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Mr. ASHA

(Syria)

President:

Examination of conditions in Somaliland under Italian
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the final version which will appear in a printed volume.

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION (T/L.670):

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (T/1246, 1248, 1255) /Agenda item 4 (e) /
- (b) PETITIONS CIRCULATED UNDER RULE 85, PARA.2, OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (T/PET.11/L.18 to 24; T/COM.11/L.177) /Agenda item 5 /
- (c) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION (T/1245) /Agenda item 16 / (continued)

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

Educational and social advancement (continued)

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I have only a few questions on social advancement to put to the special representative. The questions on educational advancement which I had in mind have already been asked by some of the speakers who preceded me. I shall not tax the patience of our guest by putting them again.

*around
other* The first question that I have is with reference to the industrial and agricultural recruits - ~~the seasonal workers~~. Are these seasonal workers recruited mainly from the peasants who are on the river banks or are they sometimes also recruited from among the nomads or semi-nomads. I know that in my country, for example, the nomads are always very reluctant to do work of this nature. Is the Administering Authority encouraging them in this regard? If so, has it been more successful than we have been in Syria?

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): I think we can say that recruitment takes place among the people who are stabilized, as I call them, and who live near the place of recruitment. Usually the nomads do not participate, except in very few circumstances, for example, in the case of famine or time of difficulty, particularly when there is no rain. Then they try to participate in this agricultural work. But they usually do not participate at all in this recruitment.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): Pursuing the question further, has the Administering Authority attempted to induce them to do something of that sort, particularly during the time when they are in need? Once they begin to do some seasonal work, they might be encouraged to continue to do so due to the fact that they have earned some money. That would possibly give them some sort of encouragement.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): Something can be done, but we have one main obstacle. It is that the nomad lives within his own environment. He lives on what he produces. Usually the pure nomad is not enticed by the idea of earning extra money because, first of all, he thinks that manual work is a little beneath him. Therefore he is not very happy to do it. He is used to taking care of his own cattle, and that is his main occupation.

When the nomad is in need of money, he will rather resort to selling some of his cattle than to doing any manual work. This is the general attitude. When they are really in need, of course they accept work. But it is not a very easy proposition to convince them to do so. It would take some time to make them more money conscious and then to induce them to try to find at least some seasonal occupation.

housing
Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I notice that on page 35 of the working paper (T/L.670) reference is made to a large increase in the cost of housing -- about 35 per cent during last year. This sudden rise seems to be almost fantastic, and I cannot understand the reasons for it. I should like to know whether the special representative could give me the reasons behind this sudden rise, and I would ask him whether the Administering Authority does not consider it to be a serious problem which deserves its attention.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): I think that, as a matter of fact, this affects mainly the centre of Mogadiscio, on which we have more reliable data available. Of course, in Mogadiscio there is a housing problem, especially for foreigners, and there has been a certain competition. New diplomatic representatives have been appointed, and they are among the many people coming into the Territory who are in a better position to pay a higher rent, and that has been the general trend in Mogadiscio. But I can assure the Council that this does not affect the Somali housing situation in general at all.

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Mr. RIFAI (Syria): My last question relates to immigration. What I want to know is what becomes of these immigrants when they enter the Territory. Do they become citizens of Somaliland, or do they just have residents' permits enabling them to stay in the Territory and to carry on some business there? Also, what becomes of their original citizenship if they do acquire citizenship of Somaliland? There is one part of the question. The other part is whether the Administering Authority is intending to present or formulate new legislation covering this immigration into the Territory and emigration from the Territory to be presented to the Legislative Assembly for its consideration.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): As the representative of Syria is aware, the situation is that we have no law relating to citizenship as far as Somaliland is concerned. With regard to foreigners, we are, of course, bound by the Trusteeship Agreement to grant permission to all citizens of Member States of the United Nations to come to the Territory and circulate therein, but of course we have to take precautions to ensure that those persons who do come in do not compete with the Somali people in the matter of work, for instance.

If it is a case not merely of paying a visit to the Territory free to do -- but of coming there to work then the person in before being granted permission to enter the Territory, explain the reasons for which he is coming to Somaliland and must obtain a permit allowing him to reside there. Of course, if the persons who come in are already citizens of another country no question arises on that score. They have their own passports which show their citizenship. As for the position of these persons in the future, I think that that also is very clear. Anyone who does not apply specifically for citizenship of Somaliland and is a citizen of another country will remain so.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I am very grateful to the special representative for that reply, but I think that he forgot to answer the last part of my question relating to legislation.

Mr. ZABOTTI (Special representative): I apologise. Draft legislation has already been prepared, but since this is something that will affect the Territory in the future we thought it appropriate that this legislation should be taken into consideration by responsible Somali bodies, and I am sure that it will be submitted promptly by the Government to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. MRSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): On page 85 of the Administering Authority's report, in paragraph 86.3., mention is made of the African Film Industry Festival. It is stated that fourteen countries took part in that festival, and that a certain number of films were shown. Could the special representative tell us what were some of the films that were presented at that time and to whom they were shown? Also, what was the Somali people to these films?

Mr. ZABOTTI (Special representative): The film festival took place in Mogadishu in connexion with the third Somaliland Fair. It was decided to hold it in conjunction with the fair because that was thought to represent the best

(Mr. Zadotti, Special
representative)

occasion for attracting the interest of foreign countries not only on the business side but also on the film side. The films were shown in the theatre that was built on the fair premises, and the fair itself was, of course, open to everyone. There was a really tremendous participation -- certainly a much greater participation than we had hoped -- by the Somalis, who were interested both in the fair and in the film festival. The subjects of the film were confined to the many aspects of various countries in Africa. There were films about education problems, about the problems of mass education and about nature -- the different animals which are to be found in Africa, and so on. That was the social aspect, and films were also shown on medical subjects relating particularly to East and West Africa.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): If I understand the special representative's explanation correctly they were largely documentary films, and were well received. While on this subject, may I ask the special representative if he would be good enough to comment on an observation that is contained in the UNESCO report to the effect that under the five-year plan films were to be imported from foreign countries and commentaries in the Somali language dubbed on to them which would serve the population as a means of education? I should like to know what has been done about that.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): Within the Administration in Somaliland we have a film section, as we call it, and we have ourselves produced a number of films about the preparation of skins, for example, and about medical questions -- educational films in other words -- and of course we have seen to it that these have commentaries in the Somali language. Usually, the films we receive from elsewhere have no commentary in the Somali language, and we felt that unless they had they could hardly serve their purpose adequately. Of course, this is a very expensive operation and the use of our mobile cinema to any extent is also costly because, as representatives know, Somaliland stretches for a long distance and to go from one town to another entails considerable expenditure and a great deal of wear and tear upon personnel and vehicles.

(Mr. Zadotti, Special representative)

Having this in mind, we decided -- and I think I should also mention in this connexion that the United Nations mobile cinema has participated in this work -- to confine the movement of these mobile cinemas to the not too distant parts of the Territory, while we decided to give projectors to the far distant parts of the Territory, like Midjourtinie, send the film there and have the film projected there.

This has generally been the position. But I should also emphasize that the supply of film is still not very adequate and the work of having the commentary spoken in Somali requires quite a lot of time, because we have to send the film somewhere else and have it reprinted and have the sound recorded in Italy.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I should like to ask another question with regard to the rural schools. We were told that primary rural schools had special curricula and were being set up in the Territory. But this, I believe, has not as yet been done; it has not been fulfilled. I wonder whether the special representative could tell us whether these schools have been set up..

rural schools

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): As I pointed out yesterday, we tried to set up these schools in one or two places on a sort of experimental basis, but we found no attendance at these schools. These schools were mainly designed for those places in which there were no such schools and where we could think of recruiting pupils from the nomadic part of the population. I am afraid that I have to report that we had no success. It was with this in mind that we required the assistance of UNESCO to study this problem, and we now have an expert in the Territory for this purpose.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): We were told that in 1955 and 1956 the first contingent of scholars had started off their second course of studies. In accordance with the resolution of the Trusteeship Council asking the Administering Authority to do everything in its power to encourage the young people to choose the medical career or profession, in the light of the statements made by the special representative yesterday, it appears that

medical students

(Mr. Dorsinville, Haiti)

the only student of medicine in Italy is in his fourth year. I wonder whether the Administering Authority has done anything to fulfil the resolution of the Council. In other words, has the Administering Authority tried to persuade these young people who have finished their secondary studies to turn toward the medical profession, since, as I have said, there are so far no African doctors? Could we have some information on this point?

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): If I remember correctly, I spoke in my introductory statement of a special course now taking place in the Territory which is attended by fifteen Somalis who we think are eligible for university study. As soon as this course is completed, these pupils, or those who pass the examinations -- and we hope they will all pass -- will be sent to Italy and will register at the Italian university. It is the purpose to direct them toward technical studies such as chemistry, medicine and engineering.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): Yes, I understand what the special representative told us yesterday. But, after the enumeration we have just received, I realize that these young people turn to different professions as well. But I was referring primarily to the medical profession. I thought I had understood that most of these young people went as assistants to doctors. Among those assistants, are there any who are continuing their studies so as to receive their degrees as doctors?

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): Sanitary assistants are chosen from among people who do not have the necessary education to go to the university. It is necessary to have a high school degree in order to attend the university. These people do not have such a degree, but they have sufficient education and preparation to undertake the course for sanitary assistants. If, among these people, there are some who want to pursue their studies in Italy, we are, of course, prepared to help them. But I think that the fact that they have finished the three-year course does not entitle them to register at the medical school in Italy. As far as the recruitment of physicians is concerned, we have to rely on the people who are really following the regular courses in the secondary school.

(Mr. Zadotti, Special
representative)

The point to be borne in mind is that the work of these sanitary assistants is also necessary in the Territory. If we cannot guarantee the full number of physicians by 1960, we at least wish to guarantee that the top auxiliary personnel will be there and will have been functioning for some time.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I should like to ask a question in regard to social advancement. What progress has been achieved in Somalia as far as ~~housing~~ is concerned? Naturally, I am not going to talk about the constructions that were made in the city and in the suburbs. But, as far as housing in the rural areas is concerned, we know that there are certain types of roads built, but my question refers to the improvement of housing in the rural areas. Has the Administration met with any encouragement or support on the part of the population to improve the type of rural housing, so that these houses will be made more hygienic, more comfortable and more modern?

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): Since the representative of Haiti was excluding the urban areas and speaking in terms of rural areas, I think that the problem is really not so urgent as it appears to be, because I think that the Somali house is quite a rational one and quite adequate from the point of view of the climate. What we have to see to, of course, is that sanitation and health conditions are improved. This is part of what the Administration has been doing up to now. In this connexion, I should mention especially the anti-malaria campaign which we have conducted, its aim being to improve the conditions of what we might call the stabilized Somalis along the river. But, as to trying to bring about some modification in the general system of housing, I think that would be rather difficult in the urban areas, because we have found that the attempt to introduce new systems in some areas -- and I can cite the UNESCO experiment in Dinsor -- did not meet with much success. They wanted to introduce home-made bricks or something like that, and the Somalis did not like it. They found that the the system that had been used until then was much better suited to the climatic conditions of the Territory and to their way of life.

(Mr. Zadotti, Special
representative)

The only point is that we can act, in doing these things, only in the municipal areas. Outside, the only thing we can do is to improve the conditions. But it takes quite a long while to change the complete method.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): The special representative has mentioned the rural and urban areas. I should like to know whether the Administering Authority has received the co-operation of the population in the urban areas and to what extent the Administration's efforts have been successful.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): The attitude of the urban population is somewhat different for two main reasons. They are able to see examples of better housing and, therefore, it is quite understandable that they want to obtain better housing for themselves. Our main attention is directed to the big cities, and especially to Mogadiscio, where we have undertaken sanitary measures in certain quarters. In some quarters of the city we had to clear away complete sections and build some houses. We have determined that these houses could eventually be paid for in a certain number of years so as not to be much of a burden on the Somali people. Town planning comes under the jurisdiction of the municipality. In addition to general planning, however, we do have some specific planning. We try to help the people who want new housing in accordance with what we believe to be the best system. There is quite a lot of activity taking place now in Mogadiscio, and I must say that there is a fairly favourable response from the population.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): My final question refers to the report of the Administering Authority, page 111, paragraph 137. Could the special representative tell us something about the prohibition of importing the drug qât? I am not sure how this term is pronounced. *drug*

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): We pronounce this term "chatt" -- I am doubtful even whether this pronunciation is correct. We were quite at a loss as to how to spell it and in Italian it would have been something entirely different. Qât is an herb that the natives chew. It contains not exactly a dope but it has some type of stupefying effect. It is not really very serious and it is not widely used. It is not produced in Somalia. However, in the interests of the population, we thought that it would be best to prohibit its importation. This decision was taken in accordance with the advice of medical authorities and the ordinance is now in force.

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Mr. CUTTS (Australia): My questions relate only to the educational I have one or two specific questions on the document prepared by UNESCO (1) IL53) and one question on the general situation. Paragraph 54 of this document refers to the Domestic Science School, which is now in its second year and "has managed to overcome the prejudices which might have hindered enrolment". That seemed to me to be a fairly cryptic statement. I assumed that the prejudices in question were those related to the education of women. Could the special representative confirm my assumption or, if it is wrong, could he tell me the prejudices that existed?

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): This is in a way a new institution and the prejudice relates to the fact that the institution and its scope were not well known. Also, of course, there was a certain reluctance on the part of the population to attend this school from the beginning. I think that this reference in the UNESCO document means that the reluctance to join the school has been overcome and that the school is now regularly attended by those for whom it was established.

Mr. CUTTS (Australia): Paragraph 83 of the same document expresses the hope of UNESCO that "despite the considerable cost of recruiting Italian teachers, the Administration will progressively reduce their numbers only when there are enough Somalis, not merely to meet the needs of teachers but to increase its volume." Does the Administering Authority in fact propose to pursue a policy that will satisfy the hope of UNESCO in this respect?

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): I am not an expert in this particular field. Also, this report has not yet been considered by the experts in the Administering Authority because it was just received here. The only thing that I can say in this connexion, however, is that we want to implement our plan and to be sure that it is carried out so that the Somali receives the best education we can give him in the circumstances. If it is felt that the Italian teachers are needed, of course that policy will be pursued, and if it is felt that by 1960 there will be sufficient Somali teachers, then there will be no need to keep the Italian teachers and they will be repatriated.

Mr. CUTTS (Australia): My delegation would be interested in seeing the formal comments of the Administering Authority on this point when they are made.

I have one final question on the general picture and to save time, with the permission of the President, I would refer to the record of last year's deliberation of the Trusteeship Council when I asked the special representative a number of questions designed to get a picture of the position in regard to the educational situation in the Territory in 1960. After a number of questions had been asked, I indicated in my final statement in summary what we understood the situation to be. To save time it might help if I were just to read this brief passage from what I said last year and ask Mr. Zadotti if the situation is still the same or if there has been any change. I think this will save time. Last year I said:

"In the field of education, we understand from the replies of the special representative that it is hoped by 1960 some 25 per cent of the urban population -- that is, about 8 per cent of the population as a whole -- will have attended or will be attending school, while few hopes appear to be held out for any significant extension of educational facilities for the nomadic population by the same date.

"The number of persons in the Territory who by that time will be receiving a secondary education will, we understand, be in the vicinity only of about 2,000, while those receiving higher education will be numbered, as Mr. Zadotti put it, in tens. These are facts or the nearest approximation to facts which we can obtain at this stage."

(T/PV.634, p. 63-65).

Might I ask Mr. Zadotti if he would comment on these remarks in the light of the situation of today?

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): Last year I probably was estimating or calculating. I wish to point out in this connexion that if I speculated on this point it was because I only had in mind that it was the hope of the Administration that these percentages would certainly be increased by 1960. Of course, I was judging in terms of the situation in 1955 as I could eventually see it, and I must stress this point. It was mere speculation as I foresaw the situation for 1960.

As far as the nomads are concerned, I have already told the Council that we have an expert on nomads in the Territory. We are looking forward to seeing his recommendations and for any indication of a method or system which could be followed to bring the nomads into the educational system.

As for the rural population there has been an increase in attendance, but in this respect also I am judging from the position as of today. As far as next year is concerned, school attendance could increase considerably or it could decrease. I am not in a position to state what it will be, but I think that the prospect remains more or less the same and there could be a very slight alteration in the general figures.

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Mr. IEMUS DINAS (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): I only have a few questions to ask on educational matters.

Regarding the general system of scholastic education which is in force in the Territory at the moment, was it prepared with the idea of paying specific attention to the peculiar needs of the Somali community?

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): The system of education in Somaliland has been planned only for the benefit of the Somali people.

Mr. IEMUS DINAS (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): The reply of the special representative to that question was that that system was prepared only to answer the needs of the Somali people.

I saw it in the com.
I should now like to ask him what difference there is between the Somali scholarship system and the Italian system.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): First of all, the curricula is different. The subjects that are taught are different. In Somaliland the system is concerned with specific necessities, while in Italy we have a system of general education which already has been in operation for quite some time. In Somaliland we have to prepare the people to take over responsibility in 1960, so we have special schools that are not provided for in any other country. For instance, we have the Administrative Preparatory School which does not exist in other countries. In other countries many people go to universities for their courses, and then they decide to take examinations for a career, but we have to

prepare the Somalis for a specific purpose, or at least having it in mind, that they are to be independent in 1960. That was the general trend in education which was established, a minimum in order to permit the country to get on its feet and to be on its feet by 1960. That was the main purpose we had in mind. Secondly, we had to conceive of education along lines which would be adequate for the Somali people, and this of course is different from education in other countries.

Mr. LEMUS DIMAS (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): We should like to know whether, among the general education plans of primary and secondary education in the Territory, the systematic development of practical activities is carried out according to the needs of each of the different localities and with each of the different communities. This question to a great extent was answered by the special representative, but I should like to know precisely if the schools provide training, apart from education in the restricted sense, for the people to take into account the special circumstances under which they live.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): I must confess that I do not quite understand the question. I do not know whether, when he put his question, the representative of Guatemala wanted to know if, when we trained an agrarian, for instance, we let him have the necessary agrarian practice in the field, or if, when we trained a sailor in the maritime school, we sent him to sea. I do not know whether this is what the representative of Guatemala had in mind, or whether he wanted to know whether, when we taught geography, we taught the geography of Africa and Somalia in particular, in preference to the geography -- I do not want to quote any country because I do not want to commit myself -- of, say, the Pacific Islands.

Mr. LEONIS DIMAS (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): May I explain? The training, naturally, must be in different degrees and grades. We would not expect, for instance, technical or advanced and specialized training in the primary and secondary schools. What I wanted to know was this. Do the children learn merely from books, or are they given practical training in handwork in arts and crafts? Are they given practical work to do?

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): I have visited schools in Somaliland and I have seen the pupils at work. Of course, the pupils have their lessons, but they are also taken for walks, they have physical exercises, and, if necessary, they do some gardening. All this forms part of their education. Everything, as rightly pointed out by the representative of Guatemala, depends on the age of the pupil and the grade of education. You can teach a boy of five or six years of age at the primary school how to read and write and how to be good to his father and mother, but I do not know that we can go beyond that stage. Of course, the more they advance in education the more specialized training they can be given in any particular field.

adult ed
Mr. LEONIS DIMAS (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): We know that in Somaliland much is being done in the field of adult education. We wonder whether that plan and the general system of education in the Territory are co-ordinated. Are they related to one another, and, if so, how?

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): They are co-ordinated in so far as they fall within the responsibility of the same department of instruction, but as systems they are quite separate. On the one side, we give just what we call education, be it technical or general education, and that applies only to pupils. Fundamental education should apply, at least to my knowledge, to all the population concerned, and for this, of course, we use different ways and means, such as radio, cinema and theatre, just to mention a few things. The principles, of course, are the same, but there is no actual co-ordination between the two systems of education.

Mr. LEONIS DIMAS (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): We also know that in the Territory there is a general over-all plan of economic development. We should like to know what that general plan requires so far as the educational aspect of the Territory is concerned. In other words, has anything been done specifically to co-ordinate the work of scholastic education with the demands of the programme for the economic development of the Territory?

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): The programme for education, if we speak of education in the strict sense, does not form part of the economic development plan. The two have well-defined objectives that are quite different. Of course, speaking in terms of fundamental education, there is a lot of fundamental education in the economic development plan. The introduction of new methods, new techniques and new training is part of fundamental education, but it has very little to do with education in the strict sense. For instance, we have some form of education, but not education in the strict sense, in the special courses we are holding in connexion with the economic plan. We have courses for agrarian experts, for head ploughmen and for specialized foremen. This is, of course, part of a general scheme of fundamental education, but it is strictly connected with economic development and, so far as pure education is concerned, there is not much connexion between that and the economic plan.

Mr. LEONIS DIMAS (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): In the information submitted to the Council by the Administering Authority, reference is made to the setting up of a higher institute of learning for social, economic and

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(Mr. Lemus Dimas, Guatemala)

juridical studies. We believe that this will be an extremely important institution. Could the special representative give us any further information with regard to the objectives sought by that institution?

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): We wanted to give the Territory the possibility of having something that could be compared to university education in other countries, of course, bearing in mind the possibilities of the Territory and its present requirements. For that reason, we thought that we should rather concentrate on one institution and not break it up, as in many universities, into different classifications. Therefore, we gave this very long title to this institution, which comprises juridical, economic and social studies all together. Of course, at a later stage, when the school population has increased and the secondary schools begin to yield more pupils, there might be a broader classification for the different programmes. We believed that, to serve the purpose for the time being, it would be sufficient to condense into one institution the general preparations for the main branches which could be of some interest in the Territory in the better preparation of the people. For that reason, in the one institution we have juridical preparation, economic preparation and social preparation.

Mr. LEMUS DIMAS (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): The explanation given by the special representative has given rise to another question. We should like to know for what careers training is given in this institution. In other words what activities will graduates from the institution be able to carry out?

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): First of all, they can serve in the administration of the Government, and, secondly, when they are prepared they can serve in the judiciary. Of course, we have also technical studies for specific fields such as agriculture, but the institution is designed for the preparation of persons for general services in the Administration.

Mr. LEMUS DELAS (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): Our last question refers to the very important matter of the use of the languages in educational activities. Reference was made to this question in the two reports of the Visiting Mission and by the special representative in yesterday's discussion. There is apparently in the Territory an almost unheard of situation, namely that the Somali chiefs reject the use of their own vernacular for educational purposes. What we are interested in is finding out whether the representative elements of that society are members of the majority Somali group or members of minority foreign groups, and whether they are part of the Somali society. I do not know whether my question is clear.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Special representative): I may not be able to offer a direct clarification for this question, but I may be able to clarify it indirectly by pointing out that in Somaliland we have 1,250,000 Somalis. That is our evaluation. The problem of minority does not exist. Minorities have their own language. We have Indians and they speak their own language; we have no problem there and they also have their own schools. We have Arabs and they have their own language; of course we have Italians and they have their own language. Therefore, I do not see what the conception of minorities is. The question of language, as we have emphasized it in many instances, is a question for the Somali people to decide, and it rests only with the Somalis to decide on it.

Mr. COICNY (World Health Organization) (interpretation from French): I would like to apologize for having been absent at the beginning of this meeting. I was detained and could not appear on time.

On behalf of the World Health Organization (WHO), which I have the honour to represent, I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for recognizing me at this time. With your authorization, and even though the Council is at this point considering the report on Italian Somaliland, I should like to address myself to the sum of the annual reports submitted to the Council at this session in order not to take advantage of the patience of the members of the Council and to avoid duplication. My first remarks will be general in nature and then later on they will deal with the activities of WHO at present or those which it proposes to undertake in the Trust Territories.

(Mr. Coigny, WHO)

We must note, however, that some of these activities are described in the reports of the Administering Authorities and that my observations will merely complete those chapters which deal with health problems in the annual reports as well as in the observations submitted by my organization at the fourteenth session of the Trusteeship Council and which were published in document T/1176.

WHO appreciates the progress achieved in the organization and improvement of the medical services, curative and preventive, described in these reports, and we believe that in view of the grave difficulties encountered in many cases, the results indicated in these reports produce a most favourable impression.

The elaboration on medical services is one of the most complex tasks within the Trust Territories, because besides the normal difficulties which their organization entails, one has to add the special problems which must be envisaged when the Territories will become self-governing. Whether one is organizing health services or whether one is reorganizing them, it is important not to be too ambitious and not to overtax the local resources.

It is therefore most interesting to note the care with which the Administering Authorities have added, in their development plans of the already existing medical services within these Territories, a programme of medical training that is destined to ensure the preparation of the appropriate personnel required for the proper functioning of these services in the future. We hope that this training will develop progressively and we consider that when these Territories will become self-governing it is of capital importance that they should have at their disposal a sufficient number of doctors who can assume responsibilities in the administration and direction of their own medical services.

We believe that it is also very important to take the necessary steps so that the greatest possible number of medical personnel will come from the Territories and that the programmes for medical and para-medical training should be established in such a manner as to achieve these results within the shortest possible time.

In view of the grave consequences which some endemic and epidemic diseases have for the population of these Territories, it is inevitable that the efforts of the Administering Authorities should bear more especially on the problem of the struggle against these diseases. We can expect excellent results from these

efforts which are designed to combat the main epidemic diseases, such as malaria, filariasis and tuberculosis, diseases which not only affect the health of the population but also give rise to very important social problems.

It is also very important to note the progress accomplished in Italian Somaliland and in New Guinea, where maternal and child protection services have been established; in Togoland where sanitation services have been set up, and also in Western Samoa where health education of the population is progressing.

One of the main difficulties encountered in establishing these health programmes, especially in countries which are in the course of development, is the fact that all of the efforts tend to struggle against diseases rather than to apply modern methods which would enable one to maintain and improve public health. Programmes such as those for the protection of mothers and children, school hygiene, proper sanitation, nutrition and public health education, will no doubt contribute to a large extent to improving the public health of the populations in the Trust Territories, and WHO hopes that the progress already achieved will continue to grow.

The organization of health services in most of the Territories that are in the course of development is going through several stages. The first one is the establishment of services that combat the most frequent diseases. Consequently the urban agglomerations, and then the rural areas, are provided with hospitals, dispensaries and health stations. The experience gained in several countries of Asia and South America shows that it is not only possible but most beneficial in every regard to integrate within the medical care programmes dispensed by these collective services, the services which are designed primarily to carry out the preventive struggle against the diseases.

This requires, of course, the granting of special training to the personnel of these institutions, which would enable them to assume these new functions. The health centre consists of an admission service for sick persons who require beds and of a consultation service. In such a centre the sick persons receive the care which is required by their condition, and also the necessary preventive treatment that is required. This idea to combine the health centre with an already existing hospital is not a new one. It is a natural development, for the

establishment of such a health centre requires, most often, the installation of beds which would make it possible to provide treatment for sick persons and vice versa, the hospital authorities are often in need of applying techniques of public health in order to reduce the frequency of these diseases.

(Mr. Coigny, WHO)

Whatever the manner in which the organization of this centre is begun, experience has shown the advantages of organizing simultaneously both curative and preventive health services, rather than establishing them separately as is done in many countries. The Administering Authorities are aware of these advantages, and may wish to implement them in the form of pilot projects in selected areas. Such projects in selected areas would enable the authorities to determine what are the problems characteristic of such organization and the details that should be taken care of; these, of course, vary from one country to another. The pilot areas could constitute training centres for personnel and, eventually, a number of such health centres might be sufficient to cover the entire territory.

I should now like to approach the question of the co-ordination of public health services with the programmes in social and economic development. It has become an established fact that the health of the populations is one of the primary conditions in the economic and social development of any territory. It is, therefore, most important to co-ordinate with efficiency every programme of economic and social development with the health programmes. In most territories there are in existence at present short- or long-range plans for the economic development of these territories, and it is essential that the programmes for the prevention of diseases, those concerning environmental sanitation, and those which promote public health in general should become an integral part of these plans.

I should like to give a few examples which would illustrate the manner in which we envisage this co-ordination.

We note that the Administering Authority has established plans for the economic development of Somaliland for the period 1954 to 1960 and has included in these plans certain projects for the establishment of an irrigation system along the beds of the Uebi Scebeli and the Juba and of agricultural co-operatives, as well as for the development of dry farming between the two rivers. Probably these projects were established in consultation with the health authorities of the territory, and no doubt the question of the propagation of mosquitoes has also been taken into account. Malaria is one of the greatest health problems in the territory and the Public Health Service intends to pursue, in the near future, a campaign for the eradication of this disease. If a well co-ordinated plan

(Mr. Coigny, WHO)

were established permitting, at the same time, irrigation of the land and the control of mosquitoes by regulating the flow of water in these two rivers, a permanent solution to the serious problem of malaria might be found. Thus, great economic progress would have been achieved by increasing the productivity of the populations and reducing the morbidity and mortality rates due to malaria.

The same can be said with regard to education. If, in a given territory, a programme of school hygiene and health education is undertaken in the primary and secondary schools, the results achieved in developing health consciousness among the young generations will have vast and important effects on the health of the entire population. I should like to repeat here the importance which we attach to the progress achieved in Western Samoa in this connexion. This progress includes regular training given in the schools on hygiene, sanitation, first aid, prevention of accidents and diseases, and also the training received by the teachers in a special school.

The authorities entrusted with public health and those responsible for education should co-ordinate their efforts in order to include in all school programmes courses in sanitary education, with practical demonstrations. This would complete the service of school hygiene in both primary and secondary schools. Special training should be given to the teachers and professors. When the latter have acquired the necessary knowledge and experience in questions of public health, they will be better prepared to appreciate this problem and will be able to instruct their pupils. The children, in the course of their education, will not only gain the necessary knowledge and experience in regard to the preservation of health, but will progressively exercise an influence in their families and communities. Such a programme is not costly, and yet would constitute for a community an investment which might have, in the fairly near future, far more value than the building of clinics and hospitals.

May I give a third and last example of such co-ordination of health programmes with those of economic development, bearing in mind the co-ordination of health services and those pertaining to agriculture. Generally speaking, the nutrition of the populations in most of the territories is not satisfactory, and the development of the children is not normal because of the lack of protein.

(Mr. Colony, WHO)

special precautions should be taken, in the preparation of plans for agricultural development, so that the latter should be organized in consultation with the health authorities. Thus it would be possible to provide for a larger quantity of the basic foods required by the local population. If, at the same time, the Public Health Service, in association with the educational authorities, organized special courses to train the population and to persuade them to adopt new nutritional rules, an improvement in the general condition of nutrition of the population might be made possible. Proper hygiene and good food would not only improve the whole situation, but would also increase the vigour of the people, as well as their endurance, and would enable them to work more productively.

The preparations which would enable the indigenous populations of the territories to assume full responsibility in all areas of government have often been examined by members of the Council. One must recall, however, that in certain territories the Administering Authorities are taking the necessary measures aggressively to provide for the training of qualified medical personnel who would then be able to become responsible for the public health services. It is not possible, of course, to estimate the results, since these are long-range problems. Generally speaking, the Administering Authorities have considered that the general level of education among the populations in most territories is too low to enable the people to pursue medical studies on a level comparable to those of the Western countries. Indeed, at the present time, in most territories the majority of public health services are in the hands of medical assistants who have received minimal training. In practically all of the territories this type of medical personnel constitutes the basic personnel providing medical services to the population. In general, the personnel who are devoted to this task assume of necessity a limited responsibility, but in many areas they carry out functions which have been entrusted to them almost without control.

We consider that a certain number of these medical assistants, chosen with care, could be given an opportunity to perfect their training in order that they might be entrusted with certain administrative responsibilities in carrying out their work. Special courses should be organized for that purpose in the already existing medical schools, either within the territory or in the metropolitan countries.

(Mr. Coigny, WHO)

A course of this type was organized at the Central Medical School at Fiji, and the students that have been trained there are already able to assure such services in New Guinea and in the Pacific Islands. There is no reason to think that after an adequate training period in administration it will not be possible for some of these technicians to assume the administrative responsibilities required by the health services of their Territories.

I apologize for having dealt at such length with these matters. May I, before concluding, survey briefly the activities of my organization in the Trust Territories which the Council is going to study at this session.

First I shall take Somaliland. In 1955, WHO continued to give its assistance to Somaliland under Italian administration. A study of the struggle against malaria was undertaken by a consultant of WHO, who has now submitted his report. In agreement with the Administration, an operational plan for the eradication of malaria in the Territory is being prepared, and its implementation will commence in 1956. During the last quarter of 1955, WHO sent three experts to assess the sensitiveness of the population to BCG vaccination and to elaborate measures for control in the struggle against tuberculosis with the help of this vaccination.

Four scholarships were granted by WHO in 1955 to Somalis in order to complete their medical studies in Italy. They went to Rome, together with the twenty students who were sent by the Administering Authority. A certain number of scholarships have been provided for in 1957 in order to train health engineers, as well as long-range scholarships to enable young Somalis to carry out their studies of medicine abroad.

In Western Samoa, in 1956, WHO has undertaken a programme for the struggle against yaws. It is teaching the local medical personnel new methods to combat the disease. This project began in the month of June, and on-the-spot action will start in September by means of two teams entrusted with epidemic inquiries and two teams which will carry out penicillin treatments. A doctor and a serologist have been assigned to this programme, and it is envisaged that they will continue to serve until the end of 1957.

(Mr. Coigny, WHO)

In 1955, WHO granted a scholarship to a native from Western Samoa, who attended the seminar on health instruction which was held at Fiji in July, at which approximately forty persons from this area assembled. Scholarships for mental hygiene have been granted to candidates from Western Samoa during 1955, and, during 1956, there have been provisions to assist the Territory in improving the training for medical assistants.

In 1955, WHO granted a scholarship to New Guinea in the struggle against malaria, and another that will enable a person from the Territory to go to the seminar on health instruction at Fiji, which I have already mentioned. In 1956 and 1957, it is envisaged that a certain number of scholarships will be granted to candidates from the Territory, who will study the method to combat malaria and the struggle against the carrier insects.

In conclusion, may I thank you, Mr. President, for having allowed me to address the members of the Council, and assure you that the representatives of WHO are at your disposal in order to give you, to the extent possible, all additional information that you may require.

The PRESIDENT: It was decided yesterday by the Council that the Chairman of the Legislative Assembly may make a statement in response to a question put to him by a member of the Council.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Aden Abdullah Osman, Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration, took a place at the Council table.

Mr. OSMAN (Chairman, Legislative Assembly) (interpretation from Italian): With reference to the observations of UNESCO contained in the text of document T/1253 of 5 June 1956, and in particular in paragraphs 7 concerning the difficulties and disadvantages said to arise from the fact that there is no local language of instruction in the schools of Somaliland, the Somaliland delegation would like to recall that the Trusteeship Council, at its seventeenth session, expressly recommended that the language problem in Somaliland should be dealt with by decisions to be taken by the Somali people

(Mr. Osman, Chairman,
Legislative Assembly)

itself at the right time. The matter was discussed by the newly elected Legislative Assembly of Somaliland, which, at its meeting held on 31 May 1956 on the eve of our departure to attend the present session of the Trusteeship Council, expressly instructed us to reaffirm in the United Nations the Somali views on the language question, and in particular on the language of instruction, which, for the time being, should remain Arabic or Italian, though Arabic should receive greater prominence and should be used more extensively in the school curricula.

We in Somaliland are aware that at each session of the Trusteeship Council when the affairs of Somaliland are under consideration, the problem of the development of a written form of the Somali language is discussed from the standpoint of extending mass education in Somaliland. For a number of reasons, however, including the desire to avoid confusion in public education by the addition of Somali to Arabic and Italian, which are already in use in the schools, as well as the fear that the adoption of a written form of Somali might be detrimental to the religion of the Somali people, which, as is known, is closely linked in its origin with the Arabic language, the majority of the Somali people are not yet in a position to accept the introduction of the Somali language in the schools. For the sake of clarity and with regard to the repeated requests of the Somalis that Arabic be adopted as a principal language of instruction, I wish to point out that among the nomads this language is the only one which can be studied, if only in a rudimentary way, because of the impossibility of finding competent teachers. Among the nomads, family groups in almost every instance have a Koranic school where, in addition to the Koran and the basic principles of the Moslem faith, Arabic writing is taught. This justifies the attachment of the Somalis to Arabic.

I would wish to add, since I have heard certain erroneous conclusions drawn from the fact that some Somali students leave the schools before completing their courses, that, if that situation exists, it is not because students encounter difficulties by virtue of their instruction in languages other than their own, namely Arabic and Italian, because the facility with which Somalis assimilate

(Mr. Osman, Chairman,
Legislative Assembly)

instruction is a well-known fact. It is, instead, a consequence of the poverty of the Somali people, not all of whom can maintain their children in school. Furthermore, at a certain stage in their education, students are obliged by necessity to seek work in order to assist their families.

With your permission, Mr. President, I should now like to express the views of the Somaliland delegation on another matter raised in the discussion of the political part of the report under consideration. I mean the question of the powers and functions of the Advisory Council in Somaliland now that powers of legislative and administrative self-government have been vested in the new Legislative Assembly and in the Government of Somaliland.

The Somaliland delegation takes the view that no development has occurred which, in law, would constitute a reason for changing the terms and principles of the Trusteeship Agreement; this Agreement, should, we think, remain unchanged until the expiry of the Trusteeship. Until then, therefore, the functions and powers of the Advisory Council in Somaliland should remain as they are at present. This is also the opinion of the Legislative Assembly, which, having heard rumours of probable changes in the Advisory Council, expressly instructed us, at the meeting referred to above, to express the opinion of the Somali people on this matter.

General debate

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): As a member of my country's delegation to the Trusteeship Council in 1951 I heard the then special representative, Mr. Fornari, outline the way in which Italy proposed to fulfil the responsibility imposed on it by the United Nations of fostering the development of free political institutions in Somaliland under Italian administration and of promoting the social, economic and educational advancement of its inhabitants. We were impressed then by the evident sincerity and good will with which the Administering Authority was approaching these grave responsibilities, although somewhat appalled at the magnitude of the task laid upon its shoulders, namely, the realization of the Territory's independence by December 1960.

From our study of the latest set of documents before the Council and the statements and replies made here by representatives of the Administering Authority, we are satisfied that the latter has continued to pursue with good will, sincerity and a high sense of dedication the goal set for the Territory by the United Nations.

In 1950 there was no legislative organ of any kind in the Territory. It is an achievement of considerable magnitude that a legislative assembly, elected on a basis of universal adult male suffrage, should have been inaugurated in April 1956. For reasons which my delegation understands quite well, the method of election was in part indirect, but we share the Administering Authority's hope that when the time comes for the next election in 1958 it will be possible for that election to be conducted entirely by direct suffrage. We realize, also, the difficulties which stand in the way of the granting of suffrage to the adult women of the Territory. However, we are hopeful that the example of other independent countries of the United Nations and the influential work of the United Nations itself in fostering the political and other rights of women will gradually bring about a changed attitude to this question on the part of the indigenous inhabitants. It is an encouraging sign that more women in the Territory are being educated and that a greater number are taking an interest in party politics.

(Mr. Davin, New Zealand)

In addition to the inauguration of the Legislative Assembly, we think that it is a considerable achievement for the Administering Authority and the Somalis to have reached the stage when a full cabinet Government is now operating, consisting of a Prime Minister at the head of a Council of five other Ministers, all of whom are members of the Legislative Assembly and must enjoy its confidence so long as they continue in office. We are particularly happy that both the Prime Minister of the new Government and the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary of the new Legislative Assembly have been able to attend this session of the Trusteeship Council.

My delegation hopes that the new Legislative Assembly will soon have the opportunity of settling the terms of legislation defining the national status of the inhabitants of the Territory. This we regard as a matter of considerable constitutional importance.

In common with other delegations, we feel great concern about the lack of progress towards a settlement of the boundary with Ethiopia. We hope that this serious problem may be finally settled to everyone's satisfaction before the end of the trusteeship period so that the new State will not be left to grapple with it.

We have been pleased also to observe that during the year under review the number of municipalities increased from thirty-five to forty-five, and that the legal provisions governing the functioning of municipal administrations have been consolidated and completed. The Advisory Council has made various suggestions for the further improvement of municipal administrations which seem to my delegation to be worthy of close study by the Administering Authority, and accordingly we commend them to its attention. We hope also that the new District Councils which are now being organized will provide a valuable means of furthering the training of the indigenous inhabitants in local government, and consider that every effort should be made to complete their establishment at an early date.

The evidence shown in the report of further Somalization of the administrative posts in the Territory is also very satisfactory and seems to my delegation to merit commendation by the Trusteeship Council.

We have also noted with satisfaction the recent establishment, even if in provisional form, of a court of justice as the highest tribunal in the Territory. This ensures that all degrees of justice will be exercised within the Territory, and the regulations also secure the full independence of the judiciary from the executive power. We hope that the Legislative Assembly will confirm these regulations as soon as possible.

The rapid pace of development in the legislative, executive, administrative and judicial organs in the Territory encourages us to hope that by 1960 the indigenous inhabitants will have gained sufficient stability and experience to manage their own political affairs.

Members of the Advisory Council have said with regard to the year under review that they had the clear impression that a new impulse to overcome all obstacles had animated both the Administrator and the Somalis. This is heartening, but it does not lessen my delegation's conviction that the path to real independence and the proper capacity to manage its own affairs will not be easy for the Territory. Nevertheless, we see that very real and substantial progress has been made in the political field sufficient to justify some optimism that the United Nations objective can be attained.

Passing now to economic and financial conditions in the Territory, my delegation shares the concern expressed by other delegations here over the Territory's poor prospects of achieving economic viability without the grant of substantial help from outside sources. We hope that the report of the mission dispatched to the Territory by the International Bank, which is expected to be available in the next few months, will suggest sound lines along which the economy of the country can develop and eventually become self-supporting. We have no new suggestions to make for the solution of the Territory's economic problems and can only continue to urge measures such as the maximum development of industries which make a contribution to exports, the continuous search for new industries which, even if they cannot make a contribution to exports, may nevertheless diminish the country's needs for imports, careful supervision over imports, the utmost economy and efficiency in public administration and the investigation of fiscal reforms, including in particular the possibility of increased direct taxation.

It appears unavoidable that the Territory will have to restrain its expenditure on current consumption, to some extent at least, in order to ensure that sufficient funds can be raised for essential public works such as roads, schools, construction of wells, irrigation projects and so on.

My delegation would like, finally, before passing to the question of social advancement, to pay a very sincere tribute to the substantial financial help which has already been granted to the Territory by the Administering Authority itself and by the United States of America and the further assistance from those countries which, it has been indicated, will be forthcoming in the immediate future. This is the very best evidence of a genuine spirit of international responsibility and helpfulness on the part of those two countries.

From its study of the documents before the Council, my delegation feels that satisfactory progress is being made by the Territory in improving social conditions, especially when account is taken of the many problems facing the Administering Authority and the new Legislative Assembly in the political and economic fields. As other delegations represented here will appreciate readily, an important part of the real wealth of any Territory is the mental and physical wellbeing of its inhabitants. My delegation would like to commend the Administering Authority for the steady progress that has so far been made and notes the advice and help of the specialized agencies, which have been given at the Administering Authority's request and which have surely been of great value in promoting the Territory's social advancement.

In passing, I may say that I have listened with great interest to the outline given by the representative of the World Health Organization today of what WHO has been doing and proposes to do in the Territory in improving health conditions.

The only matter under this heading to which we should like to make specific reference is the problem of nomadism. As the Council knows, a large proportion -- perhaps two-thirds -- of the Somali people are nomadic or semi-nomadic pastoralists. The special representative has explained that this is not from their own choice but has been imposed on them by the arid nature of the Territory and the necessity to retain great flexibility in the movement of livestock among pastoral areas. Such a mode of life imposes considerable hardships on those who are obliged to live thus and, in addition, raises many problems for the Administration. The

(Mr. Davin, New Zealand)

special representative has mentioned, for example, the difficulty of trying to secure the benefits of education for the children of nomads, and indeed of ensuring generally that the nomads enjoy the advantages of improved conditions in the Territory. My delegation admits frankly that it does not see how the basic problem of nomadism is to be solved -- except perhaps very gradually, as adverse climatic and soil conditions are overcome by the ingenuity of modern science and agriculture. We were glad to hear from the special representative, however, that the Administering Authority is considering ways and means of enabling the nomads to participate more fully in the life of the country and to enjoy the benefits now enjoyed by the remainder of the population. We have noted that the programme would fall into two sections: the active phase of participation, under which would fall the betterment of the nomad's conditions as far as his cattle are concerned, that is, improving livestock, water supplies and facilities for the marketing of cattle and providing instruction to enable the nomad to prepare his skins and hides more efficiently; and the passive phase, which is designed to enable the nomad to enjoy facilities for education, social assistance, medical treatment and technical help in his work, as required. This seems a very sound approach and in the best interests of the nomadic tribes.

As regards educational progress in the Territory, we believe that in general the educational plan is being satisfactorily carried out. It appears from the discussion in the Council that the problem of educating the children of the Territory is not so much one of facilities as of ensuring that the present facilities are used to the fullest extent. It seems that this latter problem has arisen not only from the inherent difficulty which nomadic peoples find in sending their children regularly to school but also from a lack of appreciation on their part of the potential value of an adequate standard of education for their children. It is obvious that much yet remains to be done in the direction of educating the children, and this is a matter which warrants serious and continued attention.

We emphasize what many skilled observers and delegations have already affirmed, namely, that the absence of a written Somali language which could be used as a medium of instruction is a grave handicap, in our opinion, in the way of educating the Somali children of school age. We have listened with great attention

(Mr. Davin, New Zealand)

to what has been said in the Council, including the statement made today by the Somali representative, concerning the relationship between Somali and Arabic. But the impression we have formed, after listening to expert opinion from many sources, is that there are fundamental differences between the two languages and that the knowledge of spoken Somali is of little use in assisting Somali children to acquire a knowledge of Arabic. In such circumstances, it seems to us that every effort should be made to reduce the Somali language to written form and to use it as the language of instruction. The special representative has mentioned that a Somali grammar was prepared at one stage and that the Administration tried to introduce Somali books into the Territory but that the initiative failed through the opposition of the Somali people. My delegation would like to repeat the view we have previously put forward: that all those who object to the use of the Somali language as a medium of instruction would do well to consider carefully the consequences of their attitude on the educational development of their fellow countrymen. So far as my delegation can ascertain -- and I put forward this view with some hesitation -- the opposition comes from the older generation of Somalis rather than from the younger. It is perhaps not too much to hope that the younger generation will succeed in convincing their elders that there is no adequate substitute for the development of Somali as a written language and its use as a medium of instruction in the schools.

This concludes my remarks on the Trust Territory. Before closing, however, I should like to pay a sincere tribute to Mr. Zadotti, the special representative; Mr. Grillo, the representative of Italy; the Administrator of the Territory; and the Somali representatives who have spoken in the Council, for their helpful attitudes and informative comments.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): My first duty in this general debate on the annual report on the Trust Territory of Somalia is to extend, in the name of my delegation, a very hearty welcome to the Somali representatives who have come to New York to assist us in the consideration of this report. As I indicated in my remarks some two days ago, I regard the presence of the President,

(Sir Alan Burns, United Kingdom)

the Vice-President and the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly as a demonstration of the existence of a working democratic institution. In the same way, the presence of the Prime Minister shows clearly the practical steps that are being taken by the Administering Authority to fit the Somali people for the independence which will be theirs in 1960.

Tribute has been paid by these Somali representatives and by the members of the Advisory Council to the good relations which exist between the Somali people and the officials of the Administering Authority. This is a position on which both parties can be congratulated, and, in expressing the congratulations of my delegation, I should like to say that my own personal observations during my all too brief visit to Mogadiscio in 1954 certainly bear out all that has been said regarding these good relations. The devoted interest of the Italian officials and the friendly co-operation of the Somalis were very obvious.

(Sir Alan Burns,
United Kingdom)

The reward lies in the marked political progress that has been made in the short period that has been available. I should like to convey to the Somali people my best wishes for their future advancement.

There are difficulties ahead, difficulties caused by the climate and most of all by an unfavourable soil. But I feel sure that the good will of the world and the courageous perseverance of the Somali people will make it possible for these handicaps to be overcome.

If the present search for oil is successful, as I earnestly hope it will be, most of the difficulties which are today so apparent will of course disappear. But in planning for the future, it would be unwise to count too much on this possibility.

Other sources of wealth must be sought based on and developed from the existing economic resources. In this connexion, perhaps the cotton and cattle industries offer the most promising possibilities.

I shall not venture into the debatable field of language because in other parts of Africa I have learned to appreciate the difficulties inherent in this question. I believe, however, that this is a matter which the Somali people must decide for themselves and that our views on this subject are not likely to be helpful.

I feel sure that all members of the Council will have found our discussions of the affairs of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration to be of very profound interest this year. The primary cause for this deep interest has been the very farsighted reforms introduced by the Administration in the course of the past twelve months. For this bold initiative the Administering Authority deserves the warmest commendation of this Council.

I have already welcomed the President of the Somali representatives, and I wish now to say how pleased my delegation was to see here His Excellency Ambassador Anzilotti, the Administrator of the Trust Territory, who is responsible for so much of the recent progress made in Somalia.

I should like also to thank the special representative for his help to us in the consideration of the report, and particularly for his replies to the questions asked by my delegation.

Finally, I should like to congratulate the members of the Advisory Council on their work and to thank them for their contribution to our discussion.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The Trusteeship Council has had very adequate and extremely good documentation on the subject of Somaliland under Italian administration. As usual, the report of the Administering Authority has been very clear and has contained many useful maps and photographs which were presented in such a way as to make the reading not only interesting but pleasant. The report of the Advisory Council has completed the information contained in the report of the Administering Authority. All the documents have been extremely interesting, including the report of UNESCO.

We have been able to gather from the study of these documents the courageous and persistent efforts of the Administering Authority in crossing over the transition period from trusteeship to independence. The election of the Legislative Assembly and the establishment of the first Somali Government are now facts. The members of the Trusteeship Council have stressed the importance of these facts by congratulating the Administering Authority and by addressing to the President of the elected Assembly and the head of the first Somali Government, who were good enough to make the long trip to be present at this session, our warmest desires and hopes for their future success.

My delegation feels that the Italian Government is wise in anticipating as much as possible the date set out in the Trusteeship Agreement for independence and in beginning to transfer now certain powers to the Somali people. In the course of the coming years, the administration of Somalia will gradually be placed in the hands of the Somali people and they will be able to receive the guidance and help of the Administering Authority while undertaking to practise governing themselves in accordance with the articles of the Trusteeship Agreement.

The most important problem of Somaliland is to have the necessary resources to ensure the proper functioning of the Administration and to grant economic, social and political rights to the people. Ambassador Anzilotti, the Administrator of Somaliland, expressed the matter to us very frankly in stressing that it was indispensable for the country to continue to receive financial and technical assistance after the period of trusteeship has ended and that foreign aid will be necessary not only in the form of required capital for the economic and social development of the country but also in the form of subsidies to underwrite the greater expenses of the development of the country. The increase of currency, therefore, is one of the main problems facing the Somali Government.

(Mr. Claeys Boumaert, Belgium)

The delegation of Belgium was very happy to learn that a cattle tax is being contemplated. We recall that we suggested such a tax in the past as one way of increasing the income of the country as well as of avoiding the unruly increase of the cattle population of the country. The implementation of this plan will be extremely delicate, as are all plans of direct taxation of populations that are mainly nomadic. It will be up to the Administering Authority, the executive powers and the legislative powers of the Territory, to set this plan under way.

If there is any chance of increasing the income, then we must realize that the increase in taxation would not solve the entire question. Nevertheless it is true that the increase will not balance the budget before 1960. The United Nations, therefore, has certain necessary responsibilities with regard to Somaliland.

The delegation of Belgium favours in principle the proposal made by the representative of France, that is the suggestion submitted yesterday by the Advisory Council to have a committee examine the entire fiscal and economic problems of Somaliland as soon as we receive the conclusions of the report of the International Bank, which is making a detailed study of the entire financial and economic life of the Territory.

It seems obvious that such a committee cannot be set up at the moment unless the Italian Government raises the question in the United Nations and requests the measures that are to be taken in order to prolong United Nations assistance after the end of trusteeship. Until that time, Italy bears the entire responsibility for the running of the Territory, which is in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement.

Progress achieved in the social and educational fields has been regular and this is most encouraging. Essentially, however, this depends on the economic development of the Territory.

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert,
Belgium)

We see that the public services are already a heavy burden on the budget which requires substantial aid from outside subsidies. One point, however, seems to have attracted the attention not only of the Council but also of the Somali Government, and that is the question of school attendance, especially in primary schools. The report of UNESCO points out that these schools are large enough to accommodate more pupils.

A frantic desire to go to school has been noted in the majority of regions in Africa. The schools in Africa are everywhere not sufficient to accommodate all the students who wish to go to school, and they must sometimes refuse pupils. Somaliland seems to manifest the opposite tendency. Even from the city population only 17 per cent of children of school age go to school.

The President of the Legislative Assembly of Somaliland was good enough to dwell on that point, and he refuted in advance the opinion which states that that situation can be blamed on the languages used in the schools. Since the question of languages has been again raised in this Council, as it has been in the past, the Belgian delegation would like once again to express its opinion. Of course it is the Somalis, the Government and the Somali people who in the last resort will make the final decisions. I wish to say that the opinion which I am voicing, I consider to be the justification of my delegation's presence in this Council. The opinion of the Belgian delegation is well known to the Council, and it is entirely consistent with that which was stated by UNESCO. To arouse the interest of primitive or isolated populations in learning, to awaken in them the thirst for knowledge, to engender, even in humble people, the thirst for knowledge can be achieved most efficiently by use of the mother tongue. It is not a question here of arguing over the usefulness of teaching Italian or Arabic. The problem that does arise before learning a foreign language is to learn to read and write in the mother tongue, and the majority of children in Somaliland know only Somali. My delegation repeats its previous recommendations and expresses the opinion that the development of education will be much faster if primary education were given using the Somali language in teaching.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the representative of Italy and also Ambassador Anzilotti, the Administrator of Somaliland, and Mr. Zedotti whose explanations were always clear, courteous and patient. I also wish to thank the Advisory Council whose report, analyses and opinions have been of great use to the Council.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): The United States delegation has already had its say about conditions in Somaliland, but I do wish to take one minute more to state that we admire the co-operation which the Somali people and their elected representatives are giving to the Administering Authority in preparation for their independence in 1960. No people could be more hard-working or more determined to make a success. In a like manner, my delegation wishes to pay its respects to the good work of the Italian Administrators. Their goodwill and sincerity are appreciated by everyone.

The meeting was suspended at 4.5 p.m and resumed at 4.25 p.m.

Mr. Krishna MEHON (India): My first and most pleasant duty on this occasion, when my delegation is intervening on a major issue at this session of the Trusteeship Council, is to offer you, Mr. President, our felicitations and to say how much we rejoice in your election to the Presidency of this Council. It is unnecessary for me to say that your great experience of the normal working of this body over a period of years will be of great service to us, and it is our pleasant duty to take this opportunity of expressing our admiration and our confidence in you.

We are today addressing ourselves to the question of Somaliland under Italian trusteeship. It is not the intention of my delegation, as is customary on these occasions, to go into a large number of details about the number of schools or how they should be increased or decreased, but it is our intention to go into some major questions which concern us in explaining our attitude towards these problems, to express our hopes, our fears and our aspirations in regard to the problems before us, because the conditions in which Somaliland came under Trusteeship, the nature of the Trusteeship Agreement, the nature of administration, the progress made and, what is more, the one and only decision of the character I am going to mention that has been made in regard to Trusteeship Agreements makes it unique. Therefore, in addressing ourselves to the problem of Somaliland we think not so much of a review of the report that has been put before us as of the preparation for the establishment of the objective which, happily, has been laid down for 1960.

This decision, which at one time may have been regarded as politically debatable, is now a matter of fact and of record, and the United Nations -- not only the Administering Authority, not only the Somali people, but the United Nations -- took upon itself a responsibility to see that the termination of Trusteeship would not lead to any conditions whereby that termination would be regretted.

Also in speaking of a country like this, one has a sense of historic nostalgia -- if that is the correct expression -- because in debating on a problem like this we see the history of a long past involved before us. It is quite true

that we think of Somaliland as a former Italian colony that is now a Trust Territory. Some of us may even think more of it as a homeland of a people, but this part of Africa in the Indian Ocean is connected with us by many ties of history in the past, going back, perhaps, to the second or third millenium before Christ, in the early days of trade with Syria and Phoenicia -- your country, Mr. President -- when, from the Western coast of India, in wooden boats which even ply today, trade was carried on with this part of Africa and the mainland.

We inquired just now, of the President of the Legislative Assembly, about the derivation and the meaning of the word "Somalia." I give his explanation with some reluctance, because I do not want any political meaning to be attributed to it. I understand that the word "Somalia" in Somali means "from India". We are not laying any claims, but the President of the Legislative Assembly told us, and, what is more, told us in English and not in Somali or Arabic, that that was the derivation.

It is also legendary that the people of Somaliland are mixtures of Arab peoples from ancient Arabia and of immigrants from southern India. It is part of the great seaboard of that time, which was the scene of civilization when the western world was emerging to it. As human civilization moves in cycles, today, after thousands of years, again we speak of a people emerging into the fullness of their being, and one cannot help thinking of these matters and of not just getting lost in figures. So, when Somaliland regains its independence, we are once again giving a new life to the history of an old people.

It is, as well to remember this because in the Trusteeship Council in various sections of the United Nations and, what is more, in bilateral discussions with nations and Governments, one often comes across this problem of "Are some people fit or others not fit". Now, who is to judge fitness in this case? We have, therefore, a romantic interest in the development of these Territories, in their coming into their own and taking their place side by side with us. When we discuss the development of trusteeship in Somaliland, we think of the day, not far off now, when they will become, like us, members of the United Nations in their own sovereign right.

(Mr. Krishna Menon, India)

My Government desires to make its position clear. It also comes to our mind that its present history does not begin as part of the old but somewhere in the middle of the last Century when a missionary, contrary to all trade union regulations, carried on two occupations. He was a missionary and he was also a man who dealt in business and apparently in 1869 Giuseppe Sapeto went over and bought this port Assab in the Red Sea from where began Italian occupation of Eastern Africa.

I will not go into the whole history of this place and my purpose in mentioning this is that when we come later to some political matters which are now mixed up with the future of Somaliland, it is as well to bear in mind that these circumstances have arisen from factors which are outside the actions of the Somali people themselves.

So through the nineties the Protectorate was extended over the Sultanate of the time. It was a period of European expansion in Africa when the British, the Germans, the French and various other nations of the West had expanded into that Continent and established colonial territories, either by conquest or by purchase, or by offering protection. Unfortunately, in that era -- fortunately not in ours -- protection always meant, in its wake, tutelage. Somewhere in the nineties, and afterwards, by agreement with the British, more Sultanates were brought under protection with regard to the transfer of other lands, as I believe under the Treaty of London. Finally, after further conquests and further purchases from the Sultan of Zanzibar, the Colony of Somaliland was established in the earlier part of the century.

The circumstances of the First World War was such that Italian Somaliland remained comparatively unaffected and, in the final outcome, did not have to come under the mandates settlements. So the colonial period continued until much later and Somaliland got drawn into the troubles which, to a certain extent, are responsible today for the border dispute with Ethiopia.

In 1941, once again, after the outbreak of the last war, it came under the British occupation and in 1950, after considerable discussion, was placed under a trust. It is at this point that I am instructed by my Government to reiterate our position, and I say this not because our good friends the people of Somaliland are here. We want to reiterate our position in regard to this. When the question of Trusteeship over Somaliland came to the United Nations, it was discussed along with Eritrea and Libya. Our view with regard to Libya was that it was entitled to its independence and should become an independent country.

The delegation of India has always maintained that Somaliland was fit for its independence and should have been an independent country at that time. But the United Nations, in its wisdom, and with due respect, made other decisions and decided to place it under Trusteeship, but under very different conditions to which I shall refer.

However, the situation today, both politically and constitutionally -- and, what is more, by the presence of these distinguished gentlemen from Somaliland, representing a legislature which is marching on to sovereignty, as members of a Government, as men who have very high places in their public life, participating in the deliberations of this Council, not as suppliants or petitioners before us but as people who are going to take over -- is in itself some indication that the view we had then put forward, and which we still maintain is the basic position, was entirely justified.

As a result, we have a Trusteeship Agreement in connexion with Somaliland which is entirely different from anything we know. But it is more in consonance with the whole conception of international law and reality. Here for the first time -- I do not know whether the architects really realized it -- it is laid down that the sovereignty rests on the people. Somaliland is an independent country, but that independence is kept latent till 1960, when it comes into fullfledged being. Therefore, the annexure, which at that time was initiated by our delegation with regard to the resolution of the fourth session of the Assembly, and afterwards accepted by the United States which had initiated the main resolution, is the parent of the annexures which follow the main agreement itself. Article 1 of this annexure reads as follows:

"The sovereignty of the Territory is vested in its people and shall be exercised by the Administering Authority on their behalf and in the manner prescribed herein by decision of the United Nations."

I am entirely within my rights in saying that if only a similar clause had appeared in some other Trusteeship Agreements, the position in regard to the development of those Territories towards independence might have been somewhat differently judged -- This in our opinion is the only basis on which Trusteeship can be worked, namely the recognition of the inalienable rights of a people -- which cannot be taken away by anybody -- whereby sovereignty rests in them, and where, by circumstances economic, political, war, peace or whatever it may be, there may be interim arrangements made whereby others, as in this case the Italian Government, become the steward to nurse them or to assist them towards the full attainment of that sovereignty.

We reiterate that position because it is on this basis that we have, time after time, both in the case of Somaliland and other Territories, asked for the speedy attainment of self-government. It is the basis of all demands towards setting a time limit on the termination of trusteeships, because a trusteeship to us is something that sits on top of a sovereignty that is latent, and when the lid is removed there is full freedom. That is the position of the Indian Government in regard to the status of Somaliland; that is to say, if our voice was a potent voice at the time, Somaliland would have attained its independence with Libya. But the United Nations, in its wisdom -- which we accept and respect -- decided to establish a trusteeship and to call upon the Government of Italy to be the Administering Authority.

Here it is my very pleasant duty to pay tribute to the Administering Authority, as I have done to the people of Somaliland through their representatives. The Trusteeship Agreement has been accepted, as far as we can see from the records and the papers before us and from statements made before the Council year after year, in the spirit in which it was concluded; that is to say, the progress in Somaliland is not one of yielding to agitation or doing what is inevitable, but working toward a plan of termination in 1960. Therefore, I think that the Administering Power is entitled to our appreciation and my delegation wishes to go on record in saying that not only has this been taken in the spirit in which it was put into the Agreement, but that the Administering Power, so far as we can see, has also recognized that their attitude is not one, "after us the deluge".

Therefore, institutions, which would have become inevitable under independence, are being established in the approach to self-government. This is not to say that that does not obtain in other Trust Territories. Other Trust Territories have also established institutions which are meant to be steps on the road towards self-government, but in this particular case we have already at least the form and, to a certain extent, substance of a responsible and united Government, exercising functions as a team, and with the limitations on its power, on the statement of the Administering Authority, largely a matter of reserve authority vested by law and hardly exercised unless it becomes absolutely necessary.

Thus, in the present structure of government there is a cabinet of five ministers who, as in all countries having parliamentary government, are appointed by what corresponds to the head of the State, namely the Administering Authority.

(Mr. Krishna Menon. India)

My delegation notices that there is an arrangement in regard to this Cabinet which is particularly unique. In other areas, where the metropolitan country is accustomed to parliamentary institutions and has had the administration of dependencies for a long time and has proceeded in what it has called "freedom broadening from precedent to precedent", if reforms had to be introduced, it has been done by executive councillors -- who probably did not exercise power, or, when they did fully exercise power, government being split into two parts, one part was reserved for the metropolitan power and the other for the people who were marching towards independence -- until finally the metropolitan Power handed over the whole of government. But here we have a structure which is rather different, and I must confess that I really do not know how one could understand the incidence of it unless one had the time to spend in Somaliland. That is to say, each Minister is the head of a Ministry, just as in any of our Governments; but, side by side with him sits in this Cabinet a counsellor who is an official. We understand the reasons for it. It is part of the process of accustoming those who will take over power to the delicate and intricate problems of the administration. The difference which usually obtains in other Territories where the transferred departments, so to say, are solely in the hands of the indigenous representatives, does not exist here. On the other hand, there are no departments which are excluded from the indigenous representatives. So, on the one hand, there is the positive and more advantageous position that there are no reservations by departments; but, equally, even in the transfer of departments there is the presence of a representative of the Administering Authority in an effective position. It all depends to what extent this works out in practice, and here, I think, we should give the benefit of the doubt and should take the view that, since the Administering Authority is anxious to proceed towards the laying down of this burden, this arrangement is one that is necessitated by practical considerations. And we, for one, unless we heard views to the contrary from the Somalis themselves, would accept that view.

But, at the same time, it must be pointed out that, if there is to be full self-government and independence in 1960, either the people who have greater experience, the people who have to guide the affairs of State from day to day, are by that time Somali citizens themselves, or this process of

(Mr. Krishna Menon, India)

driving from the back seat atrophies and cabinet responsibility becomes a reality.

None of these observations is meant by way of destructive criticism or derogation of the status of government or of the intentions of the Italian administration. We have, as members of the Trusteeship Council, a responsibility sometimes to look a little closely, sometimes to look from a distance. Looking at this from the point of view of critical examination, there is this aspect which requires study, and perhaps, in the course of a year or two, we shall be able to discover in this situation, which is imperative at the present time in order to supply the experience and meet the needs of practical necessity, what what has been established in the present instance will gradually fade away.

I do not propose at this stage to go a great deal into the details of the Executive Council and the legislators. Suffice it to say that, from the reports before us, Somaliland has a legislature which is elected on manhood suffrage. As we have said in another case, we hope that, even before the establishment of independence, it will be possible for the women of Somaliland to take part in the public life and the responsibilities of State -- at any rate in their franchise -- on a footing of equality with men because, if women are not enfranchised, half of the nation is not enfranchised. For that reason we can only say "universal manhood suffrage".

The Administering Authority's report states for our information -- information which we are glad to welcome -- that elections to the legislature took place in 1956 and passed off without incident, although incident might have been expected. Again, not as a matter of criticism, but purely as a kind of interest in simple mathematics, I was amused to read, in paragraph 35 of the paper which was given to us by the diligence of the Secretariat, that the urban electorate is approximately 10 per cent of the total electorate. The remainder of the electors are among the tribes and are elected by the tribal organizations. The ~~tribal~~ organizations have 772,165 votes. If we add 10 per cent to that, it would make roughly 850,000, and the total population of Somaliland is only 1,270,000 -- and women do not vote, and presumably children do not vote. There must be some mistake somewhere,

and I think that the mistake is probably in the census; perhaps there are more people in Somaliland than 1,200,000. These figures would warrant a population of 2,500,000 since, otherwise, there could not be 850,000 votes in 1,270,000 people, when women do not vote and children do not vote. Therefore, the adult men who could vote in 1,270,000 would be about 400,000, according to all normal calculations. I hope that, with the thoroughness which the Administering Authority has shown in various other matters, we shall some day, for mere purposes of accuracy, have an account of the total population of Somaliland -- which will become a very important matter when we are dealing with the economic issue which, as the Administering Authority has rightly pointed out, must receive serious consideration before 1960 if the community is to run on an even keel. Therefore, the reference to these figures is not merely a curious interest in what appears to be an error, but reflects our concern with the facts of the question of the population of Somaliland and how many have to be provided for. That becomes a matter of great importance.

The next problem to which reference has been made and which, I suppose, is one of the problems that is best solved as quickly as possible, in order that the new independent Somaliland will not have to carry what may be called an external problem, as well as all the internal problems which it will have to face, is the difference of view in regard to the border of Ethiopia. This matter has been before the United Nations for a long time. Ethiopia is a loyal and respected Member of this Organization. It has a history which, from our point of view, is highly creditable in regard to colonial domination and has only recently, as a result of the circumstances following the war, been able to re-establish its independence. We have no doubt at all that the decision taken by the General Assembly was the correct one in this matter and that these disputes, which go back a long time and which have arisen in colonial days, ought to be resolved by discussion between the Italian Government and the Ethiopian Government. I am sure that the representative of Italy will understand me when I say that it is one of the inheritances of the Empire, one of the legacies left from the colonial period, and when the colonial period comes to an end by the joint efforts of the Italian Government and by all others concerned,

(Mr. Krishna Menon, India)

particularly the Somali people, this problem will also be out of the way. It should be recognized that the problem has arisen on account of the situation that has existed at various times between Ethiopia and Italy itself and, therefore, it is a legacy of that period. We have no doubt that the substantial efforts that are now being made by the Italian Government, on the one hand, and the Ethiopian Government, on the other, will lead to success. We are, therefore, very happy to have been able to notice that, as late as 3 June of this year, some substantial progress was made in this matter and that the Government of Italy and the Government of Ethiopia have advanced to a quite respectable stage in these discussions and have been able to issue a summary or communique of their statement.

(Mr. Krishna Menon, India)

My delegation wants to read into the record the joint communique issued by the Italian and Ethiopian Governments at Addis Ababa on 5 May 1956. ~~It is~~ as follows:

"A delegation representing the Italian Government as the Trustee in charge of the Administration of the Trust Territory of Somaliland has been at Addis Ababa for the last two months with the specific purpose of seeking a solution, in conformity with the principles agreed during the United Nations General Assembly in December 1950, of the problem of the delimitation of the boundaries between Ethiopia and the future independent State of Somalia.

"The exchange of views between the Italian and the Ethiopian delegations has taken place in a friendly atmosphere, and, in spite of the difficulties involved in the settlement of this old and complicated frontier problem, substantial agreements on fundamental points have been reached.

"The delegations have presented various documents, and have expounded in detail the criteria on which their respective positions are based.

"The Italian delegation, in full agreement with the Ethiopian delegation, are returning to Rome in order to report to their Government to re-examine the situation in the light of the most recent developments in the conference and to obtain further instructions with a view to the continuation of the negotiations."

While it is true that the problem is still not resolved, we must welcome the fact that all these negotiations have been conducted not only in a very friendly manner but also on the basis of the principles of the United Nations and the decisions of the General Assembly in respect of this matter. We are not in a position to comment on the substance of these discussions. For one thing, we do not know it, and secondly, since the Assembly left this to direct negotiation between the Italian Government and the Ethiopian Government, it would be improper for us to intervene with regard to the merits. My Government therefore takes the view that the Assembly's decisions must be carried out, and

(Mr. Krishna Menon, India)

that this problem ought to be resolved as early as possible, certainly before Somaliland under Italian administration attains its independence.

The next problem to which we should like to address ourselves is the economic position. As (I said before, in the case of Somaliland under Italian administration we do not think that the examination of the details of administration is frightfully important because very soon the Somalis will themselves become responsible, and self-government is the right to govern well or govern ill, according to the wishes of the people. Therefore that does not come into it. But we are concerned, as the Administering Authority is concerned -- they told us so -- about the economic position. From 1952 onwards, there have been recurring deficits in the budgets of Somaliland. But for the contributions made by the Italian Government to the Administration, I do not know how the country would have run unless somebody had found the money somewhere. In 1952, the ordinary revenue of the country was 34,034,000 somalos, and the Italian contribution was 33,263,000 somalos for civil expenditure and 34,180,000 for military expenditure. I shall not read out all the figures. Approximately the same proportionate is seen in 1955. The ordinary revenue was 41,624,000 somalos, and the Italian contribution was 33,281,000 somalos for civil expenditure and 24,451,000 somalos for military expenditure.

Then we look at the expenditure side. The ordinary expenditure in 1952 was 58,254,000 somalos, and in 1955 it was 65,087,000 somalos. The figures are also given for the extraordinary expenditure. The main thing is that there were deficits. In 1952 there was a deficit of about 67 million somalos; in 1953, there was a deficit of about 60 million somalos; in 1954 there was a deficit of about 51 million somalos; and in 1955 there was a deficit of about 58 million somalos.

This picture is one that should concern not only the Somali people, the new Government and the Italian administration but also others. It is true that the Italian administration has met these deficits. Perhaps it may also be said that some of the Italian contribution has gone back as salaries to Italian officials or expenditures in problems of defence and so on, but that is all in the normal course of things.

(Mr. Krishna Menon, India)

The question arises: What will happen when Somaliland becomes independent? There are only two or three solutions that will present themselves. But one way or another this fact has to be faced by the United Nations because, to a certain extent, independent Somaliland will be the creation of the United Nations, and responsibility for nurturing a country under trusteeship and self-government does not end with the establishment of political independence. If the result of the termination of trusteeship is the political independence of a bankrupt State, not only a bankrupt State but a State with recurring bankruptcies, then that independence is not likely to last long. You, Mr. President, will understand, at any rate, our concern when we look with apprehension upon the prospect of political independence being threatened by internal and external circumstances, by the economic domination of countries which may move in where others have moved out. Therefore, unless a country is somewhat stable economically, where it is able not necessarily to balance its budget but to pay its way, and where its resources are so developed that for everything it wants abroad it can give something, then it stands to reason that the political independence which will exist on paper in the Charter and which will be passed down to the Somali people will become very unreal.

We as a people concerned with the total liberation of former colonial peoples feel that the substance of that independence should enable Somaliland to play its full part and to acquire for itself the fullest degree of self-respect and esteem of others. We therefore believe that in the next few years this problem has to be carefully examined. I daresay that the Italian Government may still make contributions in other ways. However, once the responsibility of administration is taken away from the Administering Authority, as it will be in 1960, and Somaliland becomes an independent land, the problem will arise of the country having the resources to pay for its imports, which it must have, of paying its way, and for the sustenance of its population. In this connexion, we have been given these reports. It is by way of drawing a dark picture. Since one is afraid of standing alone in the dark, one calls one's people to one's help. Here is the Chairman of the Legislative Assembly, whom we had the pleasure of hearing, who gave us the benefit of his views. He told us the following, the other day:

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"In the economic field, considerable improvement has resulted...

The obtaining of new capital constitutes a continuing problem in connexion with the promotion of new industries and the modernization of those already in existence. Capital is also required in order to ensure the self-sufficiency of the country and the establishment of payments in connexion with textile, refrigeration, meat and fishing industries.

We have great hopes of favourable results from the visit of representatives of the International Bank..." (T/PV.703, page 15)

We are happy to feel that he is optimistic. But what we have inferred is the side of the picture which must be realistically appraised. He goes on to say:

"We cannot... ignore the difficulties and perplexities which we" -- the Somalis -- "shall face in 1960 in the development of our oil resources, and we should like to discuss this important problem with the United Nations and the Administering Authority in order that they might continue their technical and financial interest in Somaliland after 1960 on the basis of assistance by friendly countries to a new country, in a spirit of international co-operation and full respect for the independence of a new State." (Ibid.)

We are not necessarily subscribing to any detailed item in the statement here made. But the statement by the Chairman of the Legislative Assembly makes it quite clear to us that in 1960 there will be a problem which, unless it is resolved before, will make the independence of Somaliland a very onerous burden for a new Government.

We have also the statement of the Administrator. He told us the following:

"No one with some knowledge of the resources and economic conditions of Somaliland could expect the new State, to provide from the outset the capital for its own economic development. Actually, it seems unlikely that the Government will succeed in balancing its ordinary budget by 1960.

Some measure of assistance will be required for some time afterwards, and this brings me to what is perhaps the most urgent, certainly the biggest problem facing Somaliland today, the assistance to the new State after 1960." (Ibid., pp. 9-10)

(Mr. Krishna Menon, India)

Therefore, we have on the authority of all concerned that the United Nations, at its next General Assembly or other appropriate time, over a long period and by sustained effort, will have to think out this problem, because independent Somaliland is very much the concern of the Somalis and of the nations that have voted all these things in the past, introduced the system of trusteeship and promised independence. We will be welcoming the free people of Somaliland as a Member of the United Nations.

(Mr. Krishna Menon, India)

I want to say here, therefore, that this problem of lack of sustenance, lack of resources and lack of self-sufficiency is nothing new to Somaliland. Countries like ours, which have emerged from dependent positions, from administrations, benevolent or otherwise, from industrialization, partial or less partial -- we all face these problems. And ultimately they can be met only by the development of resources within the country. And here, if the President will permit me, I would like to think aloud on some aspects of this matter.

We are always told that the population of Somaliland is economically productive only to the extent of 10 per cent. With great respect, I, for one, refuse to accept this view. Using names, expressions and terms, and calling something by a certain title does not solve any problems. I think it is very wrong to say that the Somali people is nomadic, whatever that means. People are nomads because there is no sustenance in the place where they are. They have to move somewhere else. If you have cattle and the cattle have no fodder in the places where you are, then you move on to places where there is fodder. Therefore, I submit that the so-called nomadic condition is not an aspect of social pathology. It is purely an economic problem. There is, of course, wanderlust in men: they may climb mountains, they may wander all over the place, and so on. But as a social problem this arises on account of the inhospitality of the land as it is at present, and on account of the lack and comparative insufficiency of human effort under modern conditions that has been put into the place.

Therefore, we cannot dismiss this situation by saying that 80 per cent of the people in Somaliland is nomadic and, therefore, economically unproductive. Unless we face that in this way and gear into the development of Somaliland, on the initiative of the Somali people and in response to their request, all the full apparatus of technical assistance in the United Nations and all the resources that the prestige and responsibility of the United Nations can muster in this respect, we shall be leaving the people of Somaliland in the lurch with merely the encrustment of independence and with all their problems to be solved by themselves. And, what is more, without being pessimistic about this, once there is not that economic progress and the happiness in the material sphere that comes from having the necessary resources, then internal problems arise in a larger measure.

(Mr. Krishna Menon, India)

All of us know that a popular government is more susceptible to attacks and pressures from the population than anybody else. We are told that taxation in Somaliland is lower than anywhere else. I suppose administrators always think that taxation is lower where they are. My Government says the same thing. But I think that it is only fair to say that if there is going to be distribution of the incidence of taxation upon the people on a wider basis, or on larger sections of the population, that should be done before Somaliland attains its independence and not afterwards, so that a new government does not, in addition to all its other problems, have to take on the hostility of the voters who put it in office. It is quite true that people vote for us when we go to parliament, but whenever one supports a measure of taxation not even one's best supporters say "Thank you". I have never seen anyone paying income tax with a smile on his face. Therefore, if there is going to be the distribution of the incidence of these burdens it should be done now and the unpopularity should be faced at this period when there are people who are in the position to assist and when the problem can be regarded -- I say again with great respect -- as arising from the neglect of a period in the pre-trusteeship era.

Somaliland has been a colony from 1890 onwards. It became a Trust Territory in 1950. Is it not fair that we should look at the picture of development from 1890 to 1950, cutting out, say, ten or twelve years of the war periods, and say that in forty or forty-five years of that colonial rule Somaliland did not advance to the extent it has advanced in five years of trusteeship rule? Conditions in the world of enlightenment and of social responsibility have arisen, and what is more there were legal responsibilities placed upon the Administering Authority and also the awakening of the people themselves, as represented by the political resurgence in Somaliland, the leadership of the Somali Youth League and the elections, conducted, according to the Administering Authority, in orderly fashion, and the returning of a government that is competent to rule over the country.

But when we look at the other aspects of the economic development we have every reason to be even more apprehensive, because in this small community where the eking out of an existence and the earning of a livelihood is far more of a hardship than in many other countries -- and we have some knowledge of this -- and where, in modern conditions, it is inevitable that there is no escape from the fact that

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there must be foreign trade and, therefore, the import of goods into the country, which means paying for them from within or incurring debts, you have a situation that, while the balance of payments, thanks to the assistance that has come from the dollar area and from Italian contributions, is favourable, the balance-of-trade position is far from satisfactory. That is to say, in this small Territory with, we are told, 80 per cent of the population not being able to engage in suitable production, there is always an adverse trade balance, and the last figures we had before us said that it was in the order of about 27 million somalos. For a population of one million, at that standard of life, that is a very considerable adverse balance. The question is whether that adverse balance can be corrected either by aid in goods and services or by the development of greater resources.

There is a somewhat dangerous tendency visible -- I am happy to say that it does not enter into the minds of the administrators -- of hoping that some oil will be found. Of course, if oil is found it brings other things in its train. It may bring money as well. But it has not been found yet, and therefore all calculations -- as the Administrator or, I believe, the special representative said -- must be on the basis that if it comes, well and good, but that otherwise some stability has to be achieved.

This economic aspect of the whole of this Territory, emerging from the facts that have been placed before us, must, in our opinion, be the over-all and overwhelming concern of the Trusteeship Council and the United Nations because here, in our view, we are faced not merely with the future of Somaliland, not merely with the plight of a people which is given independence without the sustenance for it, not merely with the instability that will come to a government that is called upon to impose taxation on cattle and food and everything else, not merely by the conditions of economic bankruptcy that will come about, but with the whole question of the future of trust territories.

It is no secret that around this table there are different views on these questions about the pace of advance, on the capacity of people for self-government and whether it should go by periods of years or by stages, and so on, but if it were to be found in 1960, 1961, 1962 or 1963 that the result of the termination of trusteeship was economic chaos, and that all conditions hinged upon that, then I think that the whole Trusteeship System and the hopes based upon it would receive a setback. Therefore, it is not merely a local question. It is not only a question

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that relates to the Territory under this Agreement. It is a question that has a bearing on the whole of the work we are doing here and on what lies behind the Trusteeship Agreement. Without the enlightenment of humanity which first emerged at the time of the Mandates, and the initiative given by President Wilson in those days of not allowing colonial territories to go back to other colonial masters, the whole of that movement will receive a setback.

Somaliland, therefore, is not merely a matter of concern to the Somali people or the Italian Government, which has vested a sense of prestige and interest in this matter, but a matter of concern to all of us. It is not a matter that should be left until 1960 and, if I may say so with respect, it is not too early even for the next session of the Assembly to take this matter into serious consideration. It is not enough if the resources, the aid and the personnel were to flow into Somaliland. It is also necessary that the aid shall not take away that country's independence. It is a fact that under-developed and formerly subject people have to take care that the independence won by hard endeavour is not lost by the imperative necessity of finding an easier way of life. We are all faced with this problem day after day, and it is only by eternal vigilance in this matter that we safeguard our liberty.

My delegation is happy to note that, unlike the situation in some of the other Territories, the specialized agencies of the United Nations have been at work in this area with some results, and have been at work to an appreciable extent. But, to draw comparisons again, one sees that the results achieved by organizations such as UNICEF and WHO in Somaliland, even in comparison to the size of the population concerned, are much less than a country like India, with its capacity to do things for itself, is able to achieve.

However, the incidence of malaria and tuberculosis and other diseases seems to have diminished, and the Somali Government and the Italian Administration have spent an appreciable part of their slender budget on public health. Large numbers of doctors are being trained to work among the people.

There, again, there is the problem that, in a so-called nomadic population, the purveying of social services is a more difficult and more expensive task. That brings us back to the question of whether so-called nomadism is consistent with modern civilization. After all, it is want that drives people. People do not drive themselves for no reason. It is a great mistake to hold to the old idea that poverty is a blessing because it brings us nearer to God or that God created the poor in order that the rich might be charitable.

It is important to mobilize or enlist larger sections of the population in agriculture or animal husbandry along modern lines. There are other areas in which this situation prevails. Even in the middle of the Gobi Desert, nomadic tribes have today settled down into vast agricultural stations, with a considerable advance in the field of animal husbandry. With the enlightenment and enthusiasm that the new Government of Somaliland and the political organization that lies behind it will bring into the picture, it should be possible to tackle this problem for what are called the economically unproductive sections of the population in a manner that is more consistent with a scientific approach to the whole question.

In saying this, we are not offering advice to the Somali people. We are dealing with this only because at the present moment it is the responsibility of the Members of the United Nations. In 1960, it will not be our business to tell the Somalis how to run their economy. But today it is our business to say that the new Somali Government should not be left in conditions under which they would find it hard to carry on -- and, what is more important, which would make their political independence a very burdensome thing indeed.

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In the field of education, Somaliland presents at the same time both a bright and a dim picture. There are large numbers of children going to school, but they are a very small proportion of the population. Again, the report says that schooling is difficult among nomadic people. But it cannot be beyond the wit of man to meet this problem. After all, in the days of the great migrations of twenty or fifteen or ten centuries ago, great education was accomplished by the wandering tribes: they brought language and civilization into our lands as they wandered along. If it was possible at that time for the wit of human beings to educate people when they were nomadic, we must either try to alter the situation so that communities will become more stable than otherwise, or we must find methods for purveying education. The Somali people should never be faced with the situation that, when they have their independence at the end of the Trusteeship period, there will not be enough people to man the administration. After all, political independence means administrative independence. If the show is being run by somebody else, then any amount of independence written into a Constitution is not real independence.

Therefore, this advance of education, while the figure is creditable as compared to the period before Trusteeship -- some 11,000 children in schools in 1955 -- is still a very weak position.

Of course, when one comes to higher education, one cannot expect in this Territory that the Administering Power would be able at present to provide university education or technical education, and a great many Somalis have gone to Italy or other places to acquire the capacity necessary in these respects.

However, my delegation must draw attention to the fact that the educational picture is not so bright or not one which gives such great confidence when one sets alongside it the responsibilities that will come in 1960.

But there is one other aspect of the question which I take the liberty to draw to the attention of the Council: Unlike the situation in a great many parts of Africa, whether Trust Territories or colonies, Italian schools are open to everybody. There is no segregation in these schools, and the kind of education that is available to the Italian child can also be made available to the Somali. Since the example of one Trust Territory has lessons for others, we should like again to place on record our appreciation of this fact: that these schools,

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whether Italian, Arab, Pakistani or Indian, are open to all people in the Territory. That, I think, is a good send-off for an equalitarian democratic society.

That brings me to the end of what I have to say on the report before us. However, my delegation would like to make a few observations in regard to the future in what we hope is a constructive way.

I have already referred to two problems, the first of which is the economic problem. In regard to the economic problem, I hope it will be possible, when the report of the Trusteeship Council is reviewed by the General Assembly later this year, for the prospects that face an independent Somaliland in the economic sphere to be fully considered, and I hope it will be possible for us to arouse the feelings of the Assembly and its informed mind to a solution of those problems. I have no doubt that the Somali people will invoke the technical organization of the United Nations, but the question is the extent to which, and the speed with which, the response will be forthcoming. Here we have a very special problem and, while any detailed criticism or examination of it would be improper pending the report of the World Bank, we should like that examination to be made.

Secondly, there is the question of technical knowledge derived from Somali sources and also from the experience of other countries -- how to take industry, agriculture and animal husbandry, or any other productive enterprise, to people living in circumstances of this character -- that is to say, whether it is possible, on a planned scale of economic development, to harness human labour remuneratively to the production of those things which Somaliland either uses for itself or exports. Somaliland has its traditional trade and industry in cotton, hides and skins and so on, and it has a vast population which is not work-shy, because its present method of existence is very hard indeed. The question is whether it can be organized by the assistance of the technical organs of the United Nations, which in the last two years have been studying these problems, particularly in our part of the world, and whether the machinery to be set in motion in various parts of Asia, for example, in regard to the development of backward village areas, of tribal territories and of rural industry, cannot be of some use in connexion with this matter.

Thirdly, it will be for the United Nations to discover the capacity, the willingness and the nature of the assistance that the former colonial power and the present Administering Authority would be willing to continue in this Territory, and what its implications would be.

Fourthly, it will be necessary for us in the Trusteeship Council to offer some suggestion of regional economic co-operation in this area. It may not be forgotten that during the last few years certain countries in that part of North Africa have emerged into independence -- Libya and the Sudan -- countries which have racial and other affinities with Somaliland. We should see whether it is not possible on a co-operative basis, as we have done in South East Asia under the Colombo Plan, with the assistance of western countries as well, to develop regional co-operation in which the Administering Authority, which has such intimate knowledge of the Territory and which has a moral, traditional and historic interest in the Territory, would play a great part and would enable the newly-independent Somali people to co-operate with self-respect as partners.

The General Assembly should consider whether the time has not come to invoke its interest in regard to the economic organization in the whole of North Africa itself. I am not here referring to Egypt. This could apply to the regions in which there is no economic commission and where the problems have not been investigated -- where new countries have come into being with considerable responsibilities as regards populations.

My delegation advances these suggestions not in order to obtain a decision of the Trusteeship Council. However, when the report of the Trusteeship Council comes before the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, two of the most important problems contained in it will be the question of Togoland under British administration, on which the United Kingdom Government reported to us for the first time that the purpose of trusteeship has been achieved, and the question of Somaliland under Italian administration, on which the Italian Government has anticipated the independent State by installing machinery containing all the aspects of full self-government even before the set date.

In connexion with political matters, I should like to inquire whether it would not be possible even now, in order that by 1960 a full cabinet and a responsible Government will become an achieved fact, without any violence to the constitutional procedure, for the cabinet ministers to meet separately from the councillors so that gradually the separation between the administrative personnel and the ministerial personnel would become accomplished? Under the present arrangements, a cabinet meeting means a meeting of the cabinet members plus the councillors who advise them. I mean no disrespect to the councillors nor to their interest in the affairs or to their ability, but the time must come when they will be out of the picture and the separation will have to take place.

It is possible that this already takes place. I have looked through the records in order to find out whether this is so. It may be that the Administering Authority has objections to this suggestion. In any event, we submit the suggestion for what it is worth so that in 1960 it will not be necessary to bridge any gap, so that in 1960 there will simply be a formal termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

We should also like to inquire whether in that period, among the reserved subjects -- which we are happy to learn from the report before us are not totally reserved in the sense that in practice there is the influence and the competence of the elected Government in all these departments -- the internal security of the country could not come under parliamentary control? No country can expect to be independent in its internal autonomy unless it has the police under its control. If constitutional independence is established and still the police forces have not had the habit, discipline and experience of working under popular governments, then there might be the situation in which the internal security could threaten the accomplishment of self-government.

We make all these statements because 1960 has been put down as the date for independence, and it cannot be changed without the consent of the General Assembly. By 1960 we must see a situation in which the decisions of the General Assembly can be implemented.

In connexion with the border areas, I have already stated that we hope that the wisdom of the Italian Government and of the Ethiopian Government, which we are happy to say have been conducting these negotiations in a spirit of mutual confidence, will hand over to the Somali Government a situation in which this problem will be resolved.

I have no doubt that with the emergence of the new peoples in northern Africa, there will be no desire on the part of the various communities to have their differences limit in any way the liberties that have been newly found. It is the experience of all of us who belonged to dependent areas that in reality few of us have been conquered by foreign forces. We have always given in to foreign power on account of our weaknesses. That is the experience of our country, that is also the experience of my friend sitting opposite, and that is the experience of many others.

Therefore, while we have no authority to interest anyone but members of the Trusteeship Council -- though we have an audience much wider than this -- we hope that it will not be the experience that owing to differences between neighbours and owing to unresolved problems of people of the same stock and from the same soil, recently established liberties will become endangered with the opportunity for other intervention to arise.

As I have just said, none of us has been conquered by force of arms from abroad. We have fallen largely on account of our disunity and our incapacity to make common cause in times of crises. While the problem of the border areas does cause concern, one must hope that it will not lead to any friction or to the nursing of any animosities between the various parties concerned.

I have completed my statement as far as the report is concerned. I should like to conclude my observations by saying that the fact that we have put a time-limit on the Trusteeship Agreement in regard to Somaliland, and, what is more, the welcome fact that the Administrator, on behalf of the Italian Government, has been able to come and tell us that it will be possible to accomplish the goal, should be a reminder for us of what can take place with regard to other countries. Equally, we should not fail to remember at this time that when the question of Libya was discussed by the General Assembly, we were told that Libya was not

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fit for independence. A short time later, the United Nations enabled Libya to become independent. We are often told that one country or another cannot attain independence within a certain period. In the case of Somaliland, however, a time-limit was fixed and the Administering Authority not only accepted it but worked towards it in the spirit of the Agreement. Today, we have a situation in which, as far as the political aspects are concerned, the intention of the Trusteeship Agreement will be carried out. It is the responsibility of all -- of the United Nations as a whole -- to see that the other aspects, particularly the economic aspects, will enable the Somaliland of the future, in the short time we have before us, to step into this era of independence without any burdens that might crush that independence.

The PRESIDENT: Before adjourning, I should like to inform the Council that we shall meet on Monday to hear the nine statements from the members who have indicated that they would like to take part in the general debate.

The Council will meet again at 2 p.m. on Monday.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.