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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE THOUSAND AND NINETY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 3 June 1960, at 10.30 a.m.

President:

Mr. VITELLI

(Italy)

1. Examination of annual reports of Administering Authorities on the administration of Trust Territories:

Somaliland under Italian administration [3g] (continued)

Date of independence of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration [15] (continued)

Report of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration [19] (continued)

2. Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General [10] (continued)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.1099 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

AGENDA ITEMS 3g, 15 and 19

EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF TRUST TERRITORIES: SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION (T/L.973; T/PET.11/L.61-L.73; T/COM.11/L.332-346; 348-351; 354-360): DATE OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1418 (XIV); T/1534 and T/1537): REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION (T/1516) (continued)

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

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Fettareppa-Sandri, Special Representative for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

General debate (continued)

Mr. MONTERO DE VARGAS (Paraguay) (interpretation from Spanish): It is a privilege to represent Paraguay on this occasion, an occasion when the Council is studying and analysing the last or latest report of the Administering Authority for the Territory of Somaliland. The Republic of Italy exercises this Trusteeship, and on 1 July, in a very few days from now, Somaliland will achieve its full independence.

The reading, analysis and conclusions of the documentation presented by the Administering Authority give us a very clear picture of the progress achieved in the Territory of Somaliland in the political, economic and social fields. The opening statement, which was presented in such a fine manner by Mr. Plaza on behalf of the Administering Authority, and also the statement made by the Special Representative, Mr. Fettareppa-Sandri, have provided us with sufficient material as to the work performed by Italy, leading to the progress and welfare of the inhabitants of Somaliland.

(Mr. Montano de Vargas, Paraguay)

The opinions expressed by Mr. Baradi, Chairman of the Advisory Council, and the co-operation displayed by Mr. de Holte Costello, a distinguished member of the Advisory Council, have given us an idea of the efforts made by the people of Somaliland and the considerable assistance given by the Administering Authority. The statement made by the Minister of the Somali Government, His Excellency Hagi Farah Ali Omar, was indeed very impressive. The opinions and judgements which he expressed were of broad scope and were based on fine principles. I believe that this Council will be especially grateful to him inasmuch as he represents the thoughts of a people who very shortly will achieve their independence and sovereignty. The opinions and judgements of Minister Hagi Farah are of unquestionable value to my delegation, and we accept them in this light. We have full confidence in those views. We feel that Minister Hagi Farah is a leader who represents a Government and people that will soon receive full control of the destiny of the Republic of Somalia.

I should like now to refer to certain aspects in the political field, and then I shall make reference to the economic and social fields. In the political field, my delegation would like to emphasize the assurances given by Minister Hagi Farah that under the plan for the transfer of powers, the transfer is being carried out rapidly and on 1 July all responsibilities will have been transferred to the people and Government of Somalia and that upon termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, the first act of the Government will be to approve the Constitution of the Republic. This Constitution establishes the rights of the citizens and supports the Declaration of Human Rights. A law of citizenship will also be approved and applied.

With respect to the economic field, we note that imports have been increased by 14 per cent and that exports have been increased by 62 per cent. We note also that the anticipated deficit for 1960 has decreased. In accordance with the plan of the Administering Authority, all this will be transferred to the Government of Somalia, which will exercise the functions of a Central Bank of the Republic of Somalia.

(Mr. Montero de Vargas, Paraguay)

The training of Somali personnel has been handled very well by the Administering Authority and the training of public officials is being undertaken at the Central Bank and at l'Institut mobilier. Upon the request of the Government of Somaliland, the Government of Italy intends to continue its assistance and to give the necessary economic assistance to the new independent State. My delegation would like to place special emphasis on this fact.

With respect to the social and educational fields, the Administering Authority has continued its assistance and has even increased it. The functioning of labour unions also will be assured. For example, there already exists the Somali Confederation of Workers, which is made up of some nine unions, and the United Federation of Workers, which is made up of some seven other unions. A law has been written to regulate the conflicts which might arise and to help settle harmoniously the difficulties between employees and employers. A system of social security is in full force, and this assists in maintaining good relations between employees and employers.

The report of the Administering Authority provides us with some statistics in relation to the social security system and matters related to health insurance as well as accident and disability insurance.

With regard to public health, we note on page 126 of the report of the Administering Authority some interesting information on the services given at the service hospitals in the Territory, in particular the De Martino Hospital, the Rava Hospital and the Forlanini Hospital, as well as the Chemical and Pharmaceutical Institute, the Regional Hospital at Bosaso and various other institutions in Mogadiscio and other communities of the Territory.

(Mr. Montero de Vargas, Paraguay)

Also, on page 129 of the same report, we are shown the non-governmental health services. They show us the campaigns against malaria, tuberculosis, venereal disease, leprosy and so forth.

With regard to primary, secondary and advanced education, the report gives us sufficient data and explanations on pages 140 to 150. My delegation would emphasize this chapter in the report and we would say that great progress has been achieved.

To make a more detailed analysis of the intense and effective work accomplished by the Administering Authority would be rather easy, and indeed my delegation could do it, since in this particular case of Somaliland under Italian administration we find much information which could be of special interest for study here by the Council. But we do not wish to expatiate on all these matters inasmuch as all Council members are aware of the fact that the undertaking which Italy assumed under the Trusteeship Agreement has been fully implemented. The people and the Government of Italy must feel proud of, and this Council must feel highly satisfied with, the efforts which have been made. Italy has indeed done a very splendid job.

In extending these congratulations to your country, Mr. President, I should like to refer to the final opinion voiced by Ambassador de Holte Castello, which can be summed up as follows: No one could believe in a miracle. However, the people of Somaliland and the Administering Authority, jointly with the specialized agencies of the United Nations -- the World Health Organization, UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labour Organisation and UNICEF -- nevertheless achieved this miracle in the brief period of ten years' time, and they have brought the people of Somaliland to a position where they can achieve their full independence and sovereignty on 1 July next. My delegation would associate itself with this tribute paid by Ambassador de Holte Castello.

At this stage, my delegation would like to refer to an important aspect brought out by Mr. Plaja: the assistance which the Government and people of Somaliland will need in the future after having achieved their independence. The Administering Authority has drawn up economic and social development plans. To execute these plans, assistance of an economic nature will be required.

As a country entering upon its independence, the Republic of Somalia needs special attention from other friendly countries and from the United Nations. With regard to the United Nations, we have the fullest confidence that all necessary measures will be taken so that the specialized agencies will continue their very fine work under resolutions already approved by the Economic and Social Council, and we believe that the Organization will extend its assistance on a broad scale to the people and Government of Somalia so that these economic and social plans can be continued.

Following out this line of ideas, we would say that we greatly appreciate the support furnished by the United Kingdom. This is a work of great solidarity with the people of the future Republic of Somalia.

There is one fact which I should like to bring out. I take the greatest pleasure in stating that the Philippines, Colombia and the United Arab Republic deserve our thanks for the very fine work done by their spokesmen on the Advisory Council for Somaliland.

In conclusion, I should like to ask Hagi Farah Ali Omar, when he returns to his country, to transmit our very best wishes to the people of Somaliland and to the leaders of the Government, the Prime Minister and the President of the Constituent Assembly. On behalf of the delegation of Paraguay, may I say that we hope that Somalia will soon join us as a Member of the United Nations.

Mr. KONGZINISKO-MORIZET (France) (interpretation from French): Just some four weeks before the independence of Somaliland under Italian administration, it was scarcely necessary for the Trusteeship Council to proceed to an examination of the situation of that Territory in the customary manner. It was a happy state of affairs that the questions put to the Special Representative were limited by tacit agreement and that the Council went on immediately to the general debate.

Our contribution to this debate will also be very brief. It is not that there are no further political, economic or social problems in this Territory, but that these problems have now escaped the responsibility of the international Organization, and the process of accession of Somaliland to international sovereignty has been definitely settled. The formal act of recognition of

independence and the transfer of the residual powers of the Italian administration will simply consecrate, on 1 July next, a situation which already exists.

This transition will be easy. Independence has been granted to a Territory which, for some four years now, has had its own Government and its own parliament, and where universal suffrage is customary. Italy therefore did not wait for the very threshold of independence to set up all the machinery of a democratic State, and we see this in the report of the Administering Authority with regard to the implementation of resolution 1418 (XIV) of the General Assembly. Autonomy is coming into effect along with independence. We know what a felicitous method this was and what good results it has led to.

The report of the Advisory Council, the abundant documentation provided by the Italians and Somalis, the introductory speech of Mr. Plaja and Hagi Farah Ali Omar's statement allow us to appreciate the events which have recently occurred. The plan for transfer of all governmental powers to an independent Government, submitted a year ago by Italy, has been followed up without any obstacles. All the questions in paragraph 4 of the resolution adopted on 5 December 1959 by the General Assembly have been settled without any delay.

And so it is that the Legislative Assembly of Mogadiscio was transformed, on 25 January last, into a Constituent Assembly, and this Constituent Assembly was enlarged on 21 May by the addition of twenty provisional members, just as it had been enlarged two months before. I refer to the political committee called upon to draw up the draft constitution.

(Mr. Kosciuszko-Morizet, France)

I am sorry that the three opposition parties did not feel it possible to participate in the work of this Committee. Perhaps they will now go along and co-operate in the drafting of the constitution. We learned with great interest that this constitution will later be submitted for popular ratification by referendum, which also fits within the framework of resolution 1413 (XIV). Immediately, before 1 July 1960, the Somali Assembly will elect a temporary President of the Republic who, on the day of independence, will promulgate the constitution which will immediately come into force provisionally. Thus will have been settled very simply the problem which has been debated so much here in the Trusteeship Council, namely, the promulgation of the constitution and the election of the President. Very often around this table we engage in very agitated and theoretical discussions. Sometimes the problem, like the problem of the hen or the egg, which came first, seemed incapable of solution. However, in this case, our Italian friends have found a simple solution which, like Christopher Columbus' egg, has solved the problem.

In a few weeks' time Somaliland will achieve its independence. However, not all problems have been solved. When we look at the economic prospects of this new State we realize that we have fewer reasons for optimism than we have in the constitutional-political field. The Italian representatives have stated here very brilliantly and concisely all aspects of the problem. They do not pretend that everything is perfect in Somaliland or that the economy of the country is flourishing. Natural obstacles are difficult to overcome and the national resources are very limited indeed. We must admit that the situation seems somewhat alarming, but we must also congratulate the Administering Authority inasmuch as from the very beginning it has attempted to find all humanly possible solutions to assure the establishment of a viable economy.

Studies and surveys made on several occasions by Italian organizations have permitted us to draw up a detailed inventory of the requirements and resources of the new State. Quite recently a supplementary study was conducted analysing the prospects offered in the various sectors of the economy up to 1964. This new study shows us the already known facts under a slightly more favourable light. The deficit in the general balance of payments, previously estimated as 36 million somalos for 1962, that is to say about \$5 million, should not exceed \$3,800,000. We hope that this is not too optimistic an estimate and

(Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet, France)

that this reduction of the deficit will be based really on the development of exports or on increased revenues.

Although the United Nations is no longer called upon to furnish advice or recommendations to the new State, we ought, nevertheless, to hope that improvement of the fiscal system will encourage the Somali people to exhibit greater civic conscience in paying their taxes than they shown in the past.

In the present state of the economy the country's resources are based principally on the exportation, which our Italian colleagues have described as traditional, of certain products: bananas, fish, canned meats, skins and furs. Some of these products, bananas particularly, are exported preferentially to Italy. There is no doubt that the Government of Italy will continue its assistance to the Somali producers and exporters by continuing to buy part of the production of bananas -- and this represents a great benefit -- at a price higher than the world market price.

My delegation has noted with great interest the new data supplied by the Italian delegation with regard to the planning of the economy. It is evident from these figures that the plans established in 1958 for a six-year period remain valid, though they have been modified in certain respects by changes in connexion with certain more ambitious projects, changes applying especially to the infrastructure of the economy and to port installations.

There again it would seem that nothing can be determined upon or carried out without formal assurances on the matter of the possibility of public investments furnished by outside aid. No one can doubt that, if this were a country under its trusteeship, the United Nations would furnish an important part of this assistance. We know, furthermore, that various friendly countries, notably Italy, whose contribution, let us not forget, has already risen to \$100 million, will not be sparing in their efforts to permit the carrying-out of these plans of development.

In a few weeks the objectives fixed by the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement of 2 December 1950 will be attained. Since this is the last time that we shall have the opportunity of passing judgement upon the work of the Administering Authority, we have the pleasant duty of addressing to Italy our warmest congratulations. Our friends on the other side of the Alps ten years ago accepted a real wager. Today they have won that wager, thanks to their tenacity and to their genius as builders, one of their outstanding characteristics.

(Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet, France)

Our congratulations likewise go to the Somali people and to their leaders, to whom we wish happiness and prosperity. We understand the joy and the pride of Minister Hagi Farah Ali Omar on the eve of the independence of his country. For a long time he has been appearing before the Trusteeship Council to speak on behalf of his countrymen. Today he has the justly earned honour of taking back to his country the congratulations and best wishes of all the delegations assembled around this table.

I should not wish to overlook the work of the United Nations Advisory Council. The representatives of the international Organization have for years given the benefit of their opinion to the Administering Authority and the population of the Trust Territory. And in this very Council their great experience in the problems they have studied has furnished us with a solid base on which to work.

We are particularly moved in our feelings when we remember one of these representatives, Mr. Salah, who three years ago tragically lost his life in the service of the United Nations.

The members of the Advisory Council have earned our gratitude: the Chairman, Mr. Baradi, who only yesterday told us of his faith in the mission of the United Nations; the representative of the United Arab Republic, Mr. El Zayat; and, if he will permit me to call him so, the "veteran" of the Advisory Council -- though this word seems a poor description of his dynamism -- the representative of Colombia, Mr. de Holte Castello.

I shall not enumerate all the specialized agencies and all the organs of the United Nations which united their efforts with those of the Administering Authority.

Reference has been made here to an event which will take place on the day when Somalia achieves independence. I refer to the union of Somalia with the Protectorate of Somaliland. If I refer to it now it is only to underline the fact that this is outside the competence of the Council and that this event should come after independence.

When new States request admission to the United Nations as Members they must commit themselves to assume the obligations of the Charter and they must be, in the judgement of the Organization, willing and able to carry out these obligations.

(Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet, France)

We do not doubt at all that the new State of Somalia which we shall welcome with great joy among us will bear these principles in mind. Its leaders will endeavour to resist the temptations which sometimes assail new States. They will, we are convinced, be able not only to maintain peaceful relations with all their neighbours -- that goes without saying -- but also relations of true friendship and co-operation.

The thanks which we express to the Italian delegation, and particularly to Mr. Plaja, are not merely a matter of form. They are more than mere routine thanks. And this applies as well to the thanks we express to Mr. Fattarappa-Sandri, who has still much to do in the Territory and to whom we hope that no petitioner comes on 30 June demanding a new hearing. Likewise, neither would we wish to forget our President, Mr. Vitelli, whose presidency is particularly felicitous and symbolic at this time when Italy ceases its function as Administering Authority.

The Special Representative and the members of the Advisory Council on Somaliland withdrew.

AGENDA ITEM 10

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM IN TRUST TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESOLUTION 36 (III) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 754 (VIII); T/1533)

U Tin MAUNG (Burma): Even a casual glance at the pages of this report (T/1533) tells us that there is no noteworthy progress in the distribution of official records or in the dissemination of information concerning the United Nations in general. I think we can describe this report very aptly as "the usual report". There is no progress and no indication that the Administering Authorities are redoubling their efforts to disseminate information about the United Nations in their Trust Territories.

Previous speakers have referred to many defects in the machinery by which the dissemination of information has been carried on in the Trust Territories. If we look at paragraph 6 on page 3 of the Secretary-General's report, under the heading "Dissemination of information in the Trust Territories", we find that information material other than official records

"was forwarded to about 111 addressees in all, including...Government officials, newspaper editors, school teachers, non-governmental organizations and voluntary education units."

Last year information material other than official records was forwarded to about 120 addressees. Thus we find a decrease of 9 addressees.

As regards the distribution of different title features in different languages, we find from the Secretary-General's report this year that there has been not only a decrease in the number of copies of different titles distributed but also a decrease in the number of title features. Last year copies of this information material was distributed in four different languages. This year copies of information material was circulated only in English, French and Arabic.

As is well known, as the nationalist movements in these Territories become more pronounced there is an increase in interest taken by the people in the discussion in the Trusteeship Council of conditions in their countries, and during the year covered by the Secretary-General's report official records of

(U Tin Maung, Burma)

meetings of the Fourth Committee and the Trusteeship Council were requested by 202 individuals. Perhaps there may be a larger number of persons who might have requested the Administering Authorities to distribute these records. It seems hardly necessary for my delegation to add that the distribution of records and information material, in relation to the over-all population of the Trust Territories of approximately 20 million persons, remains quite inadequate.

The Cameroons and Togoland under French administration, which became new independent States at the beginning of this year, have fared very well, and now that they are sovereign States we in this Council have no need or right to advise them how they should best promote the dissemination of information about the United Nations. We are sure that they will do their best to interest their own peoples in the activities of the United Nations, and they might even interest them in the actual working of the Trusteeship System.

From the report under discussion, from the annual reports of the Administering Authorities and from the reports of previous Visiting Missions it would appear that in the Pacific Islands and Western Samoa the dissemination of information relating to the activities of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Council is proceeding quite satisfactorily. But my delegation would note that there is not much progress in the Territories of Tanganyika, Ruanda-Urundi, New Guinea and Nauru. As a matter of fact, even the 1960 Visiting Mission's report on Tanganyika has not devoted a single paragraph to the dissemination of information on the activities of the United Nations and the working of the International Trusteeship System. Perhaps the members of the Mission were very busy with other matters, but it seems to me that this question should always be investigated whenever a Visiting Mission goes to a Trust Territory.

As regards the media for dissemination of information, it seems to my delegation that, except in Western Samoa and the Pacific Islands, the Administering Authorities in the Trust Territories have not made full use of those media, but in all fairness I must say that there is some progress in Ruanda-Urundi in this respect. In paragraph 22 of the Secretary-General's report we are told that, according to information given by the Special Representative of the Administering Authority, a broadcasting station was to be

(U Tin Maung, Burma)

established in Usumbura by 1 December 1959. We trust that this broadcasting system is now working at full capacity.

I cannot conclude my remarks on the item under discussion without referring to General Assembly resolution 1410 (XIV) which refers to the establishment of information centres in the Trust Territories. Of course, that item is not on our agenda during this session, but many previous speakers have already referred to the importance of establishing these information centres in the Trust Territories. But is it not very obvious that unless the Administering Authorities are really keen and interested in the dissemination of information there is not much likelihood that the people will be served much better than they have been under the present system which, in the opinion of my delegation and other delegations, is quite inadequate. However, this is a matter to which we should like to refer later on when we are examining conditions in the Trust Territories during the present session of the Trusteeship Council.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It will be recalled that at our meeting yesterday morning the Soviet delegation asked a number of questions. At the same time, we made a request to the Secretariat that some responsible representative of the Office of Public Information of the United Nations be present at meetings of the Council when this question was being discussed. Therefore, if the Secretariat of the Council has informed the Office of Public Information of our request, we should like to see that representative here in order that we might put some questions to him.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Katzin, Acting Head, Office of Public Information, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Possibly it might be well to ask several questions at the same time in the hope of obtaining replies at this meeting.

Document T/1553 describes the dissemination of information in Trust Territories and gives a summary of the addresses and of the type of information sent to the Trust Territories. From this it may be seen that the number of addresses and the number of copies have remained unchanged for the past two years, and these numbers are, of course, quite unsatisfactory and insufficient. We wish to know whether the Secretariat of the United Nations has made any attempt to extend the number of people in the Trust Territories to whom information is sent. A second question on the same subject is, to whom is the official information concerning the United Nations being sent? We gathered the impression from reading some of the documents and reports of the Visiting Missions that, basically, these documents are addressed to officials. As regards New Guinea, in particular, if we are not mistaken, out of fifty-one addresses, half are those of religious missions. Is our understanding correct? Has the Secretariat itself made any effort to enlarge the number of persons to whom official information concerning the United Nations is addressed? Were any such proposals made to the Administering Authorities, for example, and what was their reaction?

Then we wish to know what was the procedure in the preparation of this pamphlet A Sacred Trust? Who were the United Nations Secretariat officials who participated in its preparation? What did it cost the United Nations to publish this pamphlet? To which Trust Territories was it sent, and in what quantities?

(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

We should like to know the over-all picture regarding this pamphlet. How many copies were printed?

A further question on this subject concerns the future plans of the Office of Public Information regarding the compilation of special information for dissemination in the Trust Territories. What other means are available -- for example, the production of films? Perhaps visual displays might be sent which would explain the activities of the United Nations and its role in pursuance of the provisions of the international Trusteeship System. At our meeting yesterday morning we referred to the fact that a number of delegations are aware of the Secretariat's plans for preparing a film on Africa and that some African delegations have submitted material to be included in this film. Such material would reflect the situation in the different African countries. Since the Trust Territories in Africa are of considerable interest to the Trusteeship Council, and as we consider that a film on Africa would be a very timely and necessary undertaking, we should like to know what stage has been reached in the production of that film. Perhaps some other films have been planned dealing particularly with Trust Territories. We should like to know the position in that regard and the plans of the Secretariat.

We have asked quite a number of questions, but I think that the answers could be given, in part at least, at this meeting, and, if time is required in which to prepare other answers, we shall be glad to wait until another meeting.

Mr. KATZIN (Acting Head, Office of Public Information): There will be some difficulty in answering all the questions raised by the representative of the Soviet Union, but I shall do my best to reply as fully as possible at the present time.

On the subject of the nature of the information disseminated to Trust Territories, the report before the Council represents the situation as of this date. The Office of Public Information operates in this area through the Administering Authorities, as in all other areas. The Office of Public Information does not operate independently in any country and, similarly, in Trust Territories it operates through the Administering Authorities; and that includes the sources of distribution and the quantity of material required, on which consultations take place and agreement is reached with the Administering Authorities. That is a broad principle which is applied throughout the Office of Public Information's work within Trust Territories and in all other countries which we serve.

(Mr. Katzin)

I cannot give the answers as to the cost and numbers of pamphlets which have been distributed in certain definite areas, but I shall try to obtain that information. It is a difficult type of information to obtain, if specifics are needed as to where and in what quantities, Territory by Territory, such a pamphlet might have been distributed, but I shall attempt to get the information.

On the subject of the content of the public information programme as a whole, including that of films, the content of programmes proposed is, as you know, the subject of a submission to the General Assembly this year. A report has been requested by the General Assembly on this subject. It is in the course of preparation at this moment for discussion both with the Assembly committees, such as the Administrative and Budgetary Committee, and also in consultation with the panel on public information which has been established by the Secretary-General at the request of the General Assembly.

I should like to say that the representative of the Soviet Union is misinformed, however, on this question of a film on Africa being part of the programme for 1960. There is no such intention. The programme of films for completion during this year does, however, include six films that are in production -- short documentary films of an educational nature on the Charter, the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council. The content of the film on the Trusteeship Council will obviously have reference to the Council's responsibilities in Africa. The film proper on Africa to which, I think, the representative of the Soviet Union refers is a film which has been proposed by a staff member of the film division. This has been under consideration by the OPI but for the present it is not being proceeded with, as it is in favour of completing the accepted and defined programme of work. It is possible that the film will, however, be completed this year or possibly next year, but it is not planned that a film on Africa will in fact be undertaken by the OPI immediately, though it is planned that, in consultation with Governments, some work will begin on such a film towards the end of next year. I think that is as far as I can reply to the question.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): This answer, I must confess, could not satisfy us at all. Perhaps it would be easier if we were to put more specific questions so that it might be completely clear just what we have in mind.

Let us begin with the question of the film on Africa. The Under-Secretary tells us that the Soviet delegation apparently was misinformed regarding the fact that this film was planned for 1960, that there is no intention to complete it this year but that the possibility of such a film is not excluded. First of all we should like to say that we are seeking information from the Under-Secretary and we should like to have a clear idea of the plans of the department which he heads. If there are some difficulties, perhaps the Secretariat might bring these to the attention of the competent organs for discussion. What are the difficulties standing in the way of completing this film in 1960? Almost ten Territories in Africa which are now Trust Territories will be independent at the end of 1960, and the Secretariat of the United Nations, this great institution with its huge staff and great financial possibilities, is unable to complete a film on Africa, although the timeliness of such a film is recognized by all, and I am sure that the Under-Secretary will not deny that. That is why we should like to have a more specific answer to that question.

For our part, we should like to draw the attention of the Secretariat to the fact that such a film, of course, is a necessity at this point. The United Nations is playing a very definite part in the attainment of independence by African countries, and the Under-Secretary will no doubt recall that the Secretary-General, Mr. Hammarskjöld, went to Africa and has spoken on the subject of Africa on numerous occasions and presented proposals. Thus how can the Secretariat of the United Nations stay outside this and go on simply planning something for 1961? We must say that it is already late for this film in 1960. Therefore it is absolutely essential for this film to be produced in 1960. If there are some difficulties and the Secretariat needs assistance, then the Secretariat should by all means present its requests and explain its difficulties. Then the Trusteeship Council in particular could perhaps assist. Therefore, we should like to have a more specific answer to this question and perhaps an assurance from the

(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

Secretariat that all steps will be taken to ensure that this film on Africa will be completed in 1960 and as soon as possible -- say, within the next month or two. We are saying this not because it happens to be our opinion but because we are acquainted with the views of other African delegations which fully share our view on this subject. That is why we should not like the Secretariat at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly to find itself in a situation where it would be criticized severely not only by my delegation but by a number of other delegations as well. We are raising this question now perhaps in too acute a manner, not because we wish to complicate the position of the Secretariat in any way; we simply wish to point out to the Secretariat an opportunity for gaining lost time and for doing what now is absolutely essential and timely. That is why we should like to have some assurance at least from the Under-Secretary on this subject.

Mr. KATZIN (Acting Head, Office of Public Information): If I understand the question of the representative of the Soviet Union, it is whether I can give a specific answer that there will be a film made on Africa this year and, if there is not the intention of making it, as a result of certain difficulties, whether this Council could assist the Office of Public Information or the Secretariat out of those difficulties. There are no such difficulties of a specific nature except that it is not on the 1960 plan of work that such a film should be completed this year.

Perhaps I have not made myself clear in this respect. Of course, the events in Africa are covered fully by the Office of Public Information, on the subject of acquiring film material, that is, material on the procedures and the facts of the independence celebrations and developments in Africa, as they come about. This material is being collated. But, as I understand it, the question of the representative of the Soviet Union is whether a feature film on that whole subject is to be produced this year. For a great many reasons, it is not feasible, in our opinion, to change the existing programming to make such a film effectively this year. The clearances required and a great many technical reasons, including the question of staff available, and a number of other matters of considerable policy

moment from the OPI standpoint arise in the production of such a film and also in the allocation of its total work programme for the year in relation to other films.

There is, as I have seen it, the intention that a film on the Trusteeship Council, as on other organs and bodies of the Assembly, is to be produced this year, and this film will have reference and will have material relating to the work of the Trusteeship Council and the development of the independence movements in Africa, and they will be visually portrayed.

(Mr. Katzin)

I think the question of the representative of the Soviet Union revolves around the specific film. Let me say that such a film has been proposed by a single member of the Film Division. I have personally ruled that this film cannot be proceeded with to the exclusion of the programme which has been set this year for the film section. We have reported this position in the report which the Secretary-General will submit to the General Assembly at the coming session. That does not exclude the possibility that the materials which are in existence and which have been worked on will not be used this year, if they can be used to better advantage, if they are considered suitable, and if it can be done within the resources and the time limits we have.

On the specific question of whether such a film is planned, the answer is, "No". I do not believe it would be appropriate to dislocate the planned work of the department in order specifically to produce this film this year.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Of course, it is not our intention that the work of the Office of Public Information should be upset or that its plans should be destroyed. On the contrary, we would propose that the Office of Public Information and its Under-Secretary, Mr. Katzin, as the person responsible for the department should give serious consideration to the possibility of including the necessary measures in their programme of action regarding this matter. That is why we cannot consider as satisfactory the answer we have just received, and we hope that the Under-Secretary will revise his decision and find it possible to supplement and expand his plans accordingly. The Secretariat of the United Nations has the necessary potential, resources and staff to carry out this additional action and produce this film of Africa this year.

If there are some difficulties and if a decision is taken after all to carry out these plans, the Secretariat, of course, would then be assisted by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the other relevant bodies, so that there would be no difficulties in that connexion. It would be just a matter of ascertaining whether the necessary initiative is being displayed by the department or whether the initiative of an individual member

(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

of the department is being thwarted. If the initiative of this individual member of the Secretariat is not supported, that, of course, could only give rise to critical comment as regards the persons responsible for the Office of Public Information.

We would wish to put the following concrete question: what would be the total number of copies issued and how much would it cost the United Nations?

Mr. KATZIN (Acting Head, Office of Public Information): I am unable to give that answer immediately, but I will secure the information and pass it on to the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): We would be very grateful to the Under-Secretary for any information with which he may be able to provide us. We would like simply to comment at this stage in the debate that in making definite and specific comments in regard to the Office of Public Information we have in mind proposals designed to improve the work of the department. If we have any critical comments to make, they will be essentially of a constructive nature, and we hope that these critical comments will be regarded in that spirit by the heads of the department.

With regard to the report itself, we wish to make a few comments on its substance. As was noted in some detail by the representatives of India and Burma, the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on the United Nations in Trust Territories shows that no progress has been achieved in this field. Of course, we must immediately state that the whole of the responsibility for this lies upon the respective Administering Authorities. The number of addresses to which the official documents of the United Nations are being sent has remained unchanged and, further, the number of these addresses is far too limited. The documentation of the United Nations is being received essentially by the administration officials and, in the case of New Guinea, for some reason half of all the documentation is being received by religious missions. As for the population of the Trust Territories, this information does not reach them, and convincing proof in illustration of this is furnished by the fact that the indigenous population either does not know anything at all about the

(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

United Nations, the Trusteeship Council, the International Trusteeship System and its purposes and principles, or has only the vaguest idea. The best proof of that perhaps are the conversations we have had with the petitioners who have come from the Trust Territories. They have told us quite frankly that many of the indigenous inhabitants have not even heard of the United Nations. The Administering Authorities do not disseminate information on the United Nations in the Trust Territories and, therefore, the whole of the responsibility for the completely unsatisfactory state of affairs in this field lies clearly upon them.

We must recognize that this is not only the conclusion of the Soviet delegation; it is also the conclusion of the General Assembly as a whole, a conclusion which was reflected in a resolution adopted at the fourteenth session. Up to now, nothing has been done on the question of the setting up of information centres in the Trust Territories, and we have heard only vague promises to the effect that soon consultations with some of the Administering Authorities will be initiated. This is in spite of the fact that in its resolution the General Assembly itself specifically stated that in 1960 information centres should be opened in such important territories as Tanganyika, Ruanda-Urundi and New Guinea.

In our view, a certain part of the responsibility for the fact that the situation in this field has not improved must be borne by the Secretariat of the United Nations as well, since for its part it has not been showing initiative, yet the possibility for showing initiative exists.

If the organization of the dissemination of information itself is not being set up in a satisfactory way, and if there are various restrictions on the number of persons to whom this information can be supplied, then perhaps the quality of the information should be revised. I have in mind the pamphlet entitled 'A Sacred Trust'. Of course, we cannot pass judgement upon official documents of the United Nations in which statements of individual representatives are presented and in which each delegation bears responsibility for the validity of the statements. But this particular pamphlet bears the stamp of the United Nations. It is not presented under the aegis of any individual delegation, but it is the product of the United Nations as a whole. What do we read in the pamphlet?

(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

Here, in a rather veiled and subtle way, ideas are being advanced which are not shared, I would say, by the majority of the Members of the United Nations. The authors of this pamphlet, indeed, every now and again are openly displaying their sympathies for colonialist concepts and their sympathy with the Administering Authorities and their sympathy for their plans and their theories. Every now and again that does appear in concrete form. But in its veiled form this runs through the whole of the pamphlet.

Indeed, if we are to take and consider the peoples of Africa at this time, the whole of Africa is in turmoil, the whole of Africa is living with these thoughts of freedom and independence, and the whole of Africa knows about that. And in the pamphlet which is being published by the Secretariat of the United Nations that is not being referred to at all.

A certain portion was taken out of the statement of some anonymous petitioner. And what was the statement, do you imagine? Well, at least the conclusion should be made from these statements that we should not be too hasty, we should learn the craft of governing, we must realize the value of education, medical services, social services, industry and agriculture; that it is necessary to teach the people all these things, first of all, and then speak of independence.

On page 3 of this pamphlet, this excerpt shows the thought that the authors are urging upon the people. It refers to the fact that at the session of the General Assembly there are delegates who are silent and they listen, like you, to the voice of a man from the heart of Africa. And this voice from the heart of Africa says the following:

"... the independence which we desire is a real, not a theoretical one. The independence to which we aspire with all our hearts and for which we work requires political maturity, enough staff, technical skill..."

The author of this pamphlet, who has arbitrarily taken this little excerpt and only this excerpt from the statement of the petitioner and precisely of that petitioner, goes on to say by way of comment:

"It is an eloquent voice, expressing thoughts as fluently as might those who listen. It is the voice of a practical mind; it speaks of the art of government, of the value of educational, medical and social services, of industry, agriculture and of the desire of a people to be taught more about these things."

Of course, nobody is going to challenge the fact that you should teach the people the art of government and that you should give them the necessary education, and so on; but as we see it, the point lies in the fact that up to now they have been unable to obtain all these things under the colonial regime, and that is why they are clamouring for freedom and independence. The authors in the United Nations have put the whole thing topsy-turvy and are trying to prove, first of all, that you have to teach these people all these things, to train them and prepare them, so that there will be sufficient staff and all these other things, and then you can seriously start talking about independence. They are representing this as concrete proposals, as the practical conduct of some of the persons from Africa.

Let us go on. What do we find in the chapter entitled "Charter's Declaration"? It might be thought that the authors would present in an accessible manner, but accurately and clearly, the purposes which the Charter has placed before the Administering Authorities, those duties and objectives which the United Nations has been called upon to carry out in relation to the peoples in the Trust Territories. Without going into too much philosophizing, we might say that since we are speaking of dependent territories what is the ultimate objective, to give them independence? That is the basic purpose of the United Nations, the basic purpose of the Charter. If possible, we could even quote the words of the Charter. We read this section and there is not a word about that there.

Moreover, on page 5 rather questionable and debatable assertions and rather frivolous interpretations of the Charter are given, and also of the corresponding resolutions of the General Assembly. When we are speaking of Non-Self-Governing Territories for some reason there is the thought expressed there that the question of which Non-Self-Governing Territories come under Chapter XI of the Charter is determined by the Administering Authorities. And in referring to these Non-Self-Governing Territories the pamphlet goes on to say:

"A number of them are regarded by their administering powers as falling within the scope of the Charter's declaration."

(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

As for the Trust Territories, it is indicated there that the obligations of the United Nations in that respect are clear cut and specific, and then it goes on to explain what all these obligations boil down to, and the following is stated:

"They amount, in fact, to the regular and detailed international supervision of the administration of each trust territory on the basis of objectives clearly laid down in the Charter."

The author does not seem to be able to come to the point of saying that the basic objective is independence. Everything seems to be orientated towards saying that the obligations are limited at the control -- controlled by the United Nations.

Then we can go on right into the depth of this pamphlet still in the hope of seeing that the authors of this pamphlet will at last say what the Charter states and what there is that is basic in the Charter in relation to the Trust Territories; and at last on page 6 we read the following:

"They administer these territories on the agreed condition that, with the supervision of the United Nations, they will help the people of the territories to reach a number" -- I stress this word -- "a number of clearly-stated goals. Not the least of these goals is, in the words of Article 76 of the Charter, 'their progressive development towards self-government or independence ...'."

Well, how could that be interpreted, may I ask you? How could the officials of the Secretariat speak objectively? Or at least if they can be called objective persons, how could they interpret the Charter of the United Nations in such a manner? First of all, there are a number of purposes, it seems, and certainly it goes on to say that not the least of these is the offering of independence. We consider that such an interpretation is an arbitrary one, is an incorrect one and an intolerable one in the documents of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

Let us go further in this same hapless pamphlet. In that pamphlet there is a passage which, when the delegations of African countries read it, apparently might simply give rise to a very energetic protest on their part. This is what it says:

(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

"In the train of the material influences of the outside world, there has come to the trusteeship lands a political consciousness. Education is the special key that is opening the mind of the trust territory man to the ideas of modern democracy. Indeed, in its broadest sense, education is the pivot on which self-government turns."

It seems to turn out as follows: that before the arrival of the colonialists there was nothing at all in Africa, there was no political consciousness, there was anarchy, chaos, and only the colonialists had begun to introduce a certain semblance of order.

That is not at all so; it is at variance with history and with the facts. I hope that the authors of this pamphlet not only write but also read. They might have read books by Davidson and others and perhaps then their minds would have been clear on this subject and they would not have made such pronouncements on Africa as if this were a continent without any history and without any political consciousness and that only the colonizers have introduced this order and have been the benefactors of these people by conferring that consciousness on them. It is known that long before the arrival of the colonizers on the continent of Africa there were communities which were politically and socially organized societies and which were just as good societies as the European societies. Members of the Secretariat should be acquainted with these facts, and if they do not know them they should abstain from writing such pamphlets. We consider that such statements are actually offensive to the peoples of Africa. I am quite convinced that when the African delegations read this passage -- and we shall see to it that they obtain this pamphlet -- they too will state that such a representation is a non-objective one, an intolerable one and an inadmissible one in the documents of the United Nations.

Thus we see that in order properly to settle the question of the dissemination of information on the United Nations in the Trust Territories in accordance with the resolution of the General Assembly, it is necessary to fulfil at least three conditions. First, it is necessary to make progress in setting up information centres in the Trust Territories. Secondly, it is necessary to increase the number of persons to whom information on the United Nations is being sent. Thirdly -- although this point is last in order it is not last in importance -- it is necessary to improve substantially the material prepared by the United Nations Secretariat for dissemination to the Trust Territories. This information should be objective and it should accurately reflect the purposes and principles of the Charter. This information should be completely in line with the spirit of the Charter.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The representative of the Soviet Union has just delivered a long diatribe against a pamphlet issued by the Secretariat of the United Nations. In doing this he expressed certain opinions, and the least one can say is that they are very partisan opinions. He said in substance that the official publications of our Organization should share his partisan views, that these publications should place themselves at the service of the propaganda which his Government would like to disseminate. He even said that the interpretation of the Charter by the Secretariat was "arbitrary, false and intolerable".

My delegation would simply like to declare that we consider these statements to be groundless. We feel that the Soviet delegation is no more qualified than any other delegation to dictate to the Secretariat the line of conduct which it should follow.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): Some of the passages read out to the Council by the representative of the Soviet Union from this pamphlet entitled A Sacred Trust, a title obviously which is distributed in Trust Territories -- I hope it is; something is distributed there and I hope that this is one of those titles -- have aroused my curiosity. I think it would be a good idea for the members of the Council to be furnished sets of titles which are sent out to the Trust Territories. The Council has not had occasion to go into this matter in detail in the past. We have expressed our dissatisfaction with the extent of the dissemination of information, but we have overlooked so far this particular aspect of what is put in these pamphlets. We should like to have an opportunity of seeing that and then we can make our comments either here or in the Assembly at the appropriate time. I am not anxious to come to a conclusion right away. The representative of Belgium has expressed a categorical opinion. I should hesitate to do that for the time being. However, I would like to ask the Under-Secretary whether he can comply with this request.

Mr. KATZIN (Acting Head, Office of Public Information): It might be difficult for me to obtain this information. I would like to restate what I said

(Mr. Katzin)

earlier in answer to the representative of the Soviet Union. We distribute materials through the Administering Authorities and through the channels set up for the normal distribution of public information materials in the Territories as a whole. Therefore we ourselves are not able to say what quantities of every pamphlet which we supply to the Administering Authorities go to the various areas. I would certainly be willing to undertake such inquiries as I can to obtain the information in each case.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I am not sure that the Under-Secretary followed my question. My question was whether he can supply members of the Council with sets of the titles which are sent out to Trust Territories for distribution. We should like to have a set of all these titles so that we may see what is actually distributed in these Territories and how it is worded.

Mr. KATZIN (Acting Head, Office of Public Information): My answer must stand on that, because we could send you sets of titles which are requested by the Administering Authorities, not necessarily only on matters directly affecting Trusteeship Council action, but all action on which they get material related to the United Nations as a whole. We can certainly send you a list of the titles sent to Governments that are responsible, as are the Administering Authorities, for distribution within Trust Territories. But we do not put up a set of titles specifically for Trust Territories. We issue materials throughout the operation of the dissemination of information. That is my difficulty in complying with your request.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I see the point. In that case I would request the Under-Secretary kindly to supply us, at least our delegation, as early as possible the lists of titles requested for distribution or for supply by each Administering Authority. I should like to have that information before we proceed further in formulating our conclusions about this matter.

There are one or two other questions I wish to ask the Under-Secretary. In the report contained in document T/1533, which no doubt the Under-Secretary has

seen -- as the Head of the Office of Public Information he has had something to do with it -- there is a statement in paragraph 12 which has been exercising my mind since yesterday. I mentioned it yesterday, but since the Under-Secretary is here I shall take this opportunity of elaborating on this. Paragraph 12 reads as follows:

"A new awareness of the United Nations and its significance, and a new interest in United Nations radio services have shown themselves in the Trust Territories during the year under review," -- and I underline these words which follow -- "particularly in those countries approaching self-government or independence, and new relationships have been brought about with the broadcasting organizations of former Trust Territories which are now obtaining independence."

It is obvious from this paragraph -- I am not putting any interpretation on this -- that until such time as a Trust Territory becomes self-governing or independent, or is about to become so, the dissemination of information in these Territories remains in a rather poor state, and soon after these Territories suddenly become anxious to develop direct relationships with the United Nations agencies, their interest suddenly develops. Now what is it that holds back the development of this interest? Could the Under-Secretary comment on this aspect of the matter.

Mr. KATZIN (Acting Head, Office of Public Information): I do not place quite the same interpretation on the meaning of that phrase as does the representative of India. I therefore cannot answer the question specifically in the manner in which it has been put. I believe that the intention of the Radio Division of the Office of Public Information in stating this is merely that, during the course of the year, the consultations with radio organizations in the area have increased in number. We offer the services of radio programmes which we produce to radio stations in their own right, by agreement with the Administering Authorities. I believe that this paragraph is to be understood in the sense that the stations are requesting more information. But I can check the further details of what was intended beyond that in the paragraph in question. However, that is how I read it.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I think it would be worthwhile to check further on what was intended by that sentence. However, there is another part of that passage which is rather important. It is stated that:

"A new awareness of the United Nations and its significance ... have shown themselves in the Trust Territories during the year under review, particularly in those countries approaching self-government or independence."

The United Nations has been there all along, and I presume that the Department of Public Information has in the past offered radio services and other services. My question is this: Why should it be that at a late stage, when a Territory is about to become self-governing or independent or has become self-governing or independent, there is a sudden awakening of interest in the United Nations and a sudden knowledge of the significance of this Organization? Why was this interest in the United Nations, and this knowledge of its significance, not there before?

I do not want to put words in the mouth of the Under-Secretary; that is not my intention. But the point is this: If this is the situation, what measures has the Under-Secretary, who is responsible for the work of the Office of Public Information, taken to see that this sort of thing should not come about only when a Trust Territory becomes self-governing or independent but should be there before

(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

that as well? Does he contemplate any special measures with regard to the Trust Territories which are as yet not near self-government or independence?

Mr. KATZIN (Acting Head, Office of Public Information): I think that the interpretation that can be given to this paragraph, in the context of the questions of the representative of India, is purely the pragmatic one that new management frequently makes fresh inquiries. It is purely a question of a pragmatic approach to information channels and information resources. I do not believe that there is any deeper significance in the paragraph than that. I will, however, attempt to find out whether there was any deeper meaning behind the paragraph.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): My next question relates to what was said by the Under-Secretary a short while ago, when he was answering the questions of the representative of the Soviet Union. He said, in effect: "We have to deal in this matter, in regard to Trust Territories, with the Administering Authorities." I think that is all right; no one takes objection to that. But I should like to draw the Under-Secretary's attention to resolution 1410 (XIV) of the General Assembly. I will read out three paragraphs of the preamble:

"The General Assembly,

"Keeping in view the special status of Trust Territories and their inhabitants and also the General Assembly's own special responsibilities" --

now, the General Assembly has special responsibilities, and the Office of Public Information is set up under the aegis of the General Assembly, and it therefore follows that that Office also, in its own field, has some special responsibilities--

"under Chapters XII and XIII of the Charter of the United Nations,

"Reiterating that it is essential, in the General Assembly's view, that the peoples of Trust Territories should receive adequate information concerning the purposes and operation of the United Nations and of the International Trusteeship System" --

that is another categorical statement --

(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

"Noting the recommendation of the Committee of Experts on United Nations Public Information that United Nations information centres constitute the most important means of disseminating information about the United Nations."

I will leave aside that business about the information centres; we will take that up at the appropriate time. But, in view of these two categorical pronouncements on the part of the General Assembly with regard to this matter, I should like to know what special measures have been taken by the Office of Public Information since the adoption of this resolution to give effect to the purposes which the Assembly has in view. Have any special measures at all been contemplated? Have any been taken?

Mr. KATZIN (Acting Head, Office of Public Information): The resolution cited by the representative of India goes on to request the Secretary-General to consult with appropriate authorities on the subject of the implementation of the resolution. I can advise the Council that the Secretary-General is in the course of consultation, and the matter can be reported on further only at the conclusion of the consultation.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): That is one aspect of the matter which I wanted to leave out for the time being. We are aware that the Secretary-General is in the course of initiating some discussions. But the point is, as I said yesterday, that we have this report, which indicates no change from last year's report, and last year's report reflected no change from the preceding year's report. For the last four years, I have been seeing these reports personally and I am aware of what has been contained in them -- and there has been little or no change, little or no progress. I shall now put a very direct question to the Under-Secretary: Is he satisfied with the state of the dissemination of information about the United Nations in Trust Territories in the light of the resolution of the General Assembly and in the light of the views expressed by the General Assembly with regard to this matter over the last ten years?

Mr. KATZIN (Acting Head, Office of Public Information): I do not think I could give an answer to that question, as to whether I am satisfied. I would say that probably one could answer that one is dissatisfied with the distribution and dissemination of United Nations information, as a general rule, everywhere. The developments in the less developed areas are not as far forward as we in the Office of Public Information would like to see them. I think that everyone in the Assembly is well aware of that. I think the reports of the Secretary-General clearly state that. This is true of Trust Territories as well as of other areas in which the means of mass-media distribution are less developed.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I do not think that those means are any less developed in Tanganyika, say, than they are in the Pacific Islands. I think I could vouch for that statement. Yet, in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, according to our Visiting Missions, according to the reports of the Administering Authority, and according to everything we have learned through the resources of the Office of Public Information, the state of the dissemination of information is good. But that is not quite the case with regard to other Territories. I do not want to go into what happens in an independent country, whether it is over-developed or under-developed or just developed. We are concerned here particularly with the state of affairs in Trust Territories in view of the Assembly's special responsibilities in the matter and in view of the special responsibilities of the Office of Public Information with regard to the dissemination of information. I should have thought that the unsatisfactory state of the dissemination of information, which is now patent from the reports that have been given to us, would be exercising the minds of the Office of Public Information. I have been trying to obtain information as to any special measures that are contemplated or that are under way. But I regret to say that we get no information on that score. I hope that at some time it will be possible for the Office of Public Information to give us suitable information.

(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

Again, I do not wish to comment on the quality of the material at this stage, but I should like to know one point in regard to the distribution of the material. On page 3 of the report of the Secretary-General, T/1553, we are told that a total of 16,800 copies were distributed to 111 addresses in all. Now, one of the basic principles in disseminating information is that you disseminate information in a given country in the language that that country uses. Could the Under-Secretary tell us how many out of that number of titles were translated, let us say for example, into Swahili, which is the language of Tanganyika? Were all these titles in English or French, or possibly Arabic?

Mr. KATZIN (Acting Head, Office of Public Information): The report on the number of languages in which the United Nations material is at present produced is attached to the report which is at present being considered by the Secretary-General for presentation to the Assembly. I do not believe there will be any objection to my disclosing the information contained in that report to any member of this Council on the subject of languages in which these pamphlets are produced. As far as I remember, there are well over 100 languages involved today, but whether Swahili happens to be one of them, I could not answer directly. I would have to check this. I would be happy to furnish the information if we have it.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I welcome that assurance, and I should add that in future reports the information given should include information as to the numbers of titles sent to a particular Territory in the language of that Territory. I think that would help us assess the efficacy of the work and activities of the Office of Information. I raise this question because my delegation has received complaints, from one Trust Territory particularly, to the effect that, while people there want titles or written materials sent to them in a certain language, Arabic for example, all they get is the titles in English, which they cannot read. Their second language, presumably, is French, but Arabic is their preference.

This material is supplied to them from certain Information Centres 1,000 or 5,000 miles away. They want material in Arabic. They do not get this; they get material in English for which they have no use. This kind of distribution

(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

involves enormous waste, it seems to me, in the cost of printing, the cost of paper and in the time and labour of the personnel engaged in doing the work. That should be avoided.

That is all I wish to say at this time, and I hope that when we get further reports -- there will be a report due to the General Assembly at the end of this year -- all this will be taken into account.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom): I have followed this discussion this morning with very great interest. There is only one point on which I should like to put a question to the Under-Secretary, because one of his earlier answers gave me an impression which is different to the one that I have always had. He said that all the material which was sent out by the public information department was sent to the Administering Authority, the government of the Trust Territory, for distribution. Now, as far as Tanganyika is concerned, I know that a very large amount of it is sent in this way and that the Tanganyika Government uses its own information services as a sort of post office for distributing this, and its Education Department, and so on, co-operate with the Public Information Department in doing this -- incidentally, translating the material at their own expense where this seems appropriate. But also, it is my impression that, both direct from New York and also from the Information Centre in London, which is responsible for Tanganyika, many addressees -- private individuals, schools, clubs, missions and other organizations of this kind -- do receive materials direct from the Information Centres. Certainly, if they do not do so there is no reason at all why they should not. I wonder if the Under-Secretary would care to comment on this point.

Mr. KATZIN (Acting Head, Department of Public Information): If I used the word "to", I must correct myself. I believe I used the word "through". The Office of Public Information of the United Nations does not operate as an entity in its own right in any area, without the consent and agreement with the Government as to how we should operate. In fact, we would be unable to operate in any area without the active assistance of the administering or governmental authorities, since we ourselves do not disseminate information in any other sense.

(Mr. Katzin)

There is, of course, an arrangement with many Governments -- certainly it is true also of Non-Self-Governing Territories and Trust Territories -- under which, where requests come from individuals interested in United Nations documents, the requests are serviced direct. Non-governmental organizations which exist are, by agreement and arrangement, always serviced direct. In a great many cases, radio programmes are serviced by agreement direct to the Territories and the authorities responsible for the development of such programmes.

The word I used, I hope, was "through", by which I meant to imply "by arrangement with". In many cases it is direct to the parties by agreement with the Administering Authorities, and in others it is to the Administering Authorities who redisseminate it themselves.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom): I quite understand the situation now, and members of the Council are probably clear on this point now also.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I am somewhat confused about this now. I was not before. Let us assume a situation where a certain person in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi writes to the United Nations Office of Public Information for certain material about the United Nations. This is not, by any description, seditious material, but rather a fairly honest description of what the United Nations does, what it stands for. This is not material which will come under any sort of restrictive law -- it should not, at any rate. Where is the need, then, for the United Nations Office of Public Information to go to the Administering Authority and seek its agreement before undertaking to dispatch the material to the individual concerned? I hope that is not the position. If it is, we should like to see some clarification of that.

Mr. KATZIN (Acting Head, Office of Public Information): I cannot give the specific details of each form of inquiry which takes place. I am completely convinced that I would be correct in answering that, obviously, where individual requests come for material they are served. But I would be pretty certain to be correct if I were to say that that procedure was a procedure which would be agreed

(Mr. Katzin)

to in advance by the Administering Authority concerned, as would be the case with all Governments concerned, since it is, after all, a normally accepted practice for the United Nations to service persons from whom they get requests for information. So I did not intend to convey the idea that every time we receive an inquiry we have to clear it through a governmental channel. I trust that this will clear up any misunderstanding.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): Has any Government responsible for any of the Trust Territories at any time withheld its permission for the distribution of United Nations material?

Mr. KATZIN (Acting Head, Office of Public Information): Not to my knowledge, sir; but perhaps the Department of Trusteeship might be able to answer that.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Since the representative of India has mentioned Ruanda-Urundi, I am very happy to point out to him that there is no censorship in that Trust Territory and that the dissemination of pamphlets of the United Nations is completely unrestricted. I could furnish him a case which would perhaps explain in a more specific way the situation that exists.

(Mr. Claeys Boúuaert, Belgium)

In Usumbura there are two bookshops where books of all kinds are sold. I have had the opportunity of visiting one of these shops a few months ago and I found that many United Nations pamphlets were sold there. I do not know what their source was. Perhaps they were there on the initiative of the owner of the shop himself, or possibly they came from the Paris office, since Ruanda-Urundi is a French-speaking country, but at any rate, I can say that the dissemination and sale of these pamphlets to the public is practised quite openly.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I mentioned Ruanda-Urundi only because that was the first name that came to my mind; it was just by chance. I wish to assure the representative of Belgium that I did not intend to insinuate that there was any censorship in the Territory. That was not my intention at all, but I welcome the explanation which he has given.

Mr. OBENEMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I only wish to say that we would be prepared to exchange views with the representative of Belgium and with the representatives of the other Administering Authorities regarding the contents and orientation of this or that publication of the United Nations, but perhaps such exchange of views would be more fruitful and constructive after the representatives concerned have acquainted themselves with that material which is being disseminated by the Secretariat of the United Nations in the Trust Territories, and we hope that the Secretariat will issue the necessary directions so that members of the Trusteeship Council will be supplied. This was requested by the representative of India and my delegation requests it as well. We should like to be supplied with copies of all pamphlets and material which are being sent to the Trust Territories since the Trusteeship Council must exercise control over both the quality and the quantity of the material which is being sent.

(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

The representative of Belgium said that apparently our intention was to convert the Secretariat into an organ of Soviet propaganda, or words to that effect. Such a statement by the representative of Belgium is simply an indication of just in whose interests such pamphlets are now being produced, since he has supported this scribbling with such vehemence although without any justification for so doing. He said that he was against propaganda. This, precisely, is propaganda. But we call this colonialist propaganda, while it should be objective propaganda concerning the ideas and purposes of the United Nations, which is an international organization and not an organ subordinated to colonialists. That is why we speak against the utilization of the channels of the United Nations and the ways and means of the United Nations for the dissemination of this type of colonialist propaganda, including Belgian propaganda.

The Soviet Union contributes to the budget of the United Nations, and a considerable part of the budget is allotted to the Office of Public Information. Therefore, we believe that we have every right to express our critical comments and to speak against this type of propaganda. We do not wish our money to be used for publishing and disseminating material containing colonialist ideas, particularly if it is represented as publications bearing the stamp of the United Nations. If the colonialists wish to engage in propaganda activities, and do engage in them, by all means let them do so with their own money and not with United Nations money. That is why we speak against this, particularly when such a huge mountain, containing thirty-eight floors and three basements, gives birth to this still-born colonialist mouse.

Mr. HOOD (Australia): Some of the implications of this very interesting discussion are quite important. I refer particularly to a phrase used just now by the representative of the Soviet Union who, if I heard him correctly, implied, or indeed even suggested that the Trusteeship Council as such should -- I think that these were his words -- or must control the dissemination of information in the Trust Territories, both as regards its quality and its quantity. I think I heard him aright.

(Mr. Hood, Australia)

If that indeed was his meaning, then that is an implication which, of course, carries us into quite deep waters. I do not wish to pursue it; at the same time, I should like it to be noted, at least from the point of view of my delegation, that we do not consider this to be a function of the Trusteeship Council. Naturally, any member of the Council is certainly entitled to see for himself the nature and the particular titles of the information that is being distributed, but I do not think that the Council as such can insist that it be so supplied. That is the only point which I have to make.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUMAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I am sorry to lengthen this debate, but since the representative of the Soviet Union has accused me of being impatient in the debate, I must say that I should like to leave it to representatives at this table to decide who has shown more patience.

The representative of the Soviet Union affirmed that since he had criticized the substance of the pamphlet and I had questioned the appropriateness of such a discussion here, the indication was that I approved of the contents of the pamphlet and, consequently, that the pamphlet was a manifestation in pamphlet form of colonialist propaganda. I think that all those who have followed our debate will have realized that I have not passed judgement, as has the representative of the Soviet Union, on the substance of the pamphlet. I absolutely refrained from doing so. I simply said, and I repeat it, that the Soviet delegation was no more qualified than any other to dictate to the Secretariat the line of conduct which it should follow.

The representative of the Soviet Union went on to say that his country made a considerable contribution to the work of the United Nations. I know very well that the contribution of Belgium is not as large as that of the Soviet Union, but it is in proportion to the national income of the country and is regulated by the principles which are applied to every State. If one must follow the line of the representative of the Soviet Union, other States which make a still greater contribution should then have their point of view prevail as to the substance which must appear in these documents. Here, again, I cannot agree with him.

Mr. RIFAI (United Arab Republic): I did not intervene in this debate, because in the first place we have listened to very serious observations and remarks by the representative of the Soviet Union with regard to these pamphlets that have been distributed in the Trust Territories, and I thought that, in view of the seriousness of the issues and the disquieting nature of these issues, it was very difficult for us to pass over them in silence. However, there were certain questions that were put by the representative of India and, I think, by the representative of the Soviet Union, with regard to the nature of these pamphlets, how they are sent to the Trust Territories and how many of them have been sent so far, and we think some information on these points is called for before we take any final decision with regard to this report of the Secretary-General. For that reason, although the remarks and observations of my delegation would not be unlike those that were made today by the representatives either of Burma or of the Soviet Union, namely, that the situation has not substantially changed in the Trust Territories with regard to the dissemination of information on the United Nations and that the resolutions of the General Assembly have not so far been satisfactorily complied with, I would say, irrespective of that, it is probably more appropriate, in view of the issues that have been raised, to postpone a final decision on this question until our next meeting when the information that has been sought by some delegations is furnished by the Office of Public Information. I should like to have these clarifications before we finally dispose of this item on our agenda. As I said earlier, there are some serious issues that have been raised, and the Council is entitled to know something more about them. Perhaps certain action is called for by the Council before this question is finally disposed of. For that reason, Mr. President, I hope you will not call on us to approve the report at this stage.

The PRESIDENT: I can say at this point that the Under-Secretary has taken note of the suggestions and indications made by the representative of the United Arab Republic, and I think the Council will agree that we can resume consideration of this item at a later stage when the information that has been sought will be forthcoming.

RECORDS OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): Mr. President, before you adjourn, I want to raise a point of procedure. This Council held two meetings on 31 May 1960, and we have not yet received the verbatim records of those two meetings. I fail to understand why these verbatim records should not have been circulated.

There was one such instance last year, and that gave rise to quite a few difficulties in the Council. I want to know who decides whether the Council will receive verbatim records or not, and what the conditioning circumstances are. I should think that this is a matter on which only the Council itself can take a decision. The Council was not even consulted. What we have for these two meetings are summary records. I do not like commenting on summary records, but they are not altogether satisfactory. We do not have the benefit of verbatim texts so that we can correct these summary records suitably.

First of all, Mr. President, I should like you to inform the Council why these verbatim records are not there, how it was decided that verbatim records for these two meetings should not be put out, what the reasons were, and why the Council was not taken into confidence.

The SECRETARY: Owing to a large accumulation of work which had resulted from the proceedings in another body of this Organization, the competent services were unable to produce verbatim records for that day-- and also in order that we might have the reports such as the reports of the Standing Committee on Petitions in time for this Council to consider. The transcription of the verbatim records for 31 May will be made as soon as it is possible.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I do not quite see what the preparation of the reports of the Standing Committee on Petitions has to do with the verbatim records. That is a separate section. The verbatim note-takers should have been available that morning, because they were not doing anything with regard to the Security Council. The Security Council was not even meeting. There was not an unusually large number of meetings taking place on the morning of 31 May -- I am quite positive about that.

(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

My point is this. This practice seems to be now becoming an annual practice. It happens only once or twice, but it does seem to happen almost regularly. If this is unavoidable, then the Secretary of the Council or someone else should beforehand inform the Council that it is likely to happen and that this gap will be filled later on in the course of proceedings. I do not want to prolong this debate, but I should like to seek an assurance on this point, that the verbatim records of these two meetings will be circulated in the next day or two.

Mr. OBERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): On examining the Journal containing the report of our meetings of 31 May, we see that a very important subject, among others, was discussed, namely, the report of the Drafting Committee on Western Samoa. As you will remember, we had very interesting and very constructive debates on this, which unfortunately did not always lead to constructive recommendations. In any event, we consider that these meetings were extremely important, and there is no reason for making an exception in the case of these meetings. We hope that the Secretariat in the next few days will publish the verbatim records of these meetings in the normal way. They will certainly be of very definite interest to the Members of the General Assembly, since the question of Western Samoa will be discussed, in accordance with the decision of the Trusteeship Council, as a separate item on the agenda of the General Assembly.

Therefore we fully support the proposal by the representative of India that the Secretariat publish the verbatim records of the two meetings of 31 May. We should like to supplement that proposal of the representative of India by expressing the wish that in future the Secretariat might inform the Trusteeship Council or consult the Trusteeship Council whenever any difficulties arise, so that we ourselves would not have to raise these questions. If there are such difficulties -- and there may be delays for a few days -- perhaps the best course would be to inform the members of the Council so that no doubts or disturbances or difficulties would arise.

The PRESIDENT: Before we adjourn, I should like to inform the Council that this afternoon at 3 p.m. we shall begin by hearing the Chairman of the Visiting Mission to Tanganyika present the report of the Visiting Mission and we shall also hear the opening statements by the representative and the Special Representative of the Administering Authority on Tanganyika.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I was seeking to find out when the verbatim records would be made available, and I received no answer either from you, Mr. President, or from the Council Secretary. I hope that answer can be furnished.

The SECRETARY: At the moment I can only say that they will be furnished as soon as possible.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I am afraid that that is not an answer which will satisfy my delegation. It is the prerogative of the Council to have verbatim records under certain decisions which cannot be changed just like that. I remember that last year the verbatim records of one meeting were not circulated, and I remember that difficulties arose. Certain statements then made by the Australian representative were inadequately reflected in the summary record, and he raised very strong and very valid objections. The Council itself was not in a position, nor was the Australian representative in a position, to correct the summary records because the Australian representative did not have a text of his statement.

This is a very unusual position, and I think this matter should be resolved satisfactorily and for good. This sort of thing should not take place, and if it has to take place, then there should be a Council's decision to that effect. If a mistake has been made, it is only right and proper that it should be rectified immediately. We cannot be told that this will be done as soon as possible, since we do not know when it will be possible.

The SECRETARY: I will find out and inform the Council later this afternoon.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I shall look forward to having a fuller reply, but I should like to state that it is the view of my delegation that these verbatim records should be circulated without delay and should be available by Monday at the latest.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom): I would like to know what will be on our agenda this afternoon after the statements on Tanganyika have been completed, so that my delegation can make its preparations.

The PRESIDENT: In reply to the United Kingdom representative, I should like to say the following. The representative of the United Arab Republic asked for a postponement of further consideration of the item dealing with the dissemination of information because he had sought supplementary information from the Under-Secretary. Therefore I would suggest, and I hope the Council will agree, that after having dealt with the preliminary part of the consideration of conditions in the Trust Territory of Tanganyika we should then deal with the third item, offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories. I think that the Council will agree to that.

Mr. PASGOTRA (India): If it is the intention to take the item dealing with the offers by Member States of study and training facilities this afternoon, then I should like again to express my inability to participate in the deliberations on that matter because, as was the case yesterday, I must be in another Committee. If you wish to proceed with that, you very well may, provided the debate is not closed so that some time during the course of Monday I can make my own contribution.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): It seems to me that at every meeting someone asks for some item to be postponed to a later stage. We shall never finish in that way. I do not know whether the debate on scholarships will be completed this afternoon, and I am afraid that the opening statements on Tanganyika will be rather lengthy. Therefore, it may well be that the item dealing with scholarships will not be completed, but if there is time to complete it, then I think it should be completed. I very well realize the difficulties of other delegations which are engaged in committees. Our representative on this item will also be concerned in one of the drafting committees, but he would feel it necessary to come here to take part in the debate because of the importance of the work of the Council itself.

(Sir Andrew Cohen. United Kingdom)

I feel that there is an excessive tendency at the moment to put everything off until tomorrow or some later stage. That will come back on us very heavily later, and while I think we need not go any further at the moment, but see how things go, I do hope we shall not have to put yet another thing off on this occasion, because it is really becoming more than a joke.

The PRESIDENT: The United Kingdom representative has indicated that probably it will be well on in the afternoon before the end of his statement and the statement of the Special Representative. By then, probably the representative of India will have finished his work in the committee and will be able to come back to the Council. Therefore, probably the question will not arise, but, of course, we must all have in mind what the United Kingdom representative has said about the necessity of not delaying our work.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I did not suggest that the Council must stop its work because it would not be possible for me to be present. I did not say that. Sir Andrew Cohen has had his difficulties in the past; my delegation has its difficulties today. I can say that his delegation is much larger than mine. All delegations have difficulties at times; I have this difficulty now. We do not want to delay the work of this Council, and we have never attempted to do so.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.