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COUNCIL

Twenty-seventh Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ELEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 19 July 1961, at 3 p.m.President: U TIN MAUNG (Burma)

1. Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly [18] (concluded)
2. Closing of the twenty-seventh session of the Trusteeship Council

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.1176 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

AGENDA ITEM 18

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(T/L.1036 and Add.1, L.1033, L.1034 and L.1037) (concluded)

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I have seen the paper which has just been put out by the Secretariat in document T/L.1036/Add.2, and generally this meets with our request, is satisfactory, and if it should be adopted by the Council, my delegation will support its adoption. But I should like to suggest that in the last paragraph which is to be included in document T/L.1017/Add.1, on page 2 of document T/L.1036/Add.2, where we say "The Council discussed this subject at its 1169th to 1171st meetings, at the last of which it decided to take note of the written petitions and oral observations of the two petitioners and also of the observations made by the various members", I do not know that there will be a record of these observations in the body of the report. I presume that will not be the case. But irrespective of whether that is the case or is not the case, I think in a footnote attention should be drawn to where the record of these observations may be seen by those who are interested, either to the summary record or the verbatim record, or if these are to be included in summary form in the report itself, attention should be drawn to that particular part of the report.

That is about all I have to suggest with regard to this, but I cannot help remarking that this is a bad day for English grammar. Towards the end of this paragraph in question we find: "The Council discussed this subject at its 1169th to 1171st meetings, at the last of which it decided to take note of the written petitions and oral observations of the two petitioners and also of the observations made by the various members of the Council concerning that matter, and commended it" -- I thought it should be "them", or "these" -- "to the attention of the Administering Authority for urgent action".

The PRESIDENT: In connexion with what the representative of India has just said, I should like to inform the Council that the paragraph in question in document T/L.1036/Add.2 is taken from the verbatim record of the Council's 1171st meeting. The Council will recall that it was my own suggestion that this matter should be commended to the attention of the Administering Authority. Perhaps the language I used at that time -- "commend it to the attention of the Administering Authority for urgent action" (T/PV.1171, page 42) -- was unfortunate. What I meant was that the matter should be drawn to the attention of the Administering Authority for urgent action, and the reference was to the matter which was under discussion at that time.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): What I have said in this respect should not be taken as a reflection of any kind. The President or delegations make proposals which are adopted by the Council. It is then a question of editing -- especially when oral proposals are involved.

If it was the President's intention that this matter should be drawn to the attention of the Administering Authority, I take no issue with that; I shall bow to his decision. But I would submit that the matter is already engaging the attention of the Administering Authority. I was under the impression that what the President was proposing to bring to the Administering Authority's attention was, rather, the observations of the petitioners and the members of the Trusteeship Council. If, however, as I have said, it was the President's intention to commend this matter to the Administering Authority's attention, I shall go along with that, so long as attention is also drawn to the observations of the petitioners and the members of the Council.

The PRESIDENT: I think that it would be more grammatically correct to replace the word "it" by the word "them", as suggested by the representative of India.

The amendments were adopted.

The PRESIDENT: Are there any other observations on the draft report?

Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America): One matter was left somewhat indefinite this morning, and I think that it would be wise for the Council to give some instructions on it to the Secretariat. I refer to the Soviet representative's statement which is set forth at some length in document T/L.1036, pages 20 to 27, inclusive.

The suggestion was made, very properly, this morning by the representative of India that as they now stand these paragraphs need some editing -- either by wording them in the past tense or by putting them within quotation marks. I do not think that we took any decision on which method to use. In the circumstances, I believe it would be more appropriate if these paragraphs were set out in the report in quotation marks, thus making it quite clear that this is actually the verbatim text of the Soviet representative's statement. I submit that if that is not done the editors will have some difficulty with some parts of the statement. For example, the first paragraph on page 24 begins with the words "I come now to Nauru". It would be difficult to put such a sentence into indirect language. In any event, as I have said, it seems to me that it would be more appropriate to set out the statement in quotation marks, so as to make it clear that this is exactly what the Soviet representative said and that the statement has not been edited in any way.

I think it would help the Secretariat if we put it on record that this was the sense of the Council.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no objection to the United States representative's proposal, I shall regard it as adopted.

It was so decided.

The draft report (T/L.1036, Add.1 and Add.2), as amended, was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

CLOSING OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT: Before I declare closed this session of the Council, I should like to say a few words.

After exerting its labours for practically one and a half months, the Trusteeship Council has successfully accomplished the task set before it and has effectively disposed of its rather heavy agenda, by and large in an atmosphere of cordial co-operation, even though at times, I must admit, characteristics clashes of personalities, ideas and ideologies and collisions of arguments between Council members during this rather short session have been very much in evidence. That was inevitable. That spirit of dynamism is, in my opinion, a healthy sign, indicating to an unmistakable degree that this principal organ of the United Nations, in spite of its current composition, is very much alive and kicking.

Whatever might have been the consensus of opinion of rank outsiders regarding the scope of the work and the nature of the mission of this Council, those of us who have been intimately associated long enough with the noble, if difficult, work of this Council could not fail to feel satisfied with the genuine efforts they have exerted to make the international Trusteeship System work as it was intended to function in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

Those of us who have served the paramount interests of the peoples placed under our trust and who have worked in this august body, and those who will continue to serve in the very few years to come until this Trusteeship Council has outlived its usefulness, have developed that sense of "belonging" to the unfortunate peoples and countries which are yet to emerge from that system and be elevated to the status of free and sovereign States. These "belongers", if I may borrow that interesting term from the colonial vocabulary of the Trust Territory whose future we have just discussed a few days ago in this chamber, belong to a sort of informal international cult or club, where the idol of parity is respectfully worshipped and its spirit invariably invoked whenever a major colonial calamity is envisaged, forecast or anticipated. But this is no occasion for me to extol the characteristic structure and functions of the Trusteeship Council.

(The President)

At the end of every session it is customary for the members of this Council, particularly at the end of the summer session, to depart from polemics and to enter into pleasantries in a spirit of goodwill and mutual admiration and to congratulate each other on the happy conclusion of their work. This is such an occasion.

Speaking for myself, this happy occasion today has a special significance, since this twenty-seventh session is the last regular session of the Trusteeship Council in which my country will participate.

During the six consecutive years of Burma's membership, the Trusteeship Council has accomplished many things -- after trials and tribulations. More than four Trust Territories in Africa achieved the goal set out in the Charter. Within the next few months two of the Trust Territories in East Africa and one in the Pacific will have attained their independence.

After serving for nearly four years on this Council, and after having acquired some experience and knowledge, I believe I can say that, despite inherent weaknesses which we all recognize, the international Trusteeship System has functioned in a satisfactory manner.

From my fairly short period of service on the Council, I shall always cherish a glowing memory of the cordial and courteous collaboration and unrelenting efforts made by all the members of the Council in a great humanitarian cause.

I can vividly recall the day, in the early part of 1958, when for the first time I took the seat of the representative of Burma during the twenty-first session of this Council. I appeared for the first time in the Council only a few months after I had served on the 1957 Visiting Mission to East Africa. That Mission, as you all know, was headed by Ambassador Dorsinville of Haiti. Then, in 1959, my Government nominated me to serve as Burma's representative on another Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, Nauru and New Guinea; and had it not been for the prevalence of a new different set of circumstances, I, together with other colleagues of mine, would have had the honour and the privilege of visiting Western Samoa, one of the countries or Islands in the Pacific which I have long dreamed of visiting since childhood.

(The President)

Since the year 1957 I have endeavoured to discharge my duties and responsibilities seriously and honestly. I have always maintained the view that the Trusteeship Council is and should be the first clearing house where conditions in the Trust Territories must be thoroughly and dispassionately examined and solutions sought through peaceful means by specially qualified persons within the meaning of Article 86, paragraph 2, of the Charter. The basic principles of our discussions in this Council must be complete objectivity and the triumph of reason and prudence over passion and feeling, although these are frequently justified and praiseworthy.

At the conclusion of our work I feel satisfied that this obligation has been conscientiously discharged by all members of the Trusteeship Council.

I do appreciate the tokens of friendship and trust which have been lavishly showered upon me. Last year you elected me to the office of Vice-President, which post I held with a deep sense of humility but with full confidence in your courtesy, your generosity, your sense of justice, your tolerance and your co-operation. Now, as retiring President of the Trusteeship Council, I wish to thank you for the kind words of friendship and esteem which have been expressed.

(The President)

As I listened attentively to the kind and generous remarks of representatives round this table, I must confess that I was deeply touched, and even embarrassed; and if you are going to say them on this occasion, I shall be more embarrassed. But I know too that, although some of you may not have been able to see eye to eye with me on certain problems with which this Council has long been seized, none of you have ever found occasion to be disagreeable towards the humble and honest role which, during the past few weeks, I have played as your presiding officer in this Council and outside this chamber. I think that I have succeeded in upholding the outstanding traditions of the Council. If I have deviated from certain past practices, such as the controversial afternoon recesses, it was simply because I knew that you too wished to conclude the Council's work at a date earlier than had been anticipated. Taken in that light, and that goal having been reached, one might safely conclude that the so-called "beverage breaks" could not but be regarded as a wicked waste of precious time.

The Council needs no reminder from me that conditions in at least two Trust Territories in the Pacific region will long engage the concentrated attention of the General Assembly through the Fourth Committee. One Trust Territory, because of its legal character, will bear the brunt of critical analysis in this Council only. To that august and energetic body known as the Fourth Committee, I shall repair reluctantly, and there I shall await the results of close collaboration between the Administering Authorities and the inhabitants of the Trust Territories; and even though my country will no longer be an active member of this Council as of 1 January 1962, you can rest assured that I shall endeavour to sneak into a cosy corner and listen to your interesting debates as a silent spectator -- but certainly not as a disinterested student of Trusteeship affairs.

All of us can now feel satisfied that the two Trust Territories of Tanganyika and Western Samoa will accede to independence on 9 December 1961 and 1 January 1962 respectively. One of them is assured of a seat in this international Organization; the other might well wake up and make up its mind later.

(The President)

The Administering Authorities responsible for the speedy advancement of dependent peoples in the Territories and for leading them to freedom and independence should not relax their efforts in their discharge of Charter obligations. With reference to persistent demands -- demands which will be made also in the General Assembly and elsewhere -- for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 entitled "Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples", the colonial Powers would be well advised to adapt their policies quickly to changed circumstances and to the tempo of our times. Personally, I would like very much to urge them to establish targets and plans for complete emancipation and independence of these peoples well ahead of any explosive situation that might obtain in the future, and thus be ready to furnish detailed information on that score to the Trusteeship Council at subsequent sessions, rather than still to persist dubiously in the polite but non-committal pronouncement or pledge of "do not call us; we will call you".

I wish to express at the end of this session my sincere thanks to the representatives of the specialized agencies of the United Nations. I know that they have an abiding interest in the human problems and the three enemies of mankind -- ignorance, disease and poverty -- which confront the peoples of the Trust Territories. I know also that they are prepared to render such assistance and advice as will redound to their credit whenever such help is called for. The representatives of these specialized agencies have in the past brought to the Council their very valuable contribution. I do express the hope that, whatever might be the composition of the Council and its agenda at the next session, they will continue to honour this august body with their physical presence and their valuable intellectual and technical contribution to its work.

Could any President, particularly the retiring President, under any circumstances, afford to fail or forget to express high appreciation of the splendid assistance of the Secretariat? I do not have to expatiate on the high competence and silent devotion of Mr. Protitch, Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and of Mr. Cottrell, our Secretary, because all of you know them well and place great reliance, as indeed I do, on their skill, experience, knowledge and

(The President)

judgement. Had it not been for their valuable service, it would have been very difficult for me to discharge my functions successfully as President.

I should also like to thank the Trusteeship staff, the conference officers and their staff, the interpreters, the translators, the precis-writers, the verbatim reporters, the technicians and the guards, whose anonymity and modesty compel me to refrain from mentioning them individually by name. Some of them are seen but not heard; others are heard but not clearly seen; but their handiwork -- individual and collective -- is seen and felt. I know as well as you do that they work very hard -- perhaps even harder than some of us. They perform their tasks -- thankless tasks -- in a highly qualified and competent manner.

May I also express my sincere thanks to my colleague and friend, Mr. Bingham, the Vice-President of the Trusteeship Council. I must confess that I regret not having yielded my place to him as often as I might have wished in order to relax and have a breath of fresh air when the atmosphere in this Council chamber became charged with a high voltage of emotion and grew unbearably heated; but whenever my more formal duties took me away from this table, Mr. Bingham, representative of the United States, was kind enough to take the Chair. Whenever he did assume the dual role, he did so with a competence and an intelligence which all of you have duly recognized.

I am afraid that, with this somewhat lengthy farewell lengthy speech of mine, I have probably wearied you and taxed your patience. But I feel that I must faithfully follow the ancient custom and give expression to my emotions at the close of this short but fruitful session.

All of us, having worked so hard, deserve rest and relaxation.

To all my dear friends and colleagues in the Council and to my fellow workers in the Secretariat, too numerous to mention here and now by name, let me bid farewell and express my heartfelt thanks.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I wish to take the floor on behalf of the delegation of the United Arab Republic and my own delegation in our expressions of thanks and tribute to you and to the Secretariat, which has been responsible for the work of this Council during this session, which expressions are shared by the delegation of the Soviet Union.

Burma has been a member of this Council for several years, and during the majority of these years you have had the privilege of speaking on behalf of the delegation on trusteeship matters. As you mentioned in passing, you were during these years able to visit, I believe, practically all Trust Territories whose affairs this Council has discussed during the last three or four sessions, and therefore there is hardly one among us with your personal knowledge and experience of the Trust Territories and their affairs. In view of that, and in view of the fact that Burma at the end of this year will retire from this Council, I think it was entirely fitting that this last session of Burma's present membership should have been presided over by you, and that we should have had the benefit of your experience, of your wisdom and of your guidance. You have conducted our meetings with great fairness, outstanding objectivity, and I have personally admired your great patience with us all, especially perhaps with me, because I have contributed a good deal to the troubles of this Council. I have admired above all your innate sense of humility in approaching all the various problems that arose from time to time. Our expressions of gratefulness, of thanks and tribute to you are most sincerely meant, and I am sure this Council will be much the poorer for the departure from its midst not only of the delegation of Burma, but of yourself personally when we gather here again, which I trust will be early next year.

We should like to join you in what you said by way of our appreciation and tribute to our Under-Secretary who has never failed to enlighten the proceedings of this Council when his intervention was necessary; to the Council Secretary who has laboured hard and long on our behalf, and other members of the Secretariat, those who have heard and seen, those who are only heard and not seen, and those who are seen, but not too clearly. To all of them we express our grateful thanks.

In more ways than one this has been an eventful and remarkable session of this Council. We have for the last time discussed the affairs of at least two

(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

territories. I refer to Tanganyika and Western Samoa. We have taken note of the developments in the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration. These three Trust Territories are rapidly moving out of the sphere of jurisdiction and the sphere of interest of this Council, and this itself lends special importance to this session.

Perhaps the most interesting and most inspiring event of the session was the coming here of that great statesman from Africa, more particularly from Tanganyika, Mr. Julius Nyerere. I think it was perhaps among the most elevating moments in this Council's life to hear him say that this Council has in all the years of its work discharged its duties with the greatest possible seriousness on its part. It is good for us all to know that this is the view that responsible people, especially people in Mr. Nyerere's position, in Trust Territories take that view of our work. This, therefore, was perhaps one of the highlights of the session.

Before I close I should also like to express our thanks to our colleagues here, particularly those of our colleagues who provided personnel for the various committees -- the Drafting Committees, the Committee on Petitions and other committees that have worked on behalf of this Council, and who have prepared the first drafts of its recommendations and observations.

Our thanks are also due to the specialized agencies. They have been rather quiet this year but that does not mean to say that their contribution is any the less. Their very presence here is indicative of their interest, their continued interest in our work, and if their contribution should appear somewhat less this year than in the years past, that is perhaps due to the fact that the scope of our own work has been narrowing over some time; necessarily, in the nature of things that was to be the case.

Last but not least, our thanks and our tributes are due to our Vice-President. You yourself noted that there were not too many occasions for him to be in your Chair, but I should like to say that the occasions on which he did preside over the business of this Council, he did so with great distinction and great ability.

Mr. DIEZ de MEDINA (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation does not want to fail to say here in this Council how grateful and satisfied we are with the work of U Tin Maung, the President of the Trusteeship Council. To his great skill is due the success of our deliberations. The very brilliant statement he made recently reflects the thought and feelings of my delegation as well, especially in connexion with the recommendations addressed to the Administering Authorities with regard to the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) -- and in connexion with the tactics pointed out by Mr. Maung, so that we might combat ignorance, disease and poverty prevailing among our Trust Territories. The experience of the President of the Council is sufficient for us to take his recommendations very seriously.

My delegation would also express our gratitude to the Vice-President, the representative of the United States, for having presided over our debates with great skill, and indeed wisdom. The functions or activities of the Secretary, the Under-Secretary, and so forth, are also worthy of our praise. They deserve our gratitude.

(Mr. Diez de Medina, Bolivia)

These were the remarks that I wished to make in expressing my gratitude, especially to U Tin Maung, in the hope that the Council will continue its work, which has been of such great benefit and which has been reflected in the independence of several Territories, which will be attained about the end of this year.

Mr. KIANG (China): Mr. President, having associated with you myself in the work of the Council for several years, and having travelled on the same mission with you by sea, by air and by road over about, I think, 34,000 miles, I came to know a great deal about you and I can say a great deal to praise you. But I need eloquence to do so.

Mr. President, at the climax of your career in this Council, I think you can take pride in the fact that you have joined the ranks of those who have presided over the process of the self-liquidation of this Council. It was during your tenure that the affairs of Western Samoa and Tanganyika were considered for the last time by this Council. And it was during your tenure that the two Standing Committees and one Sub-Committee came to an abrupt end.

Today, Mr. President, you have brought this summer session to a conclusion and to which, I believe, all of us look forward with great relief. Since I have no eloquence, I can only gather, as one of the poets said, other men's flowers and bind them with a humble thread of mine and offer them to you with great appreciation and very best wishes.

To the Vice-President I think we are thankful particularly for what he had done on two ominous occasions in which he presided over this Council, on two occasions when you were absent from the Council, Mr. President. I think he acted for you admirably well, with despatch and impartiality.

The closing days of each session of this Council depends very much upon the Drafting Committees. We are therefore very grateful to the Chairman, the members and Secretaries of the Drafting Committees for the work they have done. They have helped us to bring this session of the Council to a quick conclusion.

I think we are very grateful to all the representatives of the specialized agencies for their assistance to this Council. We are, of course, very grateful and we owe a great deal to the Secretariat, and I think Dr. Protitch knows how

(Mr. Kiang, China)

much we appreciate the good and hard work of every member of the Secretariat who has assisted this Council directly or indirectly. I must say here on the floor that we have bothered the Conference Officer and the Documents Officer more than anyone else. We are very grateful to them.

I must also say that behind the glass walls are our very good friends the interpreters without whose voices I am afraid we members at this table would not be able to communicate with each other and understand each other.

I should like to say to all my good friends in the Council that now I wish them -- I wish all of us, including myself -- an enjoyable vacation and pleasant travels.

Sir Hugh ECOT (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I feel unqualified to take part in this discussion at this moment, being the newest member of this Council and having been familiar with your work only for the past month. But the representatives of Australia, Belgium and New Zealand have asked me to say a word on their behalf, and I imagine that that request may be in accordance with a practice not unknown in the ancient educational system of England of putting up the new boy to face the headmaster. I am very glad indeed on their behalf and mine to pay my respects to you, Mr. President.

First impressions are enormously important, especially when one comes to a new task. I remember when I was twenty-one years of age I went to my first post in Jerusalem. I remember every incident of course at that time where at that particular stage some of the worst riots ever known took place in the Holy City. Now I come to the new Jerusalem in the New World and I find comparative peace. I am deeply impressed by what I have seen. I shall not forget all the kindness that has been extended to me and especially I have the clear impression that after the mighty winds and the earthquaking votes comes the still small voice of the President, acting always with such dignity and restraint and such quiet authority. He has made a deep impression on me and I shall always remember it.

(Sir Hugh Foot, United Kingdom)

I realize too how fortunate I have been to start my United Nations experience here in the Trusteeship Council and in the comparatively placid waters of this Council. I have learned my first lessons instead of in the rapids and in the waterfalls of the Fourth Committee and the General Assembly. It is true, as more experienced representatives have said to us today, that success has marked the work of this Council. I was recalling myself the figures the other day that out of 22.5 million people who were in Trust Territories when the system was started, by next year we trust that 21 million out of that 22.5 million would have reached the stage of full independence. We rejoice in that success. Our colonial ducklings have become independent swans, our petitioners become Prime Ministers. I do remember that my friend, the representative of the Soviet Union, who left recently, when I made some comment of that kind before, reminded me that some of the Prime Ministers had been at one time in jail. But I think that he will agree, we will all agree, since we are ending on a note of full agreement, that it is better to make Prime Ministers out of prisoners than prisoners out of Prime Ministers.

We have come a long way and I think we are all inspired by that success to go through to the end. I have often been inspired by a famous saying by a countryman of mine, Sir Francis Drake, who said "There must be a beginning of every matter but it is the continuing unto the end that yields the true glory". I believe that those of you who have brought us so far will wish those of us who are to continue the success of the completion of our task.

I should like also to pay my respectful gratitude to the Vice-President, the distinguished Under Secretary, and the Secretary of our Council and his staff. I can vouch for the fact that they make one's arrival as a newcomer very pleasant and very easy.

I should like to refer, if I may, to those distinguished figures opposite us who represent, like Roman Emperors looking down on the arena, the specialized agencies.

I should especially like to pay my respects and to say how grateful we are to the recording and interpreting staff who perform a task which has become one of the wonders of the world. I am amazed as a newcomer to see that it is possible on the day following our somewhat rambling discussions to find the full record completely prepared. We are indeed most grateful to all of you who work with us.

I came as a devoted believer in the United Nations and especially, if I may say so, in the new nations, who may yet save the world. I have had the honour to come under your Presidency to start my association with the United Nations. I have been permitted to give a quotation occasionally, and I should like to end by giving a further quotation, if I may, from my political hero -- I speak of Edmund Burke. I believe for this particular Council this might be a quotation well worth remembering, a sort of slogan for us. This is what he said:

"Slavery they can have anywhere. It is a weed which grows in every soil. Freedom they can have from none but you. It is a commodity of price of which you have the monopoly".

I came as an enthusiast, I am delighted to have had the honour of serving in this Council under your Presidency, and I wish to you and your officers to express my very deep gratitude.

Mr. MONTERO de VARGAS (Paraguay) (interpretation from Spanish): In 1958, Paraguay was designated by the General Assembly to be a member of the Trusteeship Council. It was and continues to be an honourable task which my country was happy to accept, since we have been able by means of this opportunity to work along with all the members and colleagues of ours on this Council. The mandate conferred upon my country by the General Assembly will lapse in December 1961. Because of this imminent lapse of our membership, I wish to say on behalf of Paraguay that we

(Mr. Montero de Vargas, Paraguay)

have attempted to do our very best. We have very carefully followed the debates and we have done everything possible to co-operate in the work of the Council during these three years. Also, in conformity with Paraguayan tradition, we have placed our greatest trust in the United Nations, especially in the responsibilities laid down by the Charter and placed upon the shoulders of the Trusteeship Council.

During our work here we have witnessed Trust Territories achieve independence and made some contribution to that end. We have seen them become sovereign States and realize their aspirations to manage their own affairs. I refer, for example, to the Republic of Togo, the Republic of Somalia, and the Republic of the Cameroons. These are today Member States in the United Nations.

Now looking ahead, we shall in a few months' time have sovereign States arising out of Trust Territories: Tanganyika, Ruanda-Urundi and Western Samoa.

Paraguay will be remembered by those countries, I hope, when they achieve their independence. As a member of the Trusteeship Council, we should like to express to each of these countries on behalf of the people and Government of Paraguay our wishes for all the greatest success, progress and prosperity when they enter upon their independence, and we hope to see them here very soon as Member States of the United Nations.

One of the special tasks performed by Paraguay during these three years was our work on the Visiting Mission sent by this Council to Ruanda-Urundi and Tanganyika. The report submitted to this Council bears witness to the way in which that Visiting Mission did its duty.

We withdraw from this Council with the satisfaction of being able to say that next year there will be only three Trust Territories left: New Guinea, Nauru and the Pacific Islands. We would express the hope that these last three territories will achieve their independence soon.

My brief statement of mine allows me to express on behalf of my Government and my colleague, Miguel Solano, as well as myself, the belief that, in all humility, our contribution to the Trusteeship Council was possible because we were supported by all of you. You gave us the greatest assistance and allowed us to become deeply interested in the destiny of so many people scattered over the face of the earth. We recognize this and express gratitude for the great assistance which we have received from all of you, both officially and personally, and we shall always

remember the great moments of satisfaction which we enjoyed during these last three years when we lived with you, so to speak.

In taking our leave of all of you, we wish you every success, and I should like to say how grateful we are and how we wish to extend special congratulations to our present President and his delegation for the very fine work they have done during those years when they were members of the Council, especially this year of 1961 when Burma gave us our President. We should also like to express our gratitude to our present Vice-President, Mr. Bingham, because he has shown his great ability here.

We should also like to thank Mr. Protitch, the very intelligent Under Secretary, and Mr. Cottrell, the Council Secretary. We extend our thanks to all the members of the Secretariat who have been of such great assistance to us. We cannot fail to say how grateful we are to the members who assisted us so much in the Council, namely, the representatives of the specialized agencies.

In the future, Paraguay will be present at the General Assembly and will carefully follow all the work of the Trusteeship Council there. We are sure that we shall continue to esteem the work done here very much. It redounds to the benefit and prestige of our Organization.

Mr. de CANARET (France)(interpretation from French): You have noted, I am sure, Mr. President, that my delegation has attached great importance in the past to being classified among the Non-Administering Powers. Today I must say that I regret that somewhat, because if we were not so classified/I could have placed myself in the ranks of Sir Hugh Foot, whose talent, qualities and eloquence have been so widely praised here. He always says that he is a newcomer, but the passion with which he defends his ideas and his competence are familiar to us all. I have said this to indicate that I am speaking today for the French delegation and not for the delegation of a Power which would have liked to be on the side of Sir Hugh Foot.

You, Mr. President, have been a great President. We have known others here, but, because of the qualities which my colleagues have so well emphasized, you have been a great President.

Nevertheless, you did make a slight error today in thanking the Council. You spoke from the bottom of your heart, but I must say that it is not for you to thank the Council: it is for us to thank you. For, although we have sat for seventy-nine days -- and you know that the French delegation complained at the beginning about the length of our session -- you have succeeded in bringing us into the harbour without difficulties or problems. Sometimes the discussions have been very lively, but you have always brought to those discussions a touch of gentleness, with your nice smile, which has made our work very agreeable.

I would also say that my delegation regrets that the delegation of Burma and two or three others -- we cannot predict the future structure of the Council -- must leave us at the end of the year. We in the delegation of France are very aware of the co-operation which has existed between the delegation of Burma, particularly U Thant, and his colleagues and mine. This ^{made} ~~has~~ our work much easier when the independence of Togo and the Cameroons came to fruition.

(Mr. de Camaret, France)

I am also very grateful to Mr. Bingham for the way in which he has presided over our meetings. We knew Mr. Bingham even before he came to the Trusteeship Council. But I must say that we have been dazzled by his talent, and we admire his abilities just as we admire yours, Mr. President. I would ask Mr. Bingham to transmit to Mr. Mason Sears, our friend and a past President of the Council, our regrets that he is no longer here with us.

I should also like to express, through you, Mr. President, our sincere thanks to all the members of the Secretariat, particularly Mr. Protitch and Mr. Cottrell, who are old friends of the French delegation.

Let us not forget all our helpers, visible and invisible, these people who are always so kind to us -- and I refer particularly to the representatives of the specialized agencies.

The French delegation has frequently insisted on the translation of English documents into French. You know that this has been a complaint that we have often made to the Secretariat, but no trace remains of that complaint; it is forgotten.

There is a word -- which, incidentally, is difficult to translate into French -- which applies so well to you, Mr. President. It is the word "gentleman". I would request that the English word be used in the verbatim record of my remarks, because it suits you so well.

Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America): I should first like to thank the President and other members of the Council for the kind remarks they have made about my very limited services as Vice-President. I think those words were hardly deserved. Because of the President's conscientious performance of his duties, my duties were very light.

In passing, I would say that I think that at some future time the Council might wish to consider a change in the rules governing the presiding of the Vice-President so as to give the Vice-President the privilege accorded to the President of having another spokesman of his delegation to express the views of his delegation when he is in the Chair. The present system does create a certain difficulty, and perhaps some confusion. This would seem to be a slight weakness in the procedure of the Council which could be easily corrected.

In any event, I greatly enjoyed my limited responsibilities as Vice-President, and I should once again like to express my appreciation to the Council for having elected me and for the kind words which have just been spoken.

As the representative of an Administering Authority, I should like to express our appreciation to delegations here for their many useful and helpful comments during the course of the debates. Since this is an occasion when one likes to say only pleasant things, I should particularly like to commend the delegations of the following countries for their thoughtful and disinterested comments during the debates: Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Burma, China, France, India, New Zealand, Paraguay, the United Arab Republic and the United Kingdom.

We are extremely sorry that the delegations of Burma, Paraguay and the United Arab Republic are here with us today for the last time. I am sure that I am speaking for the other Administering Authorities when I express to the members of those three delegations our great appreciation for their devotion and hard work and their contributions in the past as members of Visiting Missions and of the Trusteeship Council. We shall miss them all very much.

I should also like to join other delegations in expressing our appreciation to the members of the Drafting Committees and the Standing Committee on Petitions. They have performed extremely useful work. We would also join in thanking our much-appreciated friends from the specialized agencies.

In speaking of the work of the Secretariat, I must say that, sitting here as Vice-President, I have gained a better appreciation of the enormous difficulties of the task confronting the Secretariat. It is indeed, for instance, almost a miracle that the verbatim record of each meeting is produced on the next morning. Equally extraordinary, perhaps, is the way in which the various documents are produced, again under great pressure; this represents a very high degree of devotion and skill. I should therefore like to express the keen appreciation and gratitude of my delegation to Mr. Protitch and Mr. Cottrell and the other members of the Secretariat, including the interpreters and the verbatim reporters, who have contributed so much to making our deliberations not only possible but pleasant.

I have referred before during our proceedings to what seem to me to be the great achievements of this Council and the Trusteeship System over the years. I do not wish to take the time now to repeat what I have said. I would only say this: Having spent this first session in the Trusteeship Council, having spent at least part of a session in the General Assembly and having witnessed other agencies of this Organization in operation, I wish that more of the Members of the United Nations could participate in, or at least observe, the work of the Trusteeship Council. I think that one sees here a remarkable degree of non-political devotion to an agreed task, which makes working in the Council a very satisfying thing.