

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



PROVISIONAL  
T/PV.931  
25 July 1958  
ENGLISH

Twenty-second Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 25 July 1958, at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. CLAEYS EOUAERT (Vice-President) (Belgium)

1. Report of the Secretary-General on credentials [2]
2. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration [3e, 4, 5, 15 and 17] (continued)
3. Report on Somaliland under Italian administration of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1957: draft resolution submitted by the United States [5]
4. Report of the Committee on Rural Economic Development of the Trust Territories [9]

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.931 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

## AGENDA ITEM 2

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS (T/1390, 1390/Corr.1 English only, 1390/Add.1)

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The only legitimate representatives of China in the organs of the United Nations, including the Trusteeship Council, are the representatives of the Chinese People's Republic. In this connexion, the Soviet delegation moves that the credentials of this individual who illegally holds the place of China on the Council be rejected. Therefore, we would like to have these credentials voted on separately.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Before recognizing the representative of China, I should like to point out that only Governments are represented on this Council. I would therefore invite members of the Council, when they discuss the report, to observe this courtesy.

Mr. KIANG (China): I am here in this Council representing the only Chinese Government which issued from free elections and which is, therefore, the only Government which can rightly speak for the Chinese people in the United Nations.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): For the reasons explained so often by my delegation, we recognize only the right of the representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China to be seated in this Council.

Mr. OSMAN (United Arab Republic) (interpretation from French): The delegation of the United Arab Republic recognizes that the People's Republic of China is alone empowered to represent China on this Council.

U THANT (Burma): As repeatedly expressed in the United Nations and other places, the Government of the Republic of Burma recognizes only the People's Republic of China as the lawful and effective Government of the whole of China. Therefore, we are not in a position to agree to the seating of any other representative who is supposed to represent the mainland of China.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I will therefore put to the vote the report of the Secretary-General.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Mr. President, if you heard and understood what I said, you should put to a separate vote the credentials of persons who illegally hold the seat of the Chinese People's Republic on this Council. I am asking for a separate vote.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I do not know whether the interpretation was wrong, but I merely heard the representatives commenting on this situation about the report. The interpretation which I heard was not a request for a separate vote.

Mr. KIANG (China): I want to protest very strongly against the language that has been used by the previous speaker. I think it is almost intolerable to hear announcements from a man representing a Government which has been condemned by the General Assembly three times in the last two years for its aggression against Hungary.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I hope that this exchange, which certainly is not in accordance with the spirit of courtesy that should prevail in this Council, will not continue.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): In the report of the Secretary-General the credentials of all the representatives in the Trusteeship Council were found to be in order. Therefore, this Council should logically vote on the report as a whole.

In the view of the United States, it is unnecessary and inappropriate to vote separately on parts of the credentials report. Accordingly, I request that the proposal of the representative of the Soviet Union be put to a vote in accordance with the provisions of rule 60. My delegation will, therefore, vote against the proposal for a separate vote on the credentials of each member.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have nothing to add to what I have already said twice, namely, that I propose that these credentials which are referred to be voted on separately.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The representative of the Soviet Union has asked for a separate vote. The representative of the United States has requested that under rule 60 of the rules of procedure the suggestion of the Soviet Union be put to a vote.



(The President)

Rule 60 says: "Parts of a report, draft resolution, other motion or amendment may be voted on separately at the request of a representative and subject to the will of the Trusteeship Council".

I will, therefore, ask the Council to decide by a vote whether it agrees to follow the suggestion of the Soviet Union.

The proposal of the representative of the Soviet Union for a separate vote on the credentials of the representative of China was rejected by 10 votes to 4.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): The United States especially regrets that the representative of the Soviet Union sees fit to interrupt the work of this body for propaganda purposes on political matters. The positions of our Governments on this question have been enunciated quite clearly in the political organs of the United Nations, particularly the General Assembly and the Security Council. The repetition of these positions here serves no purpose other than to interrupt our labours.

However, as the Soviet delegation has raised the issue, my Government wishes to emphasize that the Government of the Republic of China, and only the Government of the Republic of China, is entitled to representation in this and other United Nations bodies.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I would like to answer very briefly the representative of the United States that the proposal of the Soviet Union is not a propaganda move. It is a defence of the legitimate rights of the great Chinese people headed by the People's Government of China, and we will never cease to press for the respect and recognition of these rights in all organs of the United Nations. Until China is represented here by a representative of the Chinese People's Republic, we will persistently maintain that a group of countries are allowing a flagrant violation of legitimate rights.

The report was adopted by a vote of 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I have asked for permission to speak in order to explain my vote. In the opinion of my delegation it is in the nature of credentials that they should be voted on separately and not collectively. We abstained from the vote on the report for this reason, and also because we were prevented from giving separate expression to our views on an important matter which we regard as requiring a separate vote.

Mr. LOVANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The delegation of the USSR abstained when the Secretary-General's report was voted upon because that report indicates that the place of China is occupied by someone who represents no one but himself. As we have already stated many times, the legitimate representatives of China in all organs of the United Nations can be only representatives appointed by the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Before calling upon the representative of China, I should like to repeat my earlier statement that only Governments are represented here in the Trusteeship Council and in other organs of the United Nations.

Mr. KIANG (China): In view of the observation the President has just made, I do not think that I need intervene at this point.

Mr. OSMAN (United Arab Republic) (interpretation from French): Having formal reservations about the credentials of one of the representatives in this Council, my delegation was obliged to abstain from the vote on the report as a whole.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I need only say that the vote of the Australian delegation is to be understood as having been recorded in the light of the observations made by the Australian representative at the twenty-first session of the Council when the Secretary-General's report on credentials for that session was under consideration.

## AGENDA ITEMS 3e, 4, 5, 15 AND 17

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION (continued):

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 1957 (T/1388, 1397, 1398; T/L.858)
- (b) PETITIONS RAISING GENERAL QUESTIONS (T/PET.GEN/L.2; T/PET.11/L.26 and 27; T/COM.11/L.298 to 303)
- (c) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO TRUST TERRITORIES IN EAST AFRICA, 1957 (T/1344; 1396)
- (d) ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION [GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1206 (XII)]
- (e) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION (T/1372)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Gasbarri, special representative of the Administering Authority for Somaliland under Italian administration, Mr. de Holte Castello (Colombia) and Mr. Baradi (Philippines), members of the Advisory Council for Somaliland under Italian administration, took places at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Council will now hear the final statement of the representative of the Administering Authority.

Mr. PLAJA (Italy): May I say how much impressed my delegation was by the deep interest with which the delegations represented in this Council participated in the examination and discussions of conditions in the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration.

May I also add that my delegation, throughout the questioning period and particularly in the general debate, listened with the utmost attention to the different viewpoints expressed by the various delegations on the main problems which Somalia has to face in view of the approaching date of its independence. The Administering Authority, and the Somali Government, I am sure, will give the most careful consideration to the records of this session.

(Mr. Plaja, Italy)

I wish therefore to thank, on behalf of my delegation, all the members of the Council. Of course I want to thank in particular those delegations which have kindly expressed their general appreciation for the progress of the Territory during the period under review. My delegation has been gratified to note that this acknowledgement has come from all delegations but one. Of course we fully realize that our work and its results are not faultless: this is a feature common to all human activities. And how could it be otherwise when we think of the strenuous conditions, physical and otherwise, and including the limited period of time, under which the Italian Administration has been operating? We are therefore glad to accept -- as we have always accepted in the past -- all observations and suggestions originating from the members of this Council and made in a constructive and co-operative spirit in the interest of the Somali people. Unfortunately this cannot be said in regard to the observations of that single dissenting delegation to which I have already referred and whose attitude seems rather to stem from a preconceived position. I will in any case have occasion to refer individually to many observations of the delegations dealing with specific points and questions.

I think I am right in saying that three main points have retained the attention of the Council in particular this year. The first is the question of the frontier; the second is the question of political elections; and the third is the economic development of the Territory and the problem of external aid to the future Somali State after 1960.

Let us start with the first of these, the frontier question. The great concern about the lack of progress towards a solution of the question of the frontier between Somalia and Ethiopia expressed by the representative of the United States in his substantial and most welcome statement, as well as by many other members of the Council, is shared not only by all the members of this Council but also by the Administering Authority and the Somali people. There is sufficient evidence in the records of the United Nations to prove the paramount importance that the Government of Italy has always attached to an early and equitable solution of this problem; this makes it unnecessary for me to state again the position of my delegation. The question of the frontier is and will be one of those problems on whose solution will largely depend the

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future of the new State. We are confident that the statements made in this Council by all delegations and by the members of the Advisory Council will contribute to an early and prompt implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly. As far as the Italian delegation is concerned, we very strongly hope that it will be possible for the next session of the General Assembly to take stock of some substantial results on this question.

Speaking of the frontier question, I have to correct the last part of my statement as contained in document T/PV.921, pages 58-60. In reply to a question which was put to me by the representative of India, I stated there that the occurrences in the Dolo area to which Mr. Jaipal had referred in his question had had no sequel. I have received now later information on certain recent developments. In this connexion I will read the text of a communication received from Mogadiscio which reproduces verbatim a statement made by the Prime Minister to the Legislative Assembly:



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"During the last weeks an increasing activity of Ethiopian military patrols which have passed the provisional boundary line in many points, in the area of Dolo, Fer Fer and Galkayu, have caused certain worries amongst the population which live in the vicinity of this line. I wish to inform you that on instruction of the Government, the High Juba Prefect, Mr. Ali Scido, has met in the locality of Yet, on the 14th of July, the Ethiopian Governor of the Bale Region, Grasmac Mamó Sejum. During this meeting, which was conducted in a spirit of mutual understanding, the High Juba Prefect has clearly stated our positions. It is outside of the competence of local authorities to try to solve case by case any controversy on the question of the frontier, even though they may refer only to the provisional administrative line. Since this line is clearly indicated in document T/484 of 7 March 1950 of the Trusteeship Council, it would be considered as appropriate that a joint Commission, composed of Ethiopian and Somali representatives, with the assistance of a representative of the United Nations Advisory Council, be called to settle the question of controversial points and locality of the border line. We therefore hope that such a proposal to set up this joint Commission, forwarded by the Italian Government to the Ethiopian Government, will be carried out. We trust that His Imperial Majesty's Government, in the spirit of understanding shown on the occasion of our recent visit to Addis Abeba, will agree with this proposal in the common interest to put an end to the uneasy situation in which the population situated across the border line finds itself, with a view of ensuring the necessary conditions of order and peace which appear essential for the orderly work of the Arbitration Tribunal, called to delimit the frontier between the Ethiopian Empire and Somaliland."

This is the end of the quotation taken from the statement of the Prime Minister to the Legislative Assembly.

As the Council may note, we are in the presence of events which are certainly not serious per se, but which give an indication of the problems that Somalia will most likely have to face after 1960 if the frontier question will not have been solved.



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I come now to the question of the constitutional development of the Territory. The temporary delay in the process of constitutional development of the Territory, as a consequence of the decision of the Legislative Assembly, of which I informed this Council in my opening statement, has been considered by the Council with the greatest attention. The Administering Authority cannot but feel gratified to note that the Council is fully appreciative of our present difficulties. The prevailing sentiment of all delegations appear to me that it could be not advisable to make the next political election contingent upon the taking of a census. The Administering Authority is in full agreement with this opinion. As regards the subject of the census, I have already dealt with it at length in my opening statement and I will not repeat myself. In this connexion the representative of the Soviet Union has maintained that the Italian administration has failed to foresee the difficulties and to face them accordingly. But we had foreseen them, and it would not be difficult to find this confirmed also in the records of the past sessions of this Council. May I repeat that we even foresee difficulties for a new census, should it be decided that it must be taken. But in spite of that, we have proceeded to this experiment because we wanted to meet the recommendations of this Council on the subject. Now we have seen confirmed by the facts that the difficulties we anticipated were substantial and the census has not succeeded. This is not due, as everybody can easily see, to lack or fault in planning on our part. I would not in any case draw from this fact the drastic conclusion which the representative of the Soviet Union has drawn. In conclusion, I have to emphasize once again that the draft electoral law, with its inevitable shortcomings, was, and we consider still is, the best solution under the circumstances. Substantially the operations provided for in this law would have resulted in a volunteer registration of voters, on the line of the suggestion of the representative of the United States of America.

In conclusion, the situation as it appears to my delegation is as follows. It is the firm intention of the Administration to do its best in order that the Assembly be not prolonged beyond the time strictly necessary to allow new political elections to be held in the spring of 1959. We are glad to note that

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we are supported in this stand by the Advisory Council, whose opinion on this subject was so clearly expressed here by all its members, and by the members of the Council. We are sure that this Council, in adopting its recommendations on the subject, will be fully aware of the importance that they will have on the final decisions.

I will now refer briefly to a few other points in the political field. With reference to the provisions of the draft electoral law, I have given careful consideration to the observations made, with its usual competence, by the representative of Haiti. If I understood him correctly, he has some reservations on the adoption of the system of a single national constituency. This point has been carefully considered by the Somali Government, which felt that this system is preferable to the system of district constituencies because it affords better opportunities to smaller parties, which can sum up their votes on a national basis to attain a minimum quota which they would otherwise hardly attain on a district basis. In any event, I am sure that the Somali Government will not fail to give its most careful consideration to the suggestions made on the draft electoral law by the representative of Haiti, Mr. Dorsinville, whose profound knowledge and experience of these questions is well known to all of us.

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Some members of the Council have made reference in their statements to the development of local organs of self-government. I think that on this point I am in no position to give a better reply than quoting from the representative of India, Mr. Jaipal. With his usual clarity of language, I think he has admirably described the situation, and therefore it is an easy task for me to quote his words:

"In regard to setting up regional organs, the Government has shown commendable caution. This is understandable in a Territory where tribal loyalties are still a factor to be reckoned with. In our opinion, the political stability and the delicate balance so carefully maintained by the Italian administration and now by the Somali Government should not be upset by any premature decentralization of authority".

As I said before, I have very little to add to this statement. I just want to say, however, and this in reply to the representative of India himself, that it is a part of the programme of the Somali Government to strengthen and encourage the development of the local Government organs now in existence, and to enlarge whenever appropriate their powers and functions.

Coming to the question of Somalization, I must confess, if this can be of some consolation to the representative of the United Kingdom, that the sound of this word does not appeal to me even in Italian. I also agree with him that this word will gradually lose its meaning. I only wish to place on record in this connexion the appreciation of my Government for the acknowledgement of many members of this Council for the progress in this field. This process is now practically confined to the technical fields and the Council well knows how difficult is the preparation and the training of experts.

The representative of the USSR has made some observations on this point about the participation of the Somali Government in international affairs. I wish only to point out, in addition to what has already been said on this point in the report of the Administering Authority, that other meetings Minister Haji Farah Ali Omar have been held and will be held in the future. They will be held with the authorities of the European Common Market and with the authorities in Bonn and Karachi, on commercial affairs. At any rate, I would

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like to emphasize that all exterior trade has completely been in Somali hands since January 1958.

Before concluding my remarks in the political field, I have to make reference to one point of the statement of the representative of Egypt who has had the opportunity to sit as a representative of his country in this Council besides being a member of the Advisory Council, and to give us the benefit of his aid and advice in this dual capacity.

Minister El-Zayak has referred to the fact that the delay in the process of the constitutional development has made difficult if not impossible the possibility of terminating the Trusteeship agreement before 1960. In commenting on the eventuality of further stay in office of the Assembly he has said, and I quote: "This prolongation may also be interpreted by the people of Somaliland as an effort on the part of the deputies to stay in office beyond their given mandate".

I regret not being able to share on these two points the views expressed by the representative of the UAR, while I quite appreciate that his observations are motivated by his continuous interest in the progress of Somaliland.

I come now to the question of economic advancement. This question has quite rightly played an important part in our debates. Many delegations have offered their suggestions. We are very grateful to them all for their interest in this question. But with all due respect, I must admit quite frankly, that I do not see how many of these suggestions could be considered acceptable from a practical point of view. It appears to us that the present issue has been turned into a rather theoretical one. It is not a question of method, but rather a practical one, to see who is going to provide the independent Somaliland with the necessary financial aid. The requirements may in the long run change, but we have already sufficient evidence to state what these needs will be.

Another point, which in the opinion of my delegation should constantly be borne in mind is the obvious fact that the Somali, and the Somali only, can take the necessary decisions. Why not let the Somali say what they want to do, instead of trying to make decisions for them? As the Council knows,

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the problem is now rapidly progressing towards its solution. We have heard the most heartening statement of the representative of the United States of America. This should lead the Council to think that the consultations between the Italian and Somali Governments are bearing their fruits.

I must say very clearly that we are in full agreement with those delegations who do not consider convenient the establishment of the new Committee or of a special Fund. It seems to me that the situation as it stands now indicates that we are now approaching a solution of this problem. No session of this Council has been able to record such favourable developments as the present one, such as the offer of technical assistance made last year by the Administering Authority. We have added this year the offer of assistance made by the United States of America and other countries. I am certain that it is not the intention of the Council to discourage such an approach or even give the impression of disapproving it. All these questions, I repeat, seem to me questions which are entirely up to the Somali authorities.

On the other hand, the Council may rest assured that the Administering Authority and the Somali Government will keep it informed of any further development on these questions.

Furthermore, it is our understanding of Resolution 1206 (XII) of the General Assembly that the Council should make its recommendations on the basis of what the Administering Authority and the Somali Government will have to say about this question.

In conclusion, Mr. President, my delegation, in agreement with the suggestion put forward by many delegations in line with Resolution 1206 (XII), of the General Assembly, thinks that time must be given to the Somali to consider the question and to reach the necessary conclusions.



Turning now in particular to more specific problems relating to the economic development of the Territory, I will first refer to the views expressed in the statement by the representative of Australia about the present system of taxation. It is part of the programme of the Somali Government to enlarge the basis of taxation so as to include possibly all those who like the nomads are benefiting from facilities created through public funds. The representative of Australia will certainly agree with me that this is not merely a question of passing new legislation. No attempt in that direction is likely to succeed unless sufficient and widespread preparation work is carried out for the purpose of convincing the people that they have to contribute their share to the revenue of the Territory.

I have to observe further that all the possible sources of receipts except the cattle tax have been taken into account and reckoned with in the report. No considerable change in the social structure of the nomad population is to be expected in 1961 and 1962. Therefore we cannot look forward to a large increase in direct taxation.

As regards to the figure of 11,000 persons which, according to the representative of Australia, represents the total number of taxpayers, paying direct taxes, I have to point out that such a figure refers only to the income tax and not to the two other direct taxes "Shamba and huts", which include not less than 100,000 additional taxpayers for the direct taxes which will rise, from 1957 to 1961 -- according to the forecast under consideration -- from So. 6.2 million to So. 9 million with a percentage increase rising from 12 per cent to 15 per cent.

I wish also to refer briefly to another point strictly related to the budget of the Territory. Some delegations have suggested, in line with previous recommendations, that some reduction of expenses be considered. This is by all means a very sound suggestion which I am sure is constantly borne in mind by the Somali Government which, like all good administrations, makes of austerity the basis of its financial policy. But I have to point out that in general terms the over-all figure for the expenses of the budget of Somalia has very little chance of decreasing after 1960. After that date the Somali Government, as shown by our report on the "requirements" for 1961 and 1962, will have to take over expenses relating to foreign relations, air communications etc. which are now met by the Administering Authority.



In the field of production much has been said by the various members which makes it unnecessary for me to comment further on these points. I will therefore confine myself to a very few questions. The representative of the Soviet Union, with reference to the association of Somalia to the European Common Market, has expressed the view that this association was made not in the interest of the Territory but for different reasons. This Treaty, according to him, has the objective of satisfying interests which are completely contrary to those of the Trust Territory. I do not wish to comment on this statement. I should only like to invite the representative of the USSR to read what the Somali Government had to say on the subject, which is reproduced on page 2 of document T/1397 containing our supplementary information.

In the field of agriculture, the diversification of production still remains the firm policy of the Somali Government. As many delegations have noted, new emphasis is being given to the production of cotton, oil seeds and any other crop which together with bananas represent the main cash crops of the Territory. It is true that the banana still yields the greatest part of the money earnings but, as indicated by the special representative, the other crops have shown good possibilities of development.

The development of trade with traditional areas has been suggested by some delegations. The consistent even if slow improvement in this particular field indicates clearly that this policy is vigorously pursued by the Somali Government. While it is desirable that it be continued in the future, certain limitations dictated by the availability of foreign funds in the balance of payments shall not, however, be overlooked.

Before concluding with economic development, I wish to refer to the suggestion made by the representative of China in his most welcome statement with regard to the setting up of a Somali agency for economic development to administer outside financial aid. This is a very wise measure which should be recommended to the Somali Government, as has already been done by the International Bank.

I come now to social development. Many delegations have devoted particular care to the examination of social development in Somalia.

In tackling the problem of the present conditions in regard to medical and educational facilities, we are fully aware that something remains to be done. This should not, however, surprise anybody, as progress in this field is far from being a question of funds and funds alone. We have always considered that the optimum for Somalia was to create those basic institutions which an independent Somalia could afford to maintain and the Somali people could fully utilize. In the field of public health, some delegations have considered with alarm the decrease of medical personnel. I wish to reassure the representative of Haiti that this deficiency, as explained by the special representative, is of a temporary nature, and that steps have already been taken to overcome it. Eleven doctors are being recruited in Italy and will proceed to Somalia as soon as possible.

Some misgivings have also been expressed by the representatives of France and Guatemala whose intervention in the debate have been extremely useful, as to the slow progress in education. I can tell them that the problem is kept under continuous consideration by the Authority concerned.

I can however add that the present scholastic facilities in the Territory are already capable of receiving a greater number of pupils. The question is mainly of inducing more pupils to register in the schools and attend them. They will agree with me, I am sure, that these difficulties cannot be dealt with overnight. It will be necessary to enlist the co-operation of all the authorities and the population concerned, and the Somali Government is already at work in this direction.

A comparison has been made between the number of inscriptions in the schools and the number of children of scholastic age. May I say that this confrontation can be made more practically between the total number of inscriptions and the number of children of scholastic age which can really be obtained now and which is practically only 60,000. If we consider those figures, then the percentage of inscriptions rises to 22 per cent. We must also consider that since 1953 there has been a continuous increase in enrolment. The increase in the period under consideration has been more than 2,000 units.

As far as the education of nomads is concerned, the discouraging results obtained by the experiment conducted in co-operation with an expert provided by UNESCO will certainly give the Somali Government an indication as to in what direction it will be necessary to move in this field.

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I cannot conclude my statement without expressing the appreciation of my delegation to the representatives of the Advisory Council for their valuable contribution to our work. I wish also to thank the representatives of WHO, FAO, ILO and other specialized agencies for the part taken in our debate. I thank finally all the delegations which took part in our debate, and also the Under-Secretary Mr. Protitch, the Secretary of the Council, Mr. Wieschhoff, and the Secretariat staff which, under strenuous circumstances, made it possible for us to conclude satisfactorily our work.

Before we close our debate on Somalia, I would request that you give the floor to His Excellency Hagi Farah Ali Omar, who wishes to address the Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I will recognize now His Excellency Hagi Farah Ali Omar, Minister for Economic Affairs of Somalia.

HAGI FARAH ALI OMAR (Spoken in Italian)\*: Permit me to thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Government and of the people whom I represent and allowing me to set forth and illustrate the major problems of my country before the United Nations.

I would like to express, first of all, the gratitude of my country for the deep interest and the careful consideration which the representatives of the delegations in this Council have devoted to the examination of the problems concerning the political, constitutional, economic, social, and educational progress of Somaliland. This confirms once more the noble function which the Trusteeship Council is exercising in view of the progress, welfare, and freedom of non-autonomous Territories, and I assure you that my country will never forget the generous and effective contribution of the Council to the civil and political evolution of Somaliland. Thanks to this evolution, the sons of the new Somaliland are today looking on trustfully to the future of their country and feel ready and worthy for their imminent admission to the community of fully independent nations.

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\* Unofficial translation supplied by the Italian delegation.

(Hagi Farah Ali Omar)

I come now to the question of political development. The most important and urgent issue is undoubtedly that of the extension in the duration of the powers of the present Legislative Assembly and that of the terms within which it will be possible to hold the new popular elections.

On this point the representatives of all the delegations have expressed the hope that an appropriate solution will be found, so that the constitutional and political development of my country may not be delayed longer than is strictly necessary for studying and objectively solving the problems with which we are faced.

I can assure you that we will live up to such expectations as my Government attaches the highest importance to this issue and is firmly determined to arrange the new elections as soon as possible, provided it be with means and systems which will guarantee that they are really democratic and fully in accordance with the will of the people. In this respect, I must add that the extension of the term of the present Assembly to 31 December 1958 -- announced by the representative of Italy -- has been preceded by a report stating, amongst other things, that any further decision on another extension of the term of the Assembly is dependent also upon the opinion and views of the Administering Authority and of the Trusteeship Council in respect of the political elections to be held with or without the previous experience of a new census.

There is no doubt, therefore, that the prevailing opinion of the Trusteeship Council -- such as has been manifested in the course of the general debate and in conformity with the text of the expected final recommendations -- will be held in the utmost consideration and maximum of respect by the responsible authorities of the Government and the Legislative Assembly of Somalia.

As far as the development of powers and activities of District Councils and the creation of Regional Councils are concerned, I must confirm what was already mentioned during the questioning by the special representative. These problems are being examined by my Government, which thinks it its duty to proceed with care and caution, as already communicated by the Prime Minister to the eminent members of the Visiting Mission in the course of the talks with them on this matter and as set forth at page 57 of the report.



(Hagi Farah Ali Omar)

Regarding the borderline, I thank heartily all the delegations for the recommendations they made on this issue concerning the absolute need that the arbitral tribunal, set up by resolution 1213, should be speedily completed by the appointment of the third arbiter and should accomplish its work in due time in order that decisions in this respect may be made by the next General Assembly.

Somalia would be in an extremely serious situation if a fair and honourable solution should not have been arrived at by 1960.

The development of my country in the civil and political fields, as well as in the social and educational one, would be jeopardized and irretrievably damaged.

Insofar as the economic problem is concerned, I thank you for the general and favourable acknowledgement you have shown for the economic and financial developments that have occurred in Somalia. In this connexion, my Government wishes to confirm its thankfulness to the Administering Authority and to the Government of the United States for the financial and technical aid that they provided for the improvement of the Somali economy.

I wish to thank also the Consultative Council and the representatives of India and Guatemala for their recommendations aimed at setting up a Special Fund of the United Nations to face the financial requirements of Somalia after 1960, which are expected to amount to \$5 million. I also address my special thanks in this respect to the representative of the United Arab Republic who has already declared that his Government is prepared to participate in the creation of this Fund.

As to the timely offer of the Government of the United States, which is being added to the one already made by Italy concerning technicians and experts, I wish to express to the representative of the United States of America the deepest gratitude, both personal and on behalf of my country. It is in this respect that I wish to read now for the information of the Trusteeship Council the text of the reply addressed by the Prime Minister of my Government to the Consul General of the United States in Mogadiscio. Naturally, we intend to keep this Council informed also of further developments of the consultations now afoot on the problem of aid after 1960 between my Government and the Italian Government in accordance with resolution 1206.

(Hagi Farah Ali Omar, Italy)

"Dear Consul General,

"Referring to the communication you made to me yesterday (July 11th, 1958) upon instructions of your Government, I wish to express to you, on behalf of the Somali people and of the Government over which I have the honour to preside, the deepest appreciation of the generous offer of economic and financial aid, aimed at supporting Somaliland in view of the problems it will have to face when attaining full independence.

"This offer of aid meets appropriately the appeals which, on various occasions, the representatives of Somaliland have addressed to the Government of the United States as well as to other Member States of the United Nations that Somalia may be adequately assisted when, after the attainment of independence, such problems will arise.

"The understanding of the Government of the United States cannot but arouse the most heart-felt gratitude of the Somali people and I beg you, in this connexion, to interpret these feelings to your Government.

"Further, I wish to thank you for the assurances you have given me concerning the continuation and development of the programme which, in the period preceding independence, is being carried out by the United States jointly with the Administering Authority.

"To the gratitude of the people and Government of Somalia I add my personal thanks and beg you, Dear Consul General, to accept the assurances of my highest considerations".

As far as the first part of resolution 1206 is concerned, my Government believes it has complied with it, in consultation with the Administering Authority, by submitting the pertinent report on the economic requirements of Somaliland at the end of the Trusteeship Administration, a report which has met with a heartening and large approval by the delegations in this Council.

Naturally the needs of financial assistance to Somalia after 1960, at present expected to amount to 5 million dollars, will be revised periodically in consultation with the Administering Authority and with the help of the required experts. No possibility of effectively reducing expenditure and increasing receipts will be neglected, in order to bring to a strict minimum



(Hagi Farah Ali Omar, Italy)

the need for outside aid. We are, needless to say, earnestly desirous and deeply proud to welcome independence at the end of 1960 in an economic and financial situation requiring as little outside support as possible.

I should not like to close my remarks on this point without recalling the considerations of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development concerning aid to independent Somaliland. The opinion of the Bank, shared by all economic operators and investors, is that Somaliland not only needs such aid but needs already (in 1956, the date when the Report to the Trusteeship Council was drawn up by the Bank) a concrete assurance that such aid is forthcoming in order to overcome the serious crisis of uncertainty which is discouraging present as well as potential investors due to a sense of uncertainty in respect of monetary stability and continuity of the economic development. Further delay in attaining such a security would result in an increase of financial requirements due to lack of new investments in relation to the effective possibilities of exploiting existing resources, and might result in disinvestments of the business concerns at present operating in Somalia; a trend to which the Bank already pointed in 1956, noting the influence of uncertainty brought about by the lack of security in the field of monetary stability of future independent Somalia. In this connexion the statements of the United States Government and of the Italian Government regarding technical assistance have taken place just in time to restore confidence and to stimulate the present and future investments destined to continue and complete the economic and financial development of the country.

Social development - My Government appreciates highly the suggestions put forward by various representatives concerning the impulse to be given to primary, secondary and higher education. It assures that such suggestions will be taken into due account when the new plans are drawn up; the same will be done for education of nomads and development of health and social services. However, my Government intends developing such plans within the framework of the financial availabilities which it will endeavour to increase steadily through an adequate fiscal policy, a careful administration and wise allotments to the items of the budget.

(Hagi Farah Ali Omar, Italy)

Also on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the International Bank, my Government believes that a wise financial policy should be the foundation of all effective and lasting forms of social development.

As to the particular case of prisoners in the district jails, I would like to assure the representative of Guatemala that in reality this problem does not exist, since it concerns only a few cases of prisoners who, being employed to take care of public buildings, are given the possibility of beneficial physical and spiritual diversions.

While I renew my deepest thanks to the Trusteeship Council and to the noble Organization of the United Nations which has prepared my people for the great day of full independence, allow me, Mr. President, to mention the name of a great friend of the Somali people and loyal executor of the Trusteeship Administration and of the principles of the United Nations, Ambassador Enrico Anzilotti, who has now left his task of Administrator of Somaliland for reasons of health. To him my country is very much indebted, for the faith and trust he placed from the very beginning in the possibilities of development of the Somali people and for the consequent legislative and executive autonomy which he has granted, much in advance, to the democratic institutions of Somalia.

Mr. de HOLTE CASTELLO (Colombia) (Chairman, Advisory Council for Somaliland) (interpretation from Spanish): I do not wish to make a long statement at this stage in the debate, but I should like to reserve my right to speak when the Council has finished dealing with the report. I wish to do so because of the concern of my delegation -- and I am speaking now on behalf of my delegation, not on behalf of the members of the Advisory Council -- which, after having heard several of the statements which have been made, wonders whether it is, perhaps, superfluous to include this item of Somaliland in the Trusteeship Council agenda. I should like to be able to discuss this with the representatives of the Philippines and the United Arab Republic so that we could make a unanimous presentation of view to the Trusteeship Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The representative of Colombia has indicated that he will make a statement later on. We will therefore leave this point open.

Appointment of Drafting Committee on Somaliland

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We now have to appoint a drafting committee. I would suggest that this committee be made up of the following members: Australia, India, the United Arab Republic and the United States of America. If the suggestion of the President regarding the drafting committee is agreeable to the members of the Council, this composition will be accepted.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 5

REPORT ON SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
VISITING MISSION TO TRUST TERRITORIES IN EAST AFRICA, 1957: DRAFT RESOLUTION  
SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES (T/L.869)

Mr. FELD (United States of America): My delegation has the honour to introduce a draft resolution (T/L.869) entitled "Reports of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1957". This draft resolution deals with certain concluding aspects of the reports of the Visiting Missions to Trust Territories in East Africa in that year. It follows the usual form and is self-explanatory. My delegation hopes that it will immediately receive the complete support of the members of the Council.

The PRESIDENT: (interpretation from French): As there are no other comments with regard to item 3 on our agenda, the Council will now vote on the United States draft resolution (T/L.869).

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): As regards the previous item, my delegation was not clear as to the point that the Chairman of the Advisory Council was trying to make. I was not clear exactly on what item he said that he might wish to make some further statements. I am merely asking for a clarification.

Mr. de HOLTE-CASTELLO (Colombia) (Chairman of the Advisory Council for Somaliland) (interpretation from Spanish): Naturally, I was talking of the item concerning Somaliland.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I was under the impression that we had finished the debate on Somaliland and had covered all of the matters related to it in accordance with our agenda. I was merely seeking clarification.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): At the request of the representative of Colombia, I reserve his right to make a further statement later. I imagine it will be in connexion with the last statements of the Administering Authority. The usual course after the debate is to appoint a drafting committee. I think that the members of the Council might benefit, after the recess, from listening to what the Chairman of the Advisory Council has to say.

Mr. PLAJA (Italy) (interpretation from French): Is not the debate closed? Is the general debate open or closed? I do not quite understand the situation.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The debate is not quite closed. We have not completed the consideration of the item since we have to resume the consideration of conditions in Somaliland when the drafting committee's report will be submitted.

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 9

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRUST TERRITORIES  
(T/1399; T/L.870)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): There are a number of amendments by the representative of the United Kingdom to this report (T/1399). As he is also the Chairman of the Committee, he can submit his amendments and the report at the same time.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) (Chairman, Committee on Rural Economic Development of the Trust Territories): I do not intend to keep the Council very long with this report which follows the general lines of the report on Ruanda Urundi submitted at an earlier time during the present session. I should just like to draw the attention of the Council to the main points covered in the two annexes which are attached to the report.

Annex I is a summary based on the information contained in the very long report circulated by the Secretariat and takes into account the comments made by the Administering Authority on that report. Members will see that paragraphs 1 to 7 of this summary deal with population questions, with the general social and economic structure of the Territory and with certain features of the education and health systems and programmes which have an obvious bearing on the problems of rural economic development. Paragraphs 8 to 19 deal with land utilization. In the succeeding paragraphs, the summary deals with non-indigenous commercial farming, and gives some statistics on forestry and mining. Then, in paragraphs 23 to 29, the summary deals with development plans and programmes and development financing. Paragraphs 30 to 39 deal with land tenure and land alienation.

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

Annex II, which contains some draft observations and conclusions submitted by the Committee to the Council for its consideration, follows the same general pattern. Paragraphs 1 to 3 deal with population and general questions. Paragraphs 4 to 9 deal with land utilization and paragraphs 10 and 11 with land tenure, land legislation and land alienation.

I should like at this stage to pay a very warm tribute to the assistance received by the Committee from its Secretary, Mr. Robinson, and other members of the staff of the Secretariat who have helped in this respect. We are very conscious in the Committee of the very great value of the work put into this report by Mr. Robinson and others in the Secretariat. Indeed, this help has been an indispensable part of our work.

I should also like to pay a warm tribute to the part taken in our deliberations by the representatives of the specialized agencies -- FAO, ILO and UNESCO. They took an active part in our discussions and, if I may say so, were most helpful in connexion with the preparation of the two annexes to the report.



(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

May I also say, before I go on to the next point, that we were greatly assisted in our work by the Special Representative of the Administering Authority who was invaluable to us in getting at the facts upon which our report was based and who generally played a most helpful part in assisting the Committee in its work. I would like to express special appreciation for that help.

I must, to some extent, on this occasion come to the Council in sack cloth and ashes because, having been the Chairman of a Committee which has produced a report on this subject, I now have to appear before the Council with no less than twelve amendments. These amendments I gave to the Council informally yesterday in the shape of a statement prepared by my delegation. They have now been circulated as formal amendments which I wish to submit as representative of the United Kingdom.

These amendments arise from the fact that all members of this Council are particularly at this stage of our deliberations working under considerable pressure, and some clarifications on points of fact could not be obtained until this stage.

Having said that, I think I owe it to the Council to make some comments on these amendments. Although there are twelve of them, many of them are of very little importance indeed. I have tabulated the amendments in four different categories. Numbers 1, 2, 5, and 7 are minor factual amendments on the basis of factual information supplied to me by the representative of the Administering Authority, and I do not think they need give much pause to the Council.

Amendment No. 4 is merely for the purpose of clarifying a table which appears in paragraph 11 of the summary in the report. Here, again, there is nothing of any consequence.

Amendments Nos. 3, 8, 9, and 10 are purely verbal corrections, and these are of no consequence.

I perhaps should deal at a little greater length with amendment No. 6 which relates to the question of availability of land for agricultural purposes. This paragraph, paragraph 14 of the report, perhaps was incomplete in that it did not refer at all to the statement which was made in the annual report of the Administering Authority and more than once, I think, in the deliberations in this Council, the statement which appears in the annual report that there is no land shortage at present. Since this is a factual statement, it is obviously necessary

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

that this point should be covered in this factual report. Therefore, we propose putting in a sentence to cover this.

There is also a small correction to make more accurate a reference to a statement by the Minister of Territories.

Following that, I have turned to annex II and there are two amendments there. They appear bulky, but that is because I thought it simpler to repeat the existing text with the amendments rather than to ask the members of the Council to plow through a lot of detailed amendments. In fact, the changes made are not very extensive and I think make very little difference to the general sense of these proposed recommendations.

The first one in paragraph 1 follows the amendment which I have already mentioned in paragraph 14 of the factual report. Since the Administering Authority has informed us that there is no land shortage at present, it is clearly undesirable that this Council should put in its recommendation a statement which suggests that there is a land shortage at present. The general sense of the comment that if the necessary steps are not taken, there may be a serious land shortage at some future stage is the important point, and that remains as it was before.

The same principle applies to the amendment which I proposed to paragraph 11 of the draft conclusion. I have been informed by the representative of the Administering Authority that, on the basis of information which he has obtained, there are no alienations of land taking place in heavily populated areas except for residential, business, mission and administrative purposes, and these are not on arable land. But it is clearly most undesirable that the Council should make a recommendation in the terms "but expresses some concern that alienations are still continuing in certain of the heavily populated areas". If this is not the case, I think the recommendation arises from a very natural misinterpretation of some figures appearing in one of the appendices to the Administering Authority's annual report. The general sense of this passage is the same. The important sentence is "The Council trusts that the Administering Authority will as far as practicable limit further alienations in such areas to land required for public purposes". This remains the same and, I suggest, is the important thing.

(Sir Andrew Cohen, United Kingdom)

Although these amendments, to sum up, are extensive -- and I must again apologize to the Council for having come forward with these amendments -- they do not, in fact, in any sense alter the general tenor of the report, and I do not think they are of great importance. I might perhaps mention also that there has been some discussion of a passage about nutrition appearing in paragraph 6 of the factual report. I think it possible that the representative of WHO may have something to say about this. I have nothing more to say about it myself at the moment.

I would like to refer to one other point. During the course of our discussion of the report on Ruanda-Urundi, the representative of India, my friend Mr. Rikhi Jaipal, made some very interesting observations, and I would like to refer to them. He suggested that the Committee might attempt in the future to enumerate a set of "do's and don't's" or a set of principles for general application concerning land, and he very mildly and courteously phrased regret that there was nothing of this sort in the report on Ruanda-Urundi. I replied to these observations. I said, as I have just said now, that I thought that they were very interesting suggestions and I thought they were things which should be carefully studied by the members of the Committee at some future meeting. I added, if I might venture to say so, that it would be easier to make this study after the Food and Agriculture Organization had sent in its expert observations which could then be taken into account by the Committee. I am only mentioning these things because I do not want either the representative of India or any other member of the Council to feel that we have ignored these suggestions in relation to the current report. The fact is that when the suggestions were made, the current report was very largely uncompleted, and in saying that we would do this in the future, I had it in mind that we would do it at the next session of the Council when I hope we shall have the observations of FAO. I have nothing more to say except to submit this report for the consideration of the Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We have before us the report (T/1599) of the Committee on Rural Economic Development of the Trust Territories, to the Annexes of which the United Kingdom delegation has submitted a number of amendments (T/L.870).

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The USSR delegation has carefully studied this report and, as in the case of the preceding report, its conclusions are again somewhat disappointing. We have the impression that the Committee on Rural Economic Development of the Trust Territories has largely ignored its principal purpose under the resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its twelfth-session. It did not pay attention to the question of land alienation, specifically, or to that improved agricultural methods to be used by the indigenous population. Otherwise, how would it be possible to explain the recommendations which have been put forward by the Committee and which appear to be in conflict with the genuine needs and interests of the indigenous inhabitants and of the Territory itself? The Committee's conclusions and recommendations are even in conflict with the facts contained in the descriptive part of its report. Those facts contained in the body of the report show that the conditions of the indigenous inhabitants are most adverse and that land continues to be alienated. They reveal also very primitive agricultural methods and grave economic and social consequences of the Territory's colonial status.

These facts, even if we do not list them all but take just a few by way of a sample, should not have been overlooked in the drafting of the Committee's recommendations and conclusions. Paragraph 6 of the report, for example, states:

"Ill-health may be a contributory cause of low productivity. From hospital statistics it would appear that malaria, tropical ulcers, yaws, leprosy, tuberculosis, pneumonia, malnutrition and sanitation diseases remained the chief causes of ill-health. Pneumonia (30.32 per cent), malaria (10.81 per cent), T.B. pulmonary (6.15 per cent), malnutrition (5.64 per cent) and diseases of sanitation were among the principal causes of death in Administration hospitals in 1956-1957. Malaria is widespread and is the greatest cause of morbidity. ... Investigations were continued



into the causes of the newly discovered KURU disease... One possible cause may be nutritional deficiencies, and these, particularly the lack of adequate protein in the diet, are generally considered to be a prime cause of indigenous ill-health. ... Illiteracy and a low level of education tend to hamper efforts to improve productivity."

It would seem from paragraph 11 of the report that the total area of the land utilized to meet the requirements of the indigenous inhabitants is approximately 1,500,000 acres, while the total acreage of alienated or leased land is approximately 1,700,000 acres. The report also confirms indications that there is a shortage of land in certain areas for indigenous agriculture. In the future this land shortage may become serious.

I shall not list all these facts which the Committee includes in the body of its report. I merely wish to draw attention to who holds the key position in agriculture in New Guinea. A very accurate indication of this may be found in paragraph 17. From the information supplied there it can be seen that during the year under review -- the year ended 30 June 1957 -- the indigenous inhabitants produced 16,500 tons of copra while the non-indigenous producers produced approximately 70,000 tons. In the case of cocoa beans, indigenous production amounted to 630 tons, and in the case of coffee it was 63 tons compared to some 200 tons produced by non-indigenous growers. All this shows that the key position in the Territory's agriculture is held by the non-indigenous population.

What are the conclusions of the Committee, and what are its recommendations? Its conclusions and recommendations are designed to justify the existing situation in the Territory and to encourage the Administering Authority to continue along present lines. Let us take paragraph 3 of the draft observations and conclusions, for example. It begins by noting that adult literacy remains at a high level, and that only about 50 per cent of the children of school age are receiving primary education. It adds that:

"malaria, tropical ulcers, tuberculosis, leprosy, yaws and pneumonia continue to be important diseases; nutritional deficiencies, particularly the lack of adequate protein in the diet and sanitation diseases are a prime cause of ill-health throughout the Territory; and seasonal food shortages occur in certain areas."



Having said all this, the Committee arrives at the following conclusion:

"The Council commends the Administering Authority for the action taken to deal with these problems and trusts that it will devote particular attention to them in the future."

(Mr. Lobanov, USSR)

There seems to be a non-sequitur here. What is the reason for such commendation when after seventy years of foreign administration of the Territory all these horrible social phenomena are still extant? I think that even with the utmost liberalism in approach, one should have hesitated before suggesting such recommendations to the Council.

The same can be said about the recommendations on land alienation. Instead of a categorical suggestion that an end should be put to such alienation and that the land alienated be returned to the indigenous owners, the Committee, and especially the amendments of the United Kingdom, in fact justify continuing land alienation. I think that it would not be a mistake to say that the report does not contain a single recommendation of a radical nature that would uphold the interests of the indigenous inhabitants. But there is a plethora of quite unjustified praise for the Administering Authority. The Soviet delegation cannot agree to such an approach. We also reserve our right to speak on individual parts of the report as it is voted on.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I should like to invite the representative of the World Health Organization to offer any observations he may feel disposed to feel to offer with reference to a particular phrase in paragraph 6 of annex I of the report. I am referring to the sentence beginning with the words "One possible cause may be nutritional deficiencies". That part of the sentence clearly relates to this newly-discovered kuru disease. The second part of the sentence does not relate to the newly-discovered kuru disease and seems to be a statement of general application, and in the form in which it is put it is a statement with which the Administering Authority would find difficulty in concurring. I would like to reconsider this phrase in the light of any observations that the representative of the World Health Organization may choose to offer.

Dr. SACKS (World Health Organization): I have a brief observation on this particular sentence. Recently, Sir Macfarlane Burnet, the distinguished Director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne, Australia, has reported on the investigations carried out on the disease which has been "kuru". He has indicated in this report that it is probably due to a toxic cause or to a degeneration of genetic or hereditary origin. Nutritional deficiency had previously been considered a possible cause of the disease, but in view of the continuing research on this problem, and of which there is an unknown cause, the Council may wish to consider this particular phrase.

In addition, as regards the subsequent part of the sentence, namely "particularly the lack of adequate protein...", it should be noted that malnutrition is already listed, in the third line of that same paragraph 6, as one of several diseases which are chief causes of ill-health in the Territory. The situation as described in the annual report of the Administering Authority, and WHO's observations on public health in New Guinea at a previous session, is reflected in the sentence which reads subsequently, namely:

"The nutritional standard of the population is rising but there is in certain areas an insufficiency of first class protein in the diet leading to malnutrition."

I felt obliged to introduce this in view of my own intervention in the Committee.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I might want to say something later on this particular point which has been commented on by the representative of the World Health Organization. I think that his comment, although put in the most courteous terms, possibly may be taken as a criticism not only of the substance but of the drafting, in that he has drawn attention to the fact that this remark in a sense duplicates, but not quite accurately, two other sentences in the same paragraph. I daresay that I am not quite sure what conclusion I am to draw. He appears to have, I think in the local phrase, pulled the rug out from under both sections of this sentence. I wonder whether the Council ought to pull the sentence out of the report and whether that would not be the best way of doing it. I am largely in the hands of the Council in this matter.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): My delegation has always reserved some very special affection for the work of this Committee. We have in the past made some observations and recommendations and, as the representative of the United Kingdom, Sir Andrew Cohen, pointed out, for various reasons it was not possible to take those recommendations into account while framing the report that we are now considering. I would, however, like to say that on the whole my delegation finds this report helpful and we are glad of the opportunity to consider the report. I may perhaps add that we are in the peculiar position just now of considering some amendments tabled by the Chairman of the Committee in his capacity as the representative of the United Kingdom. If this report were to be voted upon as it stands, we should have been very glad to support it. Amendments are, however, a different matter and it may not be possible for my delegation to vote in favour of all the amendments tabled by the United Kingdom delegation.

However, we will come to those amendments later. But I would like you, Mr. President, to note my request for a separate vote on each amendment at the time when the amendments will be voted on.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I think it would be helpful to the Council if I were to make one or two general observations on the report on the Trust Territory of New Guinea in so far as rural economic development is concerned. At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the four representatives who constituted this Committee and who, at great sacrifice to themselves, have done their best to produce a report which will factually reflect the present conditions in the Territory.

The Committee has gone to great pains, as has the Administering Authority, to present the factual position quite accurately. We brought certain matters to the attention of the Committee while it was in session and subsequently found that there were other points, mainly of fact, which have not been brought clearly to the attention of the Committee, and we subsequently passed them on to the Chairman of the Committee for his consideration.

As far as all the factual amendments to annex I are concerned, I may say that in principle they reflect the position in the Territory as it is at the present time. I will now turn to one or two general observations which I think is necessary to emphasize.

(Mr. Kelly, Australia)

Page 87 of the annual report contains this considered conclusion of the Administering Authority:

"In all areas, the people have sufficient land for their requirements and food is plentiful".

From time to time, in isolated areas, slight seasonal shortages come into existence. As soon as they are detected, they are remedied by the Administering Authority which, while it may be able to do much in the Territory, is not yet in a position to command the weather of the Territory. Climate escapes its control.

The second point I would like to make is with reference to the word "alienation". In Australia, the word "alienation" is used ordinarily to refer to the transfer of public lands, of national lands, to private citizens by sale. In United Nations circles, the word "alienation" seems to mean primarily the transfer of land in fee simple from the indigenous inhabitants to non-indigenous inhabitants. So far as the Australian administration of the Trust Territory of New Guinea is concerned it is true to say that practically all the limited amount of land now held in fee simple was transferred -- sold -- prior to the taking over of the Territory by the Australian administration. Since we assumed command of the Territory -- and I may remind the representative of the Soviet Union that it was not seventy years ago -- we have not alienated land in fee simple.

What we have done, on a guarded and measured basis is to transfer certain lands to the Administration of the Territory. The term "alienation" as used in this report refers to the transfer of land in fee simple, not always from the indigenous inhabitants, because unclaimed and unoccupied lands are usually in question, but it refers to the transfer of lands to the public authority in the Trust Territory. Therefore, if the Trust Territory as we all hope, should in the course of years attain the final objective posited by the Charter, the lands alienated to the Central Administration would be the public patrimony of the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory. The word "alienation" as used in this report, therefore, is really the alienation of land, in many, many cases -- perhaps in most cases -- unowned, unoccupied and unutilized, to the central public authorities.



(Mr. Kelly, Australia)

The lands so acquired by the central Administration are granted in some cases on lease to non-indigenous inhabitants. The terms of the leases are strictly defined. They are limited in time, in some instances I think to thirty years, in other instances to ninety-nine years, but there is no indefinite and perpetual lease granted of the Administration lands. In fact, the principle here is virtually the principle that obtains in Canberra, the national capital of Australia, where for many years past the principle of leasing public lands to private citizens for residential and arable purposes has obtained.

That having been said, I need not conceal from this Council that the Administering Authority and the Australian Government and people feel very proud of their record in the matter of land in the Trust Territory of New Guinea. It is true, as the representative of the Soviet Union has remarked, that there is to be found in the Territory the presence of certain diseases, that many inhabitants of the Territory are illiterate, that much has yet to be done in the matter of public health and public education. But I would remind the representative of the Soviet Union that it is the Administering Authority that has discovered the presence of these diseases in the Territory. It is the Administering Authority that is doing its best to eliminate these diseases. It is the Administering Authority that has initiated a Territory-wide campaign for primary education and incidentally for higher education, because here we feel called upon to discharge this sacred trust which has been imposed upon us.

In certain respects, I can understand the representatives taking the view that insufficient progress has been made, but in the matter of land alienation, in the strict sense in which the term is used by many representatives here, I think the Administering Authority has a record not equalled by many independent Governments. It has safeguarded the patrimony of the Territory.

The representative of the Soviet Union drew attention to the fact that so far as the production of cash crops was concerned, the productivity of certain non-indigenous inhabitants was greater than the productivity of certain indigenous inhabitants. What conclusion are we to draw from that?

(Mr. Kelly, Australia)

Are we to complain that certain non-indigenous inhabitants are more productive? Are we to complain that certain indigenous inhabitants are not sufficiently productive? Surely, we must not complain if these people, who have emerged, within the lifetimes of men now assembled in this Council, from an extremely primitive economic and social order, have only made limited progress in this direction? I think, if we examine the figures to which he referred, if we had the time and opportunity, we ought to congratulate the indigenous inhabitants on the greatly increased productivity for which they have been responsible, particularly in this field of cash cropping.

Furthermore, the Council continuously calls on the Administering Authority to develop the economic capacity of the Territory so that it shall not be indefinitely dependent on the substantial grants that it receives from the Australian Treasury. The most effective way of doing this is to ensure that such lands as can be commercially exploited are commercially exploited under appropriate supervision and -- so far as the indigenous inhabitants are concerned -- with the full assistance of the Administering Authority. It seems to me, therefore, unfortunate that anyone should deplore the productivity of some indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territory.

I turn now to a table which has, it appears, caused the representative of the Soviet Union some concern. It is a table about which I have a number of minor reservations, but I am confident that all the representatives here and all those who have occasion to study it will study it carefully. First of all, this table brings out the fact that the total land area of the Territory is 59,520,000 acres and that the area of the Territory devoted to non-indigenous farming -- actually devoted to it at the present time -- is less than 300,000 acres. The table brings out the fact that while the total forested area of the Territory is 42 million acres, the area actually being commercially exploited for forestry is only 180,000 acres. Even with the amendment proposed by the representative of the United Kingdom, it is possible that some misapprehension may exist with respect to the concluding words of this table, where the approximate total utilized area is shown as 3,161,180 acres.

(Mr. Kelly, Australia)

Much of that amount of 3 million odd acres is in fact not being used for arable cultivation at the present time. So you have this vast area of 59,520,000 acres of which only a relatively small proportion is being used now.

So far as the forested area is concerned, the 42 million acres of which I spoke, the indigenous inhabitants are free to use it at any time without licence to acquire such timber as they need for the erection of dwelling houses or the making of implements or what have you.

The figures if carefully examined will show, first of all, that in no section of the Territory, and certainly in no densely populated section, is there at the present time any alienation of indigenous arable land and that in those heavily populated areas -- and I make this statement with the full authority of the Administering Authority -- the only alienations or transfers to the Administration that are taking place are in respect of certain limited residential business and mission leases. But not one of those leases takes away from the indigenous inhabitants a single acre of arable land.

That having been said, recalling the observations of the representative of Australia when he made his final statement on the examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of New Guinea, I must advert to the fact that paragraph 14 reproduces three statements attributed in the first place to the Director of Agriculture of the Territory, in the second place to the Director of Native Affairs and in the third place to the Minister of Territories. I am not in a position to confirm the accuracy of any of the three press statements -- I presume they are press statements -- reproduced here. Whatever action I may take on this report and whatever vote I may cast on it must not be interpreted as implying anything as to the accuracy of these three statements.

The term "Waghi Valley" is sometimes used in a limited sense and sometimes in an extended sense. The Waghi Valley contains, as far as my information goes, fewer than 150,000 inhabitants if the term is used in a strict sense. If the Minister of Territories made the statement that in the Waghi Valley over a period of years it might be necessary to arrange for the transfer to immediately adjacent areas of 250,000 persons, the only conclusion that an authority on the Territory could reach would be that it would be over a period of very many years.

(Mr. Kelly Australia)

My delegation has taken the view that it is unwise for this council to incorporate into its reports and documents unverified and unauthenticated press reports.

That having been said, I think there is no reason for me to make any further remarks except perhaps to advert to paragraph 36 in which there is reproduced a statement attributed to the Australian Commonwealth Minister of State for Territories which refers to the somewhat haphazard acquisition of certain lands in the past. Now, as the delegation of Burma recently reminded this Council, the Administration has at times been charged with being too conscientious. I make this observation -- that if this conscientious Administration uses the phrase "somewhat haphazard", it may be assumed by standards generally prevailing in the United Nations that the most effective translation of the phrase into the Russian language will be that the acquisition of land has been highly scientific.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I should like to make a few brief observations in connexion with the statement of the representative of Australia.

I should like to recall to the representative of Australia that New Guinea is a Territory that has been under foreign administration for seventy years, forty years of which it has been under the administration of Australia. If the principal merit of the administration in forty years has been to discover certain diseases among the inhabitants of the Territory, I must recall to the representative of Australia that these diseases were discovered many years ago by Miklukha Maklai. Many other diseases have also been discovered since that time in New Guinea but it seems that they have made their appearance, if I understood the statement of the representative of WHO, since the Australian administration. I am thinking, for example, of the kuru disease, which is a recent sickness. The true merit of the Administering Authority, according to me, would lie in eliminating these disease rather than discovering them. If the Administering Authority did something along this line, then we could truly congratulate it. Unfortunately, little has been done and we can hardly congratulate the Administering Authority.

(Mr. Lobanov, USSR)

I must also mention to the representative of Australia that we have no objection whatsoever to the increase in productivity in agriculture of the non-indigenous population. We call attention to a surprising circumstance. One million three hundred thousand indigenous inhabitants have far less land than the other utilizers of the land, including all of those who are working with the Administration. One million seven hundred thousand acres are in the hands of the Administration and of those who lease land from it. The non-indigenous population does not exceed 14,000 people. This is the source of our preoccupation and not the increase in productivity of the non-indigenous population. The key positions in agriculture are occupied by non-indigenous people. It seems to me that there has been a certain changing of the figures. The report says that only two per cent of the land has been alienated. Now, this percentage is calculated with account being taken of the entire area of the Territory. How does all this come about? It is hard to understand.



(Mr. Lobanov, USSR)

We also note that over 70 per cent of the land is as yet uncultivated land. Now, could we possibly ask a simple question? Who is it that utilizes this wealth in land? I am sure that it is not the indigenous population that makes use of this land. What happens is that these lands are leased to the non-indigenous population, mostly, of course, to foreign concerns and interests.

The representative of Australia referred to the great importance which Australia attaches to these leasing contracts. Of course, this is up to the Government of Australia. This, in fact, is of no particular interest to us. But to give contracts which cover the usage and leasing for ninety-nine years of land which does not belong to the Government of Australia -- is this what can be considered alienation of land? This is most difficult for my delegation to understand.

I suppose that the representative of Australia feels that there is an important difference between leasing of lands for a period of ninety-nine years and the expression "alienation of lands". This affects not only the generation of today but the generations of tomorrow.

It would seem to my delegation that it would be unnecessary to reply to all of the observations that were made by the representative of Australia. Whoever has sufficient time and patience to read even annex I of the report and appreciate its contents will soon see that what the representative of Australia says is, in effect, something which has no basis and no spirit of impartiality, and certainly will never be convinced by his remarks.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Council will continue its discussion of this report and the proposed amendments thereto on Monday at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.

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Trusteeship Council  
22nd Session  
44th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1433  
25 July 1958

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 1

The Trusteeship Council took up as its first item this afternoon the report (Doc.T/1390, Corr.1 and Add.1) of the Secretary-General on the credentials of members attending the current session.

IVAN I. LOBANOV (USSR) said the "only legitimate representatives" of China in the organs of the UN, including the Trusteeship Council, were the representatives of the Chinese People's Republic.

The USSR, he said, considered that the credentials of "this individual who illegally holds the seat of China in the Council" should be rejected. He asked for a separate vote on the credentials of China.

The President, ALFRED CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said only governments were represented on the Council. He urged members not to engage in "discourtesies."

CHIPING H.C. KIANG (China) said he represented on the Council the only Chinese government established by free elections and the only government which could "rightfully speak" for the Chinese people in the United Nations.

RIKHI JAIPAL (India) said, for reasons which had so often been explained by his delegation, India recognized only the right of the People's Republic of China to be seated in the Council.

AHMED OSMAN (United Arab Republic) said his government recognized only the government of the People's Republic of China and considered that it alone was empowered to represent China in the Council.

U THANT (Burma) said that, as had been repeatedly expressed by his delegation, Burma also recognized only the People's Republic of China as the "lawful and effective government of the whole of China." He therefore could not agree to the seating of any other representative in the Council as the representative of China.

Mr. LOBANOV repeated that he wanted a separate vote on the credentials of "this individual who illegally holds the seat of China" in the Council.

Mr. KIANG protested "strongly" against the language used by the "previous speaker." It was "almost intolerable," he said, to hear those remarks from a representative of a government which had been "condemned" by the General Assembly no less than three times during the past year for its "aggression against Hungary."

(END OF TAKE 1)



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TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 2

MASON SEARS (United States) said the Secretary-General in the report had found the credentials of all representatives to be in order. The Council, he said, should logically vote on the report as a whole.

He moved under rule 60 of the rules of procedure that the Soviet request for a separate vote on a part of the report should be put to the vote first. His delegation, he said, would vote against this request.

The Council then voted on the Soviet request for a separate vote, and rejected it by 4 in favor (Burma, India, United Arab Republic, USSR) to 10 against.

Mr. SEARS said the United States "especially regrets" that the USSR representative saw fit to "interrupt" the work of the Council for "propaganda purposes." The United States position had been enunciated quite clearly and its repetition here would serve no purpose, he said.

However, as the USSR representative had again raised the issue, Mr. SEARS continued, he would state that, in the view of the United States, the Government of the Republic of China, and only that government, "is entitled" to represent China in this and other organs of the United Nations.

Mr. LOBANOV said his proposal had not been a "propaganda move." It was in the "defense of the legitimate rights of the great Chinese people." The USSR, he said, would "never cease" to press for recognition of the rights of the Chinese People's Republic to be represented in all UN organs.

The Council then adopted the credentials report as a whole by a vote of 10 in favor, none against, with four abstentions (Burma, India, United Arab Republic, USSR).

(END OF TAKE 2)





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TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 3

The Council then turned to conditions in Somaliland under Italian administration and heard the closing statements by EUGENIO PLAJA, Italy's representative on the Council, and by HAGI FARAH ALI OMAR, Somaliland's Minister for Economic Affairs.

Mr. PLAJA thanked those members who had expressed "general appreciation" for the progress made in the territory during the period under review. He noted that such acknowledgement had come from "all delegations but one," whose attitude seemed to stem from a "preconceived position."

The main points which had engaged the attention of the Council this year, Mr. PLAJA said, were: the question of the frontier between Somaliland and Ethiopia, the elections, the economic development of the territory, and the problem of external aid to the future Somali state after 1960.

The "great concern" about the lack of progress toward a solution of the frontier question, he noted, was shared not only by all members of the Council, but also by the administering authority and the Somali people. He hoped that the statements made in the Council would contribute to "an early and prompt implementation" of the General Assembly resolution calling for the establishment of an arbitration tribunal to settle the issue.

As far as the Italian delegation was concerned, Mr. PLAJA said, "we very strongly hope that it will be possible for the next session of the General Assembly to take stock of some substantial results on this question."

As regards the elections, he expressed gratification that the Council fully appreciated the present difficulties. The prevailing sentiment of all members, he said, seemed to be that it would not be advisable to make the next elections contingent upon the taking of a census.

He emphasized that the draft electoral law, now pending before the Somali Legislative Assembly, was the "best solution" under the circumstances, notwithstanding its "inevitable shortcomings." Substantially, he said, the plan provided under the law would have resulted in a volunteer registration of voters, along the lines suggested by the United States representative.

(END OF TAKE 3)



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TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 4

Continuing, Mr. PLAJA, Italy's representative on the Council, said the administration would do its best to see that the new elections would be held in the spring of 1959.

Regarding financial aid to Somalia after 1960, Mr. PLAJA, considered that the main question was who would provide the newly independent state with the necessary assistance. The requirements might in the long run change, but already there was evidence of what those needs would be.

Emphasizing that the necessary decision on this matter could be made only by the Somalis, he suggested that they be given the opportunity to say what they wanted to do.

The consultations between the Italian and Somali Governments on this question, he said, were "bearing fruit." He did not consider it necessary to establish a special committee to go into the matter, as had been suggested, or to set up a special fund for Somaliland. To the offers of technical aid made last year by the administering authority could be added the offers this year by the United States and other countries, he said.

He assured the Council that the administering authority and the Somali government would keep it informed of any further developments on this question. He suggested that time should be given to the Somalis to consider the question and to reach the necessary conclusions.

Mr. HAGI FARAH, Somaliland's Minister for Economic Affairs, assured the Council that the Somali government was "firmly determined" to arrange the new elections as soon as possible, provided means were provided to guarantee that the elections were "really democratic" and fully in accordance with the will of the people.

The opinions expressed in the Council on this matter, he said, would receive maximum attention from the responsible authorities of the Somali government and Legislature.

On the frontier issue, he shared the hope that the arbitration tribunal would be established as speedily as possible. Somaliland, he said, would be in an "extremely serious situation" if a fair and honorable solution was not arrived at by 1960.

(END OF TAKE 4)



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TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 5

On the question of economic aid, HAGI FARAH ALI OMAR, Somaliland's Minister for Economic Affairs, expressed his thankfulness to the administering authority and to the United States Government for the financial and technical aid they provided for the improvement of the Somali economy.

He also expressed appreciation for the various suggestions made aimed at setting up a special UN fund to provide financial aid to Somalia after 1960, including the statement by the United Arab Republic representative that his government was prepared to participate in the creation of such a fund.

He thanked the "timely offer" of aid by the United States Government.

No possibility of effectively reducing expenditures and increasing receipts, he said, would be neglected in order to strictly minimize the need for outside aid.

However, as the International Bank had pointed out, a concrete assurance that such aid was forthcoming was needed in order to overcome the "serious crisis of uncertainty" in the territory.

In this connection, Mr. HAGI FARAH said the assurances of aid by the United States and Italian governments had restored confidence "just in time," and had stimulated present and future investments for continuing and completing the economic and financial development of Somaliland.

The PRESIDENT said the debate on Somaliland was now concluded. The Council then established a drafting committee, composed of Australia, the United States, India and the United Arab Republic, to prepare a report on Somaliland in the light of the general debate.

Turning to other business before it, the Council unanimously adopted a United States resolution (Doc.T/L.869) taking note of the reports of the 1957 visiting mission on Tanganyika, Ruanda-Urundi and Somaliland, and the observations of the respective administering authorities on these reports. The reports on Tanganyika and Ruanda-Urundi were examined by the Council at its previous session.

The Council then considered another report of the Committee on Rural Economic Development of the Trust Territories (Doc.T/1399). It contains a study of rural economic development in the trust territory of New Guinea, administered by Australia, covering such aspects as problems of population, land utilization and land tenure, land legislation and land alienation.

Also before the Council were a series of twelve amendments (Doc.T/L.870) to various paragraphs of the report as proposed by the United Kingdom.

The Council will continue consideration of the report and the amendments to it at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, 28 July.

(END OF TAKE 5 AND OF PRESS RELEASE TR/1433)