that very active participation in the executive power will start when the new legislative board will be elected, it is because we feel that by then we will have enough people to take care not only of the direction of the Standing Committees of the new Legislative Assembly, but also of the parliamentary function in the executive power, as it is our intention to appoint all the Presidents of the Standing Committees of the new Assembly as Parliamentary Assistants to the different Secretaries of the departments of government.

I can assure the representative of Syria that we are doing our utmost to give positions to any Somalis who are ready to take on any important posts in the administration, either in the administrative or executive branch of the Administration.

There are about twenty or thirty young Somalis studying in Italy. They came from the political school, and we are awaiting their return to Mogadiscio. They will return in about three or four months to complete the Somalization of all the districts, to increase the Somalization of the regions, and also to provide a deputy director for every department in the central administration. I think that this will take place before the end of the year or before January 1956. According to our plan, we shall be able at that rate to do this

without forcing the issue. We do not wish to place a person in a position for which he is not completely qualified, but he should have certain qualifications. I can assure the representative of Syria that we will have Somalis in all important posts without exception before 1960. I think that some of them will need advisers. An example of this would be in the financial department. Our intention is to have the cadre for the new government completely Somalized before 1960 -- and we hope that it will take place long before 1960.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): I shall not make any comment on the reply of the special representative, but I wish to thank him for his reply. I shall make my observations in my general statement.

The report of the Administering Authority states on page 32 that measures will be taken in order to enlarge the powers of the Territorial Council when that body has been elected. Paragraph 51 of the Report of the Visiting Mission (T/1143) states:

"The Mission also suggests that the Administration should submit to the sixteenth session of the Trusteeship Council" -- that is, this session of the Council -- "its plans for progressive transfer of legislative powers to the elected Territorial Council."

Could the special representative tell the Council whether plans have been prepared, whether they will be submitted to the sixteenth session of the Trusteeship Council, particularly in matters concerning finance?

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): I think there is an answer to this question in the document we circulated last week. If, perhaps, the answer is not clear, I shall try to clarify it.

The intention of the Administration is to give the assembly -- I do not know if it will be immediately, but it will be in a very short time after the new assembly is convened in Mogadiscio -- all the legislative power. That means that they will have what is called the deliberative power. The Administration, I think, will retain the right of veto.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): I should be grateful to the special representative if he could inform me on what page of the new document this information is to be found. I have gone through it very carefully.

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): It is on page 30, paragraph 37.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): My question was whether the plan will be submitted to the Council at its sixteenth session in accordance with the recommendation of the Visiting Mission. If not, I shall not press the point.

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): I think that the special representative and the Administrator were present at the discussions which took place in the fourteenth session of the Council. It is the intention to give legislative power to the assembly gradually. In that case, naturally, the Trusteeship Council or the General Assembly asked for a plan for the gradual transfer of power. However, we have changed our minds, and we want to give all the legislative power to the new Council. I remember that when I was in Mogadiscio we thought first of giving this new body the legislative power as regards the imposition of taxes and on financial questions. After a few months, we would have granted some other powers. However, as long as the decision is to grant all legislative powers, I think that the Administration does not feel that a detailed plan to be submitted to the Trusteeship Council is necessary.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): In document T/1172, the report of the Advisory Council, it is mentioned that the rural population will participate in the next election. On the other hand, the same document explains that Ordinance No. 5 of 30 March 1955 had created the District Councils and modernized the traditional shirs of the tribes. Those two measures will have a certain effect on the political life of the rural population which so far has not participated in the political life of the Territory except in a traditional way. Is it possible to have any idea of the repercussions of those two measures on the nomadic population? Are they popular among the tribes? Have they provoked any special interest?

(Mr. Asha, Syria)

Has the Administering Authority in mind any other measures with which it intends to follow up the action thus begun? What steps are being taken to organize these elections, particularly in rural areas where there are two stages of elections?

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): The problem to which the representative of Syria refers pertains to the repercussion of an electoral experiment among the tribes, which was examined very carefully by the Administration before the law was proposed. Incidentally, I must repeat what I said in my general statement, namely, that the final text of the law was proposed by the Territorial Council, which means by the Somalis. We had nothing to do with that. We accepted it one hundred per cent from first to last. The proposal of the Territorial Council, in respect of the shirs, did not differ much from our draft proposal. As we were not sure that the tribes would understand or would like the idea of an election for the appointment of an electoral representative, who would be entitled to vote with the citizens of the villages in the final election of the Territorial Council, we thought of having at the same time, for each tribe, two elections in progress on the same day. In other words, when the tribes met in their traditional shirs they would elect first their head, who would automatically, as head of the tribe, become a member of the District Council. Then they would elect the electoral representative, who would have the right to vote in the final election of the Territorial Council. The reaction which we received in that connexion was quite favourable. I had occasion to talk to many of the representatives of the tribes, and they thought that it was not a bad idea. I cannot say that they understood wholly the meaning of that second election, but, on the whole, I think that they would be willing to participate. We had been worried about a possible unfavourable reaction on the part of the tribes, thinking that many of the tribes might possibly refuse to participate in the election of an electoral representative.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): The distribution of seats between the directly elected members of the Council and the indirectly elected groups has not yet been determined. I read in paragraph 46 of the Visiting Mission's report that the Administration is studying the problem. Could the special representative throw some light to the Council on the question of whether such plan is envisaged? What seems to be the balance of proportion? In this connexion I should like to remind the special representative of a statement which I made last year that a proper balance should be struck between the urban and the rural populations. I wonder whether the Administration has made note of that suggestion.

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): Apparently the representative of Syria is referring to one of the previous drafts of the electoral law, since, at present, the law establishes that the number of seats to be assigned to each region will be decided after the indirect election when the shirs have given the number of voters in each region. Until then, the sixty electoral seats are not assigned to the different regions. When we know the total number of voters in each region, according to a certain calculation which is established in the law, the sixty seats will be allotted to the different regions.

In regard to the second part of the question asked by the representative of Syria, I can say that the Administration has thought many times of the suggestion made in this Council last year, and our first proposal was exactly in line with the suggestion made then by the representative of Syria. As a matter of fact, we presented certain proposals. I remember my own, which was to give to the cities and villages which had a population of 2,000 or 3,000 inhabitants the right to have one seat, which would have given a certain advantage to the stabilized population. Unfortunately, all the Somalis, without distinction as to party, were against that. The idea of giving a different value to the votes of the urban populations and those of the nomadic population was not accepted at all. I have seldom seen such a unanimous opinion expressed by the Somalis.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): In paragraph 55 of the Visiting Mission's Report it is stated that "The Administrator told the Mission that a draft law granting deliberate powers to Municipal Councils would be submitted to the Territorial Council in November 1954". Could the special representative tell the Council the whereabouts of this draft law, whether it has been passed, whether it is functioning, and what are the results?

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): The law was passed; it was discussed by the Territorial Council, examined by the Advisory Council, and passed in March of this year. Unfortunately, I am not able to answer part of the question because I left the Territory in March. All I know is what I have read in the newspapers, which is that the Municipal Council of Mogadiscio has been very active in the last two months, that meetings are held every two or three days. But I have no direct knowledge of the results of the new law.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): Perhaps the special representative or the representative of Italy, later on in our discussions, could throw some light on this matter if they receive any fresh information from the Territory.

I shall proceed to my next question. Does the Administering Authority contemplate the establishment of executive councils on the lines of the recommendation of the 1954 Visiting Mission?

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): The new Committee was appointed two weeks ago by the new Administrator. Up to the present time, it has acted in an advisory capacity to the Administrator. I think that this is the beginning of the new development which we intend to promote in political organization -- to have in time an executive council, or what might be considered a Cabinet.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): On page 15 of the report of the Advisory Council it is stated:

"Although the opinion was held that the transfer of administrative functions to Somalis was too slow, no complaint in that respect was made by the Somali people themselves...."

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Would the special representative comment on that statement, in view of the fact that the Visiting Mission's conclusions were somewhat different, although not radically so?

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): I am not sure whether I mentioned that in my opening statement, but I agree fully with the opinion of the Advisory Council. I have never heard in Somaliland any complaint -- I am speaking of responsible Somalis -- about slowness or delay in the process of Somalization. As a matter of fact, I remember very well that when some of my friends in the Administration wished to appoint some of the first graduates of the Political and Administrative School to important posts in the central organization, most of those young Somali students came to me and said: "We do not want those appointments because we know that we need more experience. We prefer to work first as assistant district heads of regions or districts. We wish to go a stage further before receiving such appointments as you are thinking of giving to us. We do not want to have a post just because we could say to somebody else that those posts are given to us. We want to have the posts when we feel that we are ready for them." I very much appreciated that frank expression from ten or eleven of the best young Somalis.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): I come now to a very difficult problem. We have heard the statement of the representative of Egypt, we have heard the statement of the Chairman of the Advisory Council, and we have heard the statement of the representative of Italy on the question of the frontier between Ethiopia and Somaliland. Some of my questions I shall have to leave until I have heard the comments of the representative of the United Kingdom on the agreement lately concluded, but my question now is this: no progress has been made at all -- and I do not know whether I should put this question to the representative of the Administering Authority -- since a year ago when this Council spoke of the urgency of the problem, and the representative of Italy said in his statement that, on 28 June -- which is today -- the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia would be meeting with the Ambassador of Italy in Addis Ababa. Does it take such a long time -- twelve months -- to arrange for a meeting to discuss a most vital

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problem, a problem which affects peace and security? As I said, it may not be possible to have an answer from the special representative now, but I should like to know what steps were taken by the Administration during the whole year to try to arrange a meeting with the responsible authorities in Ethiopia.

Mr. CASARDI (Italy): I do want to emphasize, as I said in my opening statement, that we recognize fully the importance of reaching a solution on the problem of the frontier. It is quite true that the latest developments refer only to today, but I want to stress that, on our part, during the past twelve months, and particularly during the last six months, we have not failed, according to the measures which are dictated by every political relationship, to insist on bringing the matter to the attention of the competent Ethiopian authorities. It is not up to me, in this Council, to pass judgment on the attitude of the other Government.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): I said when I put my question that I would not seek a reply on behalf of another Government. My question was whether the Administration had sought to do everything in its power, and I understand that it has.

If negotiations fail to take place in June or July -- and we have only two days left in June -- is the Administering Authority in a position to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to appoint a mediator, in accordance with resolutions adopted by the United Nations?

Mr. CASARDI (Italy): I appreciate the pertinence of the question of the representative of Syria. I would say that an answer can best be given after we know the result of the meeting which should have taken place today and the immediate developments thereof. I do not feel that I can give a reply with regard to what is going to happen between now and 30 June. I can only repeat that we are extremely desirous of finding a solution to this problem.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): I am grateful to the representative of Italy. I do not wish to put him in an embarrassing situation. The question occurred to me: "if" and "when". It is a hypothesis. I shall not press the question but reserve the right of my delegation to bring it up again during future discussions.

I come now to the judicial system in the Territory. In paragraphs 103 and 104 of the report of the Visiting Mission it is stated that complaints were voiced by the political parties regarding the complex body of civil and criminal law which is applied in the Territory and which consists of Moslem law, custom, pre-war Italian decrees, British Military Administration, proclamations and ordinances of the Trusteeship Administration. We must admit that there is a state of confusion in the mind of everybody, including my own. In view of the statement of the Visiting Mission, could the special representative tell us what progress was made by the Commission which was established in Rome and whether, in that connexion, on the advice given by the Egyptian representative on the Advisory Council, the Administration has sought the assistance of a Moslem jurist or jurists. We know that most Somalis are of Moslem faith and that the suggestion of the representative of Egypt was quite pertinent. I should like to hear from the special representative about the latest developments along this line.

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): A draft of the new judicial regulations was submitted recently to the Advisory Council and the Territorial Council. The Territorial Council will discuss this at one of its next meetings in the near future. We all agree that so far as legislation is concerned there is much confusion in Somaliland. A few days after he arrived in Mogadiscio, the new Administrator appointed commissions comprised of Somalis and the Italian heads of the respective departments to review all the laws and to draft new legislation which would be much simpler than the present legislation. The new legislation will naturally also take care of the local and Moslem laws.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): I would appreciate a reply to the second part of my question, whether the Administration has accepted the suggestion of the representative of Egypt about seeking the assistance of Moslem jurists in the reorganization of the judicial system of Somaliland.

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): I do not think that up to now we have asked for a specialist on Islamic law, but I am quite sure that when this new committee starts its work -- as I explained before it was appointed a few days ago -- a request will be made for a specialist to some of the Governments able to furnish such specialists.

Mr. de HOLTE CASTELLO (Chairman of the Advisory Council)(interpretation from Spanish): A few days before my departure from Mogadiscio, the Administering Authority submitted to the Advisory Council the new judicial regulations. These were studied very closely by the Council at long meetings, which were attended by a representative of the Administering Authority. The new regulations were submitted only four or five days before my departure, and the representative of Egypt had already left, since we had already completed our work. This fact was borne in mind by the Colombian delegation, and we postponed the discussion on those points dealing with Islamic law, since we felt that we might begin our study, as we intend to do, within a few days with

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the effective co-operation of the representative of Egypt, who is very closely connected with these problems. Of course, the representative of the Philippines and I are more ignorant of these problems. That was why the Advisory Council postponed its discussion of this matter until it reconvened in New York.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): I should like to hear also the views of the representative of Egypt.

Mr. SALAH (Egypt): When this question of the judicial regulations was examined by the Advisory Council, I expressed the view, which I had already expressed to Mr. Spinelli as Acting Administrator, that it would be well to give satisfaction to the feeling of the people that in the drafting of the new laws for the Territory one must take into consideration the fact that the Destour and the Asharia are all taken from the Islamic law and therefore it would be much better if an expert on judicial affairs from a Moslem country participated and assisted in the work of the committee. Mr. Spinelli was good enough to tell me that he understood my point of view and that in due time the Administration would seek the help of these Moslem jurists.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): In this connexion, I should ask the special representative on what basis the cadis are appointed. Are they appointed on a religious basis or on the basis of the efficiency and experience of the person concerned?

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): I do not know how the cadis were appointed before we arrived in 1950, but since 1952 regular examinations have been held for the cadis. If I am not mistaken, at the last examination a member of the Azaric mission was a member of the commission for the examination of the candidates.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): I wish to pursue the question of Moslem law in the Territory. Could the special representative tell the Council whether

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there is a procedure instituted in order to apply the law. From my reading of the various documents, in particular the petitions, there seems to be a lack of concrete regulations and procedure. Could the special representative enlighten the Council on this point?

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): I do not think I can say more than is contained in the report. My impression is that many of the cadis who are now in the different parts of Somaliland do not have a sure knowledge of the Islamic and local laws. However, through the help of the Egyptian Government and the University of El Azar we have started a school in Somaliland to prepare the cadis in Islamic law. Besides that, many young Somalis have gone to other countries, mainly to Egypt, to study Islamic law and I am sure that in a few years time we shall have really qualified judges. My impression, although I know nothing of Islamic law, is that this is not the case at the present.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): When an appeal is made against the judgment of a cadi, the case is transferred to the Court of Appeals. Could the special representative tell us of how many persons that court is composed.

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): An appeal against a decision of a cadi goes to the Tribunal of the Cadis, which consists of three cadis.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): In paragraph 14 of the Outline of Conditions in the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration, it is stated:

"The intervention of the police was required only in one instance when a demonstration by ex-servicemen claiming special indemnities got out of hand."

The statement goes on to say that the incident resulted in the death of two persons, while thirty-two persons were wounded. It is further stated that the claims of the ex-servicemen were submitted to a special committee set up for this purpose. My delegation deeply regrets the loss of

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life, and we are most anxious to know from the special representative what satisfaction has been given by that special committee to the claims of the ex-servicemen or of their widows and children.

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): There is a mistake in the report because, fortunately, only one life was lost in that incident. I can assure the representative of Syria that this special committee, the majority of whose members are Somalis, has been doing good work. Every ex-serviceman who has served a certain number of years in the Italian army or who was wounded or lost working capacity has received an allowance from the Administration. The Italian Government and Parliament is discussing a law concerning pensions for former soldiers in Eritrea and Libya, and in a few months time it will also discuss a similar law for Somali ex-servicemen. Since no decision has been reached by the Italian Parliament with regard to pensions, the Administration has given to every ex-serviceman and every family of ex-servicemen entitled to a pension an allowance varying from fifty shillings to sixty shillings a month.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): I do not know who is wrong or who is right, but in paragraph 14 of the Outline of Conditions it is stated:

"... the Administering Authority stated that two persons had died while eleven policemen, thirteen demonstrators and eight passers-by had been wounded."

I assume that the Secretariat based its information on the report of the Administering Authority.

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): Perhaps Mr. Asha did not follow the first part of my answer. I said that we were very sorry, but we had made a mistake in the report. We stated that two persons had died, when actually it was only one.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): I am perfectly satisfied, although I regret the loss of even one life. My next question deals with the treatment of petitions. I am sure that the special representative has read with care the observations of the Visiting Mission, in which the Council's attention was drawn to complaints by Somalis on the handling of petitions submitted by them to the Standing Committee on Petitions of the Council. I do not wish to take the time to read the observations of the Visiting Mission, which are familiar to all of us, but I should very much appreciate the comments of the special representative, in view of the fact that there had been some complaints and we must admit them.

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): I should like to ask the representative of Syria whether the observations he has referred to were directed to us or to the Petitions Committee, because for our part, when a petition is sent and we are asked to submit our observations, we prepare our observations and I think we are very punctual in sending them. Furthermore, we also send the special representative, who is always at the disposition of the Petitions Committee.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): I will concentrate my question on one point, because the Visiting Mission stated that some petitioners had claimed that the explanations given to the Council by the Administering Authority and its special representative were not correct. I am talking about the explanations given by the special representative to the Committee on Petitions regarding the claims of the petitioners. Could the special representative tell us if he was approached in Somaliland regarding the allegations that some of the answers given by the special representative in the Committee on Petitions were incorrect?

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): I should very much like to know which cases the representative of Syria has in mind. I was the special representative to the Committee on Petitions in 1952 and 1953, and as far as I know there was only one case, which concerned a group of quite important Somalis who were members of a co-operative which they called the "Thousand Arms". They came to me after I went back to Mogadiscio and told me very nicely that I had made an incorrect statement. I had said that the land of that co-operative had been bought by the Government whereas, as a matter of fact, it was the only co-operative for which the

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Government had not bought the land, although it had given it many subsidies. I told them that I was very sorry I had made that incorrect statement and they were satisfied with my explanation. That is the only case I know of.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): I will pursue my second point under this heading. In the same paragraph, paragraph 112 of the report of the Visiting Mission, it is stated that "still others asserted that the action which the Administering Authority informed the Council had been or would be taken to meet the request of the petitioner or to resolve certain difficulties had not been carried out." I am not singling out any special petition, but I should like to know how the Visiting Mission was able to gather such complaints and what would be the answer to the Visiting Mission's remarks.

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): It is not easy for me to answer that question, first of all because I have not been in charge of petitions for the last two or three years, but I could explain the complaints in this way. If a man has been sentenced or thinks that something wrong has been done to him and he makes a complaint, unless the Administration does something for him or completely changes its attitude it is quite normal for him to say that the Administration has not done what ought to have been done. As I said, however, it is a little difficult for me to answer since I have not been dealing with petitions for some time, especially without being told what cases, or what type of cases are meant by the passage quoted from the Visiting Mission's report.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): Perhaps the special representative will seek the assistance of the competent official of the Italian Administration and reply to the question at a later meeting. The reasons which prompted me delegation to put the question are contained in the conclusions of the Visiting Mission in paragraph 113, where it is stated that "the Mission wishes to draw the attention of the Trusteeship Council to this situation, which, it feels, constitutes a serious problem."

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I have one or two more questions. The Standing Committee on Petitions had before it a number of complaints sent by various petitioners, the theme of the complaint being that the traditional animosity between certain tribes have always led to the loss of life and property. Would the special representative care to comment on any measures taken by the Administration to ease the tension between traditionally hostile tribes, as I am sure the Administration is quite interested in the preservation of peace and order.

Mr. SPINELLI (Special representative): This is one of the problems which have worried the Administration since the very beginning, and I have discussed it with the leaders of the Somali people hundreds of times. The Administration has taken many measures, but I do not think it is a problem which can be settled by means of a law, or even by doubling our police forces. Just before I left the Territory, when I was handing over the administration to my successor in March of this year, I had a meeting with my successor and with representatives of the different parties and I told them that the most important problem we had to face was the problem just mentioned by the representative of Syria. I was glad to see in the telegram we received yesterday or the day before -- and my friend the representative of Italy mentioned this in his statement -- that the new Advisory Committee set up by the Administrator as chief of the executive has already begun to examine the question. My advice had been to set up a group of Somali leaders from the different parties and from the different tribes, men of experience and prestige, together with one or two Italian counselors, to travel in the areas where tribal fights were most frequent. That group could then make a report on measures which could be taken, I do not say to prevent but at any rate to limit this inter-tribal warfare which, as I have said, is one of the few serious problems we still have to solve.

Mr. ASHA (Syria): With the President's permission, I should like to address myself to the representative of Italy. The Council and particularly I myself listened with great interest to the statement he made today and I wonder whether it would be possible to have more details about the committee to which he referred. The facts quoted by the special representative and by the representative

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of Italy are not in my view sufficient, and if he could cable to Somaliland and get us some information on the scope, the powers and the plan of work of this committee, my delegation would certainly be very grateful.

I have no more questions under this heading except one relating to the border, which I should like to put after I have listened to the representative of the United Kingdom.

Mr. CASARDI (Italy): I shall be very glad indeed to ask Mogadiscio to send me the information asked for by the representative of Syria.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.