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Ninth Special Session

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 7 November 1958, at 10.15 a.m.

12 Nov 1958

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Publication of the final printed records being subject to a rigid schedule, the co-operation of delegations in strictly observing this time-limit would be greatly appreciated.

PRESENT:

President:

Mr. CLAEYS BOUJAERT (Belgium)

Members:

Mr. KELLY Australia

Mr. SMOLDEREN Belgium

U TIN MAUNG Burma

Mr. KIANG China

Mr. KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET France

Mr. VELA Guatemala

Mr. DORSINVILLE Haiti

Mr. RASGOTRA India

Mr. VITELLI Italy

Mr. EDMONDS New Zealand

Mr. LOBANOV Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics

Mr. MUFTI United Arab Republic

Sir Andrew COHEN United Kingdom of Great  
Britain and Northern  
Ireland

Mr. MCGREGOR United States of America

Secretariat:

Mr. PROTITCH Under-Secretary for  
Trusteeship and  
Information from Non-Self-  
Governing Territories

Mr. WIESCHHOFF Secretary of the Council

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO TRUST TERRITORIES  
IN WEST AFRICA, 1958. (T/L.888, T/L.889) (continued)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to continue its study of the Italian draft resolution (T/L.888) and the amendment to it submitted by France, Guatemala, Haiti and India (T/L.889). He drew attention to an error in punctuation in the French text of the amendment.

Mr. VITELLI (Italy) congratulated the sponsors of the amendment for having reached a compromise solution. The Italian delegation had no objection to the amendment being included in its draft resolution.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the following words should be added to the amendment: "And recommends the Visiting Mission to take account of the statements made by the petitioners to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly".

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) considered the sentence proposed by the Soviet Union representative to be unnecessary, since operative paragraph 2 of Trusteeship Council resolution 1907 (XXII), which laid down the terms of reference of the Visiting Mission, directed the Mission to give attention to issues raised in hearings in the General Assembly of petitioners from the Territories.

The United Kingdom delegation would consequently oppose the adoption of the USSR amendment.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the Trusteeship Council had refused to hear the petitioners; it was for that reason that the attention of the Visiting Mission should be drawn to the statements they had made before the Fourth Committee.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) held that resolution 1907 (XXII) contained sufficiently specific instructions in that connexion.

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) agreed that the amendment proposed by the USSR might appear superfluous. In view of the fact, however, that the Council had refused to hear the petitioners, he thought it desirable to draw the attention of the Visiting Mission more explicitly to the statements they had made before the Fourth Committee.

/...

(Mr. Mufti, United Arab Republic)

The delegation of the United Arab Republic would therefore vote in favour of the USSR amendment.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) pointed out that the members of the Visiting Mission had been unable to hear the statements the petitioners had made at the present session of the General Assembly. He suggested that the words "during the thirteenth session" should be added to the Soviet amendment.

In reply to a question from Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom), the PRESIDENT said that the records of the Fourth Committee were transmitted regularly to the members of the Visiting Mission.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) said there was accordingly nothing to warrant the introduction of a special reference to the petitioners to whom the Fourth Committee had granted a hearing at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly. Paragraph 2 of resolution 1907 (XXII) was equally applicable to the present session and the Visiting Mission would have the statements made by the petitioners at its disposal.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed that the amendment he had proposed should be made more specific, in accordance with the suggestion made by the representative of India. He expressed surprise that the representative of the United Kingdom should object to the statements of the petitioners at the thirteenth session being explicitly mentioned in the resolution although he agreed that the Visiting Mission should take them into account. Furthermore it was not certain that all the working material of the Fourth Committee would be transmitted to the Visiting Mission in time.

Mr. ELMONDS (New Zealand) considered that the Soviet Union amendment tended to give undue importance to the statements made by the petitioners to the thirteenth session of the General Assembly. Furthermore the draft resolution concerned only the terms of reference of the Visiting Mission in so far as the Cameroons under French administration was concerned. The petitioners had, however, spoken about the Cameroons under British administration too. Even assuming that there was some advantage in including the sentence, it would be better placed in operative paragraph 2 of resolution 1907 (XXII).

Mr. KSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) supported the views expressed by the representatives of the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

The PRESIDENT put the USSR amendment, as modified by the Indian delegation's suggestion, to the vote.

The USSR amendment was rejected by 7 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions.

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic), speaking on a point of order, said that he thought it would be in the interest of all the members of the Council to adopt a unanimous resolution. He therefore suggested that the New Zealand representative's proposal that the Soviet Union amendment might be incorporated in paragraph 2 of Trusteeship Council resolution 1907 (XXII) should be taken up.

Mr. EDMONDS (New Zealand) said that he had made no formal proposal to that effect.

The PRESIDENT put the Italian draft resolution (T/L.888), with the amendment appearing in document T/L.889, to the vote.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 13 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because it responded to a specific request made by France. It was the concern of the Administering Authority to determine the best means for achieving the objectives of the Trusteeship System.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had voted in favour of the draft resolution as a result of the explanations which had been given to the Council to the effect that the statements made by the petitioners before the Fourth Committee would be transmitted to the Visiting Mission in time, in accordance with operative paragraph 2 of Trusteeship Council resolution 1907 (XXII).

Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) thanked the representative of Italy and the sponsors of the amendment (T/L.889), whose co-operation had made it possible for the Council to adopt a resolution that took into account the wishes of the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons.

Mr. ROSGOTRA (India) asked when the texts of the statements made by petitioners to the Fourth Committee would be sent to the Visiting Mission.

The PRESIDENT replied that according to information provided by the Secretariat the texts had already been dispatched.

Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) said that his delegation had abstained from voting on the draft resolution because it had previously abstained from voting on the agenda of the ninth special session of the Council.

Mr. McGREGOR (United States of America) thought that the adoption of the resolution augured well for the success of the Visiting Mission.

#### CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had completed the agenda of the special session. The session was therefore closed.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.



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(For use of information media--not an official record)

Trusteeship Council  
Ninth Special Session  
2nd Meeting (AM)

Press Release TR/1447  
7 November 1958

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL DECIDES TO GIVE ADDITIONAL  
INSTRUCTIONS TO VISITING MISSION IN WEST AFRICA

The Trusteeship Council this morning decided to give an additional assignment to its visiting mission now in west Africa.

It adopted a resolution requesting the four-man visiting mission "to set forth its views on the procedure for organizing the consultations which will enable the people of the Cameroons under French administration to express, at the appropriate time, their wishes concerning their future, and concerning the termination of trusteeship upon the attainment of full national independence in 1960."

As adopted by a vote of 13 in favor, none against, with 1 abstention (United Arab Republic), the resolution embodies a proposal by Italy (Doc. T/L.888) and an amendment submitted by France, Guatemala, Haiti and India (Doc. T/L.889) which was accepted by Italy this morning.

The Council rejected an amendment of the USSR, with an Indian sub-amendment, which would have added a recommendation that the visiting mission "take into account the statements made by the petitioners in the Fourth (Trusteeship) Committee during the thirteenth session" of the General Assembly.

The vote on this proposal was 4 in favor (Burma, India, United Arab Republic, USSR), 7 against (Australia, Belgium, France, Italy, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States), with 2 abstentions (Guatemala, Haiti). China did not vote.

The visiting mission, which left New York on 18 October, is now in the British Cameroons and is due to arrive in the French Cameroons on 14 November.

It is one of a series which the Trusteeship Council sends out periodically to study and report on the progress being made toward achievement of the trusteeship system objectives of promoting the political, economic, social and educational advancement of trust territories and their progressive advancement toward self-government or independence.

The current mission, under terms of reference adopted by the Trusteeship

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Council on 28 July 1958, was authorized specifically to report on such progress; to give attention to issues raised in connection with annual reports of the administering authorities concerned (France and the United Kingdom), in petitions received by the Trusteeship Council, in hearings in the General Assembly of petitioners from the two territories, in reports of previous visiting missions to those territories, and in observations of the administering authorities on those reports; and to receive petitions and investigate, on the spot, those which it felt warranted special attention.

At that time, the mission was also asked, in regard to the British Cameroons, to report on the method of consultation that should be adopted when the time comes for the people of that trust territory to express their wishes concerning their future.

Yesterday the Council met for its ninth special session to consider a French request for the issuance of additional instructions relating to the French Cameroons.

The additional instructions were necessary, the Council was informed yesterday by Jacques Kosciusko-Morizet (France), because of events in the French Cameroons which occurred since the original terms of reference were adopted. On 24 October, he said, the Cameroonian Legislative Assembly proclaimed the will of the people that the state of the Cameroons should attain full national independence on 1 January 1960 and requested France to propose to the current UN General Assembly the termination of the trusteeship simultaneously with the attainment of independence.

An Italian proposal for additional instructions was before the Council yesterday, and the four-nation amendment was worked out after a number of suggestions were made in the meeting.

This morning, I.I. Lobanov (USSR) suggested the additional recommendation that the visiting mission take into account statements made by petitioners before the Assembly's Fourth (Trusteeship) Committee.

This addition was considered "unnecessary" by Sir Andrew Cohen (United Kingdom) as, he said, the mission was already authorized to take into account statements made by petitioners as well as other information.

In the course of the discussion Maharajakrishna Rasgotra (India) suggested

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that statements "at the thirteenth session" be specified, as the visiting mission had not heard petitioners now being heard by the Fourth Committee.

In answer to a question by Sir Andrew Cohen, the Secretariat informed the Council that the proceedings of the current session were being transmitted to the visiting mission.

After further discussion the Soviet amendment and Indian sub-amendment were rejected.

This morning's action completed the work of the Council's ninth special session.

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