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Twenty-seventh Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ELEVEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Thursday, 6 July 1961, at 3 p.m.

President:

U TIN MAUNG

(Burma)

1. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Western Samoa [4g and 14] (continued)
2. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under British administration: Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year 1959 [4c]
3. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi: Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year 1959 [4a] (continued)

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## AGENDA ITEMS 4g and 14

## EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAMOA:

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 1960 (T/1570); T/L.1015);
- (b) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER FOR WESTERN SAMOA (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1569 (XV)(T/1564 and Add.1) (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Rifai, United Nations Commissioner for the Plebiscite in Western Samoa and Mr. Wright, Special Representative, took places at the Trusteeship Council table.

Mr. BHADKAMKAR (India): Having heard the statements in a fair amount of detail from the representative of New Zealand, the Special Representative and also from the Commissioner for the Plebiscite, our colleague Mr. Rifai, I feel we have come to a point where we can proceed on the lines of assuming that the action that the United Nations has endeavoured to complete and hope for is very much on its way. In line with that thought, it is with great pleasure that my delegation takes the floor this afternoon; and in appreciation of the accomplishment of the United Nations mission in helping those who are struggling for freedom and independence, I congratulate all those who have been concerned with this task. I am informed that the people of Western Samoa are probably the largest group of Polynesians, barring the Mauri people of New Zealand, and they are very much now on their way to becoming the first independent Polynesian State in this century. I have to say "in this century" because I understand that some time ago -- a long time ago -- they were an independent entity. For historical reasons, they lost that independence, and what we are really concerned with is in a manner -- so to speak -- to restore to them the independence that they did enjoy a long time ago.

I do not think that I need to go into this history even for formal purposes -- the history of the Territory is well known; it is all on record. I shall merely say that it gives my delegation very great pleasure to be associated with a situation like this, and I believe that this Council will be

(Mr. Bhadkamkar, India)

faced with similar happy situations in the near future and it is our wish -- as I hope of every member of the Council -- that at the earliest possible date we will arrive at a point where the Council can dissolve itself, having no more Trust Territories to deal with.

The Western Samoan people will regain their independence, after a long period, on 1 January 1962, and we heartily congratulate them on the verdict that they have given themselves in the recent plebiscite, which was recommended by General Assembly resolution 1569 (XV).

Our colleague, Mr. Rifai, has given us a detailed report -- apart from the statement -- describing the problems that he was confronted with, the manner in which he was able to organize and conduct the plebiscite, and the extremely satisfactory results that were reached. I think it would be quite in order for me to extend our very special congratulations to him on an extremely, shall we say, difficult task very well done.

The Commissioner for the Plebiscite and his staff have certainly carried out their onerous task with energy and devotion, and if some of the photographs that I have seen are to be believed, I would say even with affection. For this sort of work I think you need that sense, that sense of purpose, of feeling for the people with whom you are concerned, because a plebiscite is, of course, a very dry thing; but its conduct and the results that are achieved from it involve, in a very great way, human problems and human aspirations. We all know, in great detail, how the plebiscite was conducted. I should merely like to refer to a few things, such as the distribution of booklets containing the summary of the Constitution, approved by the Constitutional Convention last year, October 1960, the registration on the basis of universal franchise of all Samoans qualified to vote, and by the declaration of those who were not able to register by the prescribed time-limit, the participation in the plebiscite of those Samoans who had registered but were not present physically in Western Samoa -- that is those who were away in New Zealand at the time of the plebiscite -- and certain other methods adopted to make the purposes of the plebiscite more familiar to the people, such as continual broadcasting of the questions on which all the adult Samoan citizens were advised to express their opinion as to whether they approved the Constitution and wished Western Samoa to be independent on 1 January 1962. All these matters and the various problems solved in a

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(Mr. Bhadkarkar, India)

very able manner by the Plebiscite Commissioner prove to us how ably this plebiscite has been conducted and with what great satisfaction we receive its results.

We also commend the valuable co-operation extended by the Government of Western Samoa and, most particularly, the very enlightened assistance given by the Administering Authority. The completion of this task has taken the United Nations one step forward towards its objective.

The Commissioner has reported that the plebiscite was fair, impartial and, if I am not mistaken, a certain novelty was introduced in the fact that the balloting was held in complete secrecy. The official results show us that over 86 per cent of the estimated number of eligible voters, on the basis of universal adult suffrage, participated in the plebiscite. Eighty-three per cent of the total vote cast approved the Constitution which, incidentally, does not provide for universal adult suffrage but which, on the system of tradition and custom, has a slightly different basis for the suffrage as approved in the Constitution. However, the Constitution itself has been approved by universal adult suffrage. We also understand that 13 per cent voted against it, which is, again, as noted this morning by the Special Representative, an indication that those who did not approve of the Constitution were under no duress or pressure not to express their view.

Seventy-nine per cent voted in the affirmative for the question as to whether they agreed that on 1 January 1962 Western Samoa should become an independent State on the basis of the above-mentioned Constitution. Again, 13.5 per cent voted in the negative. We are informed that no ballot was declared invalid if only one of the two questions was answered. On the first question only 4 per cent of the ballots were set aside as informal, which, I understand, also means invalid, and only 7.5 per cent, in the case of the second question.

The Commissioner informs us that oblique notification of the result was declared on 24 May 1961 and that no petition for inquiry concerning any corrupt or illegal practice that might have taken place in any polling district was submitted within the period laid down in the plebiscite order. We should therefore be extremely happy with the result of the plebiscite and with the manner in which it was conducted.

The Plebiscite Commissioner has also not stated that any sizeable group or body of public opinion in Western Samoa boycotted the plebiscite. He has declared the plebiscite as completely fair and impartial and I should like to say, for my delegation, that the young people of these islands -- we are referring to those

who are going to make the green stick for breaking down the old breadfruit -- have shown by their exercise of universal adult franchise on this very important question of the people's future that they are capable of looking after their affairs and of realizing their destiny in dignity and peace.

Problems they will certainly have. I think all nations, big or small, have them, but we have been assured by the Administering Authority and, very correctly, on behalf of the United Nations, by the Plebiscite Commissioner that all help which this new nation will require will, to the greatest ability of those who are concerned -- namely, the Administering Authority and the United Nations -- I am sure, be given.

Along with the Plebiscite Commission our delegation would express the hope -- as, indeed, it has done on various occasions in the past, in this Council and in the General Assembly -- that the exercise of universal adult suffrage by the people of Western Samoa will be realized in due course towards which the conduct of this plebiscite may well show the way.

Once again we congratulate the people of Western Samoa and this Council on this happy occasion and commend heartily the Plebiscite Commissioner and the Administering Authority on the results that have been obtained.

As is appropriate on such occasions, on this occasion when the people of Western Samoa have come a long way on the road to self-government through their efforts, to help usher in their period of independence, my delegation would join with the delegations of Burma, Bolivia and the United Kingdom in introducing a small formal resolution to which the Council is no doubt accustomed endorsing the result of the plebiscite and recommending to the General Assembly the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement on 1 January 1962 when Western Samoa will become independent, and expressing the hope that by then all arrangements for a smooth and complete transfer of power from the Administering Authority to the representatives of the Western Samoan people will have been made.

We have also heard this morning that all these objectives are entirely within reach because the Administering Authority itself has undertaken to introduce appropriate legislation in its own Parliament to bring this about in a correct and formal manner.

The draft resolution is based primarily on an older pattern. I think the last example upon which we based it is the Council's resolution on the Cameroons. Copies have been circulated, I believe, and I should merely like, formally, to read it out. It says:

"The Trusteeship Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 1569 (XV) of 18 December 1960,

"Having examined the report of the United Nations Commissioner for the supervision of the plebiscite in Western Samoa, held on 9 May 1961,

"1. Expresses its high appreciation of the work of the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner and his staff and the co-operation he received from the Administering Authority, the Government and the people of Western Samoa;

"2. Takes note, with satisfaction, of the results of the plebiscite that

"(a) the people of Western Samoa have, by an overwhelming majority, expressed their agreement with the Constitution for an independent Western Samoa adopted by the Constitutional Convention on 28 October 1960; and

"(b) that the people of Western Samoa have agreed by an overwhelming majority that on 1 January 1962 Western Samoa should become an independent State on the basis of that Constitution;

"3. Transmits to the General Assembly for consideration at the sixteenth regular session the report of the Plebiscite Commissioner and the record of the Council's discussion with the recommendation that the General Assembly, taking into account the wishes of the people of Western Samoa as expressed in the plebiscite, decide, in agreement with the Administering Authority, to terminate on 1 January 1962, when the Trust Territory will become independent, the Trusteeship Agreement approved by the General Assembly on 13 December 1946, in accordance with Article 76 (b) of the Charter of the United Nations." (T/L.1018)

I hope that this draft resolution which, we are informed, is the appropriate manner in which to bring this question to a satisfactory conclusion, will have the support of all members of the Council.



Mr. KIANG (China): May I say at once how grateful we are to the representative of New Zealand and to the High Commissioner of Western Samoa for the very informative statements we heard this morning. From their statements we come to learn more about the feelings of the people and the problems of Western Samoa as the background of the recent plebiscite.

This may be the last time the Council is dealing with Western Samoa. Do I also understand that after his statement of today, the representative of New Zealand will leave us and enter his new career and also his new happy life? May I give him our very best wishes.

My delegation would like to express its warm appreciation to the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner, Dr. Rifai, for the excellent work that he has done in the United Nations supervision of the plebiscite held in the Trust Territory of Western Samoa.

It is most gratifying to hear, as we did this morning, from the United Nations Commissioner that the plebiscite was conducted with the utmost impartiality and complete freedom, for which much credit should go to the plebiscite administrators for their able guidance in the organization and conduct of the plebiscite. It is indeed a hopeful augury, as said by the United Nations Commissioner in his report, that a large number of both titled and untitled men went to the polls to exercise, for the first time, universal adult suffrage. The active participation of the women voters in the plebiscite is, of course, most encouraging. I am sure the champions of the rights of women, notably the President of our Council himself, must find this most heartening.

Through this plebiscite the Samoan people as a whole have expressed fully their wishes for independence and in regard to the constitution. Western Samoa is now ready to take its rightful place in the international community as a sovereign, independent State. In this great achievement both Western Samoa and New Zealand can certainly take full pride. I think I do not have to emphasize too strongly that behind this great achievement stand the selfless work of the leaders of the Samoan people and the generous assistance and the wise guidance given by the Government of New Zealand. In these days of interdependence the people of Western Samoa who have the keen association and friendship of long standing with the people of New Zealand must be happy to know that after its independence Western Samoa will continue to enjoy such co-operation and assistance as it



(Mr. Kiang, China)

desires from its great friend, New Zealand. Indeed, the partnership of Western Samoa and New Zealand is an admirable example.

In the course of his lucid statement this morning, the representative of New Zealand alluded to the deep-rooted traditions and the social system of Western Samoa. I must say that I am very much impressed by what he said in this respect. Indeed, we must recognize the fact that the Samoan people are living within a unique, customary socio-political system of their own which is, of course, not all free from the impact of developments from outside Western Samoa. We are confident that the people and the institutions of Western Samoa will be able to meet the challenges of the modern world.

New Zealand has once again expressed its readiness to render its assistance to the Samoan people, especially in the field of economic advancement. I think all free nations will agree that the international community is grateful to New Zealand for the assistance that it will continue to give to Western Samoa after independence.

The Government of China wishes to extend its warmest congratulations to the people of Western Samoa upon the attainment of independence. We wish the people of the first independent Polynesian State unbounded happiness and prosperity.

My delegation shall be very glad to vote for the draft resolution just introduced by my friend, the representative of India.

Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom): I would merely wish to add a few words of congratulation. I should like, first of all, to convey my sincere congratulations to the distinguished Commissioner. I congratulate him on the conciseness and completeness of his report, for the care and thoroughness of his work and the spectacular success of his task. If I may also say so, I thought that his speech to us today was a model of clarity, convincing eloquence. I listened to him today make a speech in English; I hope that I may one day have the privilege of hearing him speak in Arabic, a language which, I am sure he will agree, in beauty and in preciseness and in rhetorical range is certainly second to none.

I wish also to convey my congratulations to the distinguished representative of New Zealand and the distinguished Special Representative who have given us today a fascinating account of the practical steps taken over a number of years

(Sir Hugh Foot, United Kingdom)

to bring about the happy result of which we are informed today. They know very well that the future prosperity and happiness of this Territory will depend not so much on the act to be carried out on the first of January next, but on the work which has been done in full association with the people of the over past years. I warmly congratulate them not only on the work which has been done but also on the very thorough and interesting account which they have given us of that work today.

The practical steps to independence are so important. Amongst those of us who believe in independence there is sometimes a difference of opinion between those who wish to get it quick and those who are more interested in getting it right. I think I would classify myself among the enthusiasts of the first category. But there are realists who remind us that it is just as important to get it right as to get it quick and the practical work to which our attention has been drawn by the speeches from the representative of New Zealand and the Special Representative indicate to us today how much thorough, painstaking, thoughtful, imaginative work has been undertaken in past years to bring about the result which we see today.

The representative of India refers to the happy occasions. He means, of course, the occasions when the work of this Trusteeship Council and of the Administering Authorities is brought to fruition. I, myself, have had the privilege within the last year of attending two, for me, particularly happy occasions: the smallest and the largest colonial territory of the British Commonwealth to achieve independence. And I was privileged to be present on the happy occasions, first of all in Cyprus, the smallest colonial territory ever to reach independence within the British Commonwealth and then, within the next few months, to attend the celebration of independence in that great country of Nigeria, the largest colonial territory of the British Commonwealth ever to achieve independence.

(Sir Hugh Foot, United Kingdom)

Therefore, as these happy occasions go forward -- and we hope later in our deliberations today to note the progress made in the great territory of Tanganyika towards the purpose in which we all believe -- we can particularly take pleasure in the fact that the last report is being made by the Administering Authority on the Territory of Western Samoa.

It is with very great pleasure that I have the honour of associating my delegation with the draft resolution which has been put forward.

Mr. Solano LOPEZ (Paraguay) (interpretation from Spanish): On 9 May of this year, by means of a plebiscite held in absolute freedom and with the fullest impartiality, the people of Western Samoa chose their own destiny, that is to say, to become a free, independent and sovereign State as of 1 January 1962.

Few steps remain to be taken for the fulfilment of this objective and one of these is the decision that has to be taken by the Council as a result of the terms of the General Assembly resolution.

My delegation will vote in favour of the joint draft resolution (T/L.1018) submitted by Bolivia, Burma, India and the United Kingdom and will do so warmly and with great satisfaction. On this occasion we want very warmly to congratulate the people of Western Samoa as well as the people and Government of New Zealand for fulfilling their task of administering the Territory, this venture of guiding this people to independence.

To Mr. Rifai, the distinguished United Nations Commissioner, I wish to express the sincere tribute of my delegation for the brilliant manner, the talent and devotion with which he has carried out the mission entrusted to him. In this connexion, I should like to say that this morning, when Mr. Rifai submitted his report on the plebiscite, he reminded us that while he was in the Territory he was questioned regarding the help that the United Nations might give to Western Samoa when this Territory achieved independence, and that he had replied, bearing in mind the spirit prevailing in the Council and in the General Assembly, that he did not have the least doubt that that help would be forthcoming at all times.

My delegation will always be prepared to support by its vote any request for assistance, both in the financial and technical fields, from any country, such as Western Samoa, that achieves independence.

Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) (interpretation from French): The situation in Western Samoa seems to us to be transparently clear. The details furnished this morning enable us to grasp the present situation completely, as well as the future prospects for this Territory. The plebiscite was most happily carried out. Those of us who for many years have been closely acquainted with our colleague, Mr. Rifai, can scarcely be astonished at this outcome. The people have spoken -- and as expected. We took part in the 1959 Visiting Mission and we knew full well that no other course could be expected. That wise, lucid people, with the assistance of New Zealand, is preparing to assume complete responsibility, and we congratulate that people warmly. We shall therefore vote very willingly for the joint draft resolution before the Council.

On this draft resolution, however, we have two comments to make. The first relates to operative paragraph 1. Naturally, we quite agree that we should express our thanks to the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner. The second part of the paragraph, "and the co-operation he received from the Administering Authority, the Government and the people of Western Samoa", does not seem quite so essential, and I shall spell out the reasons why.

Though we should congratulate the Administering Authority and the people of Western Samoa, we should congratulate them for the way in which they have advanced towards independence and not for co-operating with the Plebiscite Commissioner, for surely, so far as the Administering Authority was concerned, such co-operation was vouchsafed beforehand and went without saying. These expressions of thanks to the people of Western Samoa are perhaps not quite adequate. It seems to me that we should either end the paragraph after "and his staff", or leave it to the General Assembly to congratulate the Administering Authority and the people of Western Samoa or we should have another paragraph congratulating the Administering Authority and the people of Western Samoa, not for having co-operated with the Plebiscite Commissioner but for having carried out this evolution towards independence, for then the congratulations would be meaningful and worthy of the object to which they would apply. This is simply a comment which I would make to the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Now let me turn to operative paragraph 2 which begins: "Takes note, with satisfaction, of the results of the plebiscite".

(Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet, France)

It seems to me that we cannot take note with satisfaction of the results of the plebiscite. We can take note with satisfaction of the happy fulfilment of independence, of the evolution towards independence and of the co-operation thereafter which will be provided by New Zealand. But these results are facts which we must note. If the results had been different, we should have had no reason to pass value judgements on the wishes freely expressed by the people of Western Samoa. We should not intervene in the affairs of that people by judging whether or not they were right to take the decision which they did.

These are a few brief comments regarding the joint draft resolution but, as I said before, we are quite prepared to vote in favour of it.

Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America): I take the greatest pleasure in associating myself with the remarks that have been made here today on the subject of the complex and remarkable achievement in Western Samoa. It is a complex achievement because it represents the co-operative effort of a great many people over a considerable period of time.

My delegation has the greatest pleasure in extending its congratulations first of all to the people and the Government of Western Samoa for this culmination of the efforts over a number of years to develop self-government, and now to take the step to independence. Our congratulations go no less warmly to the representatives of the Administering Authority here present, who gave us such an interesting and complete presentation of the picture today; certainly, the Government and the representatives of New Zealand deserve all our thanks and appreciation for the work they have done over the years in contributing to this happy result. And I am sure that they have also the thanks and appreciation of the people of Western Samoa.

(Mr. Bingham, United States)

We, too, would like to extend our congratulations and thanks to the distinguished plebiscite commissioner and the staff which assisted him. We were impressed, as were others, by the conciseness and clarity of his report today. I had only one fault to find with it, and that is that he was overly modest in presenting the part that he played particularly as I learned through other sources in stimulating interest in Western Samoa and in stimulating the greatest possible participation in the plebiscite that occurred.

I am particularly happy in expressing these various remarks of congratulations and thanks because we have a special interest in this area. In making these remarks I have been speaking, not only on behalf of the people of the United States, the continental United States, but also of the people of American Samoa who are close neighbours -- many of them relatives of the people in Western Samoa -- and I know from a recent visit there how greatly interested they have been in the events in Western Samoa; and I know that they, as do the people of the continental United States, wish the greatest happiness and success to the people of Western Samoa and the Government of Western Samoa as they go forward toward complete independence next year and we look forward to their great achievements in the years to come in that connexion.

We are indeed happy to support the resolution that has been presented. I would say that I think the comments made by the distinguished representative of France are worthy of the attention of the co-sponsors.

Mr. MINYAWI (United Arab Republic): My delegation does not wish to take up much of the Council's time at this stage. We simply wish to state that we are gratified today to listen to a compatriot who was entrusted by the General Assembly to supervise the plebiscite which was held recently in Western Samoa, present his report on the plebiscite to the Trusteeship Council.

It is with a feeling of pride that we welcome that report.

We wish to express our satisfaction that all went well and that the people of Samoa have decided their future in complete freedom and that the plebiscite was conducted with the utmost impartiality. In conformity with Article 76 b of the Charter, the Samoan people have chosen to become independent as of 1 January 1962 on the basis of the constitution which was adopted by the constitutional convention of 28 October 1960.

(Mr. Minyaw, United Arab Republic)

I believe that it is our duty now to take note of their wish and recommend the General Assembly to take appropriate action on the basis of the report which was submitted today.

I wish, finally, to seize this opportunity to offer our congratulations to the people of Western Samoa on the high sense of responsibility which they have shown, and on the result which, thanks primarily to their own efforts, was achieved.

I wish also to pay tribute to the constructive role which was played by the Administering Authority in leading this Territory to the ultimate objective which is enshrined in our Charter.

My delegation is happy to state that we shall support the draft resolution which has been submitted by the delegation of Bolivia, Burma, India and the United Kingdom.

Mr. HOOD (Australia): In many ways, by circumstance, the Trusteeship Council, at its present session, has had occasion to devote its attention in the main to Territories within the Pacific Ocean region.

Now, we have in the form of the draft resolution before us the penultimate stage in the development under the supervision of this Council of one of those Territories towards its independence. The resolution in itself is not the final act; the final act lies with the General Assembly of the United Nations, as is properly stated in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution.

However, the Trusteeship Council is empowered to make its recommendation and this it does within the terms of the proposed resolution. I think it proper to say, speaking as a member of a delegation which has been closely interested in the progress of Western Samoa through geographical propinquity and through the close relations that we indeed maintain with the hitherto Administering Authority, that we would like to give a special, cordial welcome to the fact expressed in the draft resolution, namely the achievement of independence by the people of Western Samoa.

I well recall, over a period of years, hearing and paying attention to the many thorough and detailed reports which the Administering Authority, New Zealand, presented to this Council covering its administration of the Territory.



(Mr. Hood, Australia)

I think, without seeking elaborate terms, it may well be said that we have here a classic case of the success of the Trusteeship System, and we have here in the form of the proposed resolution really the justification of the existence of the Trusteeship Council and of the apparatus of the Trusteeship System.

My delegation will cordially support the adoption of the draft resolution.

U AUNG THANT (Burma): The Trust Territory of Western Samoa will emerge as an independent State a few months from now. On this occasion, may I be permitted to express the pleasant sentiments surging in my heart.

The Territory of Western Samoa is one of the few territories where the march towards the goal of independence has taken place smoothly, steadily and surely. My delegation is extremely pleased to have been associated, even if in some small way, as a member of the Trusteeship Council, with the endeavours in bringing the Territory of Western Samoa to its final goal of independence. My delegation deems it a very great privilege to be one of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution contained in document T/L.1018, which has been presented very ably by the distinguished representative of India.

(U Aung Thant, Burma)

On behalf of my delegation, I should like to extend our deepest appreciation to the representative of the United Arab Republic for the excellent work he has done as the Plebiscite Commissioner.

My delegation would also like to congratulate most warmly the Administering Authority and the people of the Territory on their achievements.

It is trite to say that independence is not a cause but a condition for economic welfare. My delegation is confident that the need for economic and technical assistance on the part of the independent State of Western Samoa will continue to receive the attention of the Government of New Zealand and also of the authorities concerned of the United Nations.

My delegation, once again, would like to extend its warmest congratulations to the Administering Authority and, in conclusion, I should like to wish the people of Western Samoa a happy and prosperous future.

Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation, together with the delegations of Burma, India and the United Kingdom, has submitted the draft resolution contained in document T/L.1018, which is at present under debate. Before speaking to the draft resolution which was, as a matter of fact, very clearly introduced by the representative of India, I should like to join in the congratulations which have been extended to the Administering Authority and to the Commissioner, Mr. Rifai, an expert by now in the United Nations and a representative who has been imbued with a deep sense of responsibility in discharging this as well as any other work he has discharged in the United Nations. Western Samoa is one more Trust Territory which, in a short time, will no longer come under the supervision and control of the Trusteeship Council. This Trust Territory has for many years enjoyed a very fruitful relationship with the Administering Authority. We express the hope that in the future it will be possible to develop this new political entity and to follow an easy course to that end, so that finally we may achieve the ultimate goals of this System as contained in the resolution adopted by the General Assembly last year.

There are many former territories which have become nations and which, therefore, no longer come within the purview of the Trusteeship Council. Certainly, Western Samoa will not be the last such territory.

(Mr. Salamanca, Bolivia)

In concluding, I should like to address myself to the representative of France and say that although I did not hear his proposed amendments personally, I -- just as the other co-sponsors of the draft resolution -- would be prepared to view his proposed changes with favour since we are sure that these would be constructive amendments.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): At this morning's meeting, the United Nations Commissioner for the Plebiscite in Western Samoa and the Special Representative of the Administering Authority made statements in connexion with which, it seems to us, this would be the right time to raise some of the questions that our delegation has in mind in regard to the debate on this point.

At the present time, the necessary measures must be taken to ensure the transfer of power to the Samoan people so that, on 1 January 1962, a truly independent and sovereign State will be established in Western Samoa. In connexion with this, we should like to ask of the representative for Western Samoa what the present situation is in regard to the transfer of control of the Bank of Western Samoa. In the past, as we know, all transactions and operations, as well as complete control, in connexion with this Bank was exercised in New Zealand.

We should like to know whether all powers in connexion with the Bank were transferred to the Samoan people and, if this has not yet been done, when it will be done and how.

Mr. WRIGHT (Special Representative): In answer to the question of the representative of the Soviet Union, I think that I could do no better than to refer to the answer given when this question was raised in the General Assembly -- the answer was given by the Prime Minister of Western Samoa in his final speech. I will quote from that speech. This is what the Prime Minister of Western Samoa, the Honourable Fiame, said:

"The distinguished representative of the Soviet Union referred in his speech to the Bank of Western Samoa. He pointed out that the Bank of New Zealand at present holds a majority of the Bank's shares. This arrangement was made as a transitional one only. I should like to point out that the Bank was established under Western Samoan legislation. Its

(Mr. Wright, Special Representative)

"constitution can therefore be changed at any time by the Legislative Assembly of Western Samoa."

That is still the position. The Bank of Western Samoa is set up by an ordinance of the Legislative Assembly of Western Samoa. The Legislative Assembly of Western Samoa, after independence, at any time will be able to amend the Bank of Western Samoa Ordinance and assume full powers over the Bank.

I think that is about all I can say in answer to that question, that the decision as to when Samoa takes full control of the Bank of Western Samoa is entirely in its own hands.

Mr. OBERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We should like to know what is the de facto situation at the present time; in other words, what percentage of the shares of this Bank belong to Samoans and what percentage is in the hands of New Zealanders? How many Samoans occupy executive posts in the Bank and how many executives are New Zealanders who preside over the administration of the Bank?

Mr. WRIGHT (Special Representative): At the moment, the capital of the Bank of New Zealand is held in the following proportions: 55 per cent is held by the Bank of New Zealand; and 45 per cent is held by the Government of Western Samoa. On the Board of Directors of the Bank of New Zealand there are, at the moment, two Samoans -- the Honourable Tamasese and the Honourable Fonotfi.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It seems to me that a clear answer has been given to the first part of our question, and perhaps the Special Representative could complete his answer. He said that there were two Samoans on the Board of Directors of the Bank. We should like to know how many New Zealanders there are and who is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank.

Mr. WRIGHT (Special Representative): There are three New Zealanders on the Board of Directors of the Bank of New Zealand and the Chairman of the Board of Directors is a New Zealander, who is also Chairman of the Bank of New Zealand.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In connexion with the data just given us on this particular point -- that is the status of the Bank of Western Samoa -- we should like to call attention to the fact that at the present time the leading posts in the Bank are held by the Bank of New Zealand. We should like to know whether the Administering Authority intends, before the proclamation of the independence of Western Samoa, that is before 1 January 1962, to take the initiative of handing over complete control of the Bank to the Government of Samoa.

Mr. QUENTIN-RAXTER (New Zealand): Mr. Chairman, I think that that is properly a question for me to answer. The New Zealand Government's position in this matter would be that it is entirely for the Government of Western Samoa to reach its own decisions on this point. We feel that we have fulfilled our duty in the matter in assuring ourselves that the Government of Western Samoa, and particularly its Prime Minister, understand the position fully and are in a position to judge whether and for how long it is to their advantage that the present position should be maintained. One can understand that there are certain advantages in using the expertise and the direction of a larger and more well-established banking concern. However, it certainly is the position that the Bank of Western Samoa is subject to Western Samoan legislation solely, that it is within the power of the competent authorities in Western Samoa to change that position by legislation or, indeed, to vary the shareholdings in the

(Mr. Quentin-Baxter, New Zealand)

Bank; it would require no more than a purchase of 26,000 worth of shares by the Government of Western Samoa to alter the holdings in the Bank. Certainly, this is not a matter in which the Government of New Zealand would exercise even the slightest persuasion to prevent the Samoan authorities from doing as they wished. So far as I know, I think it is only that the Western Samoan Government is content for the moment that the present arrangement should stand. None the less, as the Prime Minister of Western Samoa said, they regard these arrangements as transitional and they will review them when they feel that the time has come to do so.

Mr. OBERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In spite of what has been said, we should like to be told whether before the proclamation of the independence of Western Samoa, the Administering Authority intends to take the initiative of handing full control of the Bank of Western Samoa to the Samoan Government. We attach great importance to this question because it is obvious to all the members of the Council that control of the basic economic organ, even after proclamation of political independence, will represent a considerable limitation on sovereignty, and we would therefore request that a precise explanation be given to us as to the actual intentions of the Administering Authority in this connexion.

Mr. QUENTIN-BAXTER (New Zealand): The New Zealand Government has no further intentions in this matter. It believes that it has done its part in ensuring that the control of the situation rests solely with the Government of Western Samoa. I do not think there are any circumstances in which the New Zealand Government could take a further initiative; to do so would, in fact, be contrary to the whole policy that we have followed of giving powers and discretions to the Government of Western Samoa well ahead of the date of its independence. Indeed, it rests entirely with the Government of Western Samoa, and even in terms of the ultimate control of the Bank, the power is theirs, and the majority of directors, who are now New Zealanders remain there only so long as the Government of Western Samoa believes it to be to their advantage that this should be so.

Mr. OBEREKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I must confess that on this very important question we have not received any satisfactory reply from the representative of New Zealand, and in proper time we will comment further on this question. For the time being, we should like to say that in our opinion the Trusteeship Council, before adopting any resolution of a congratulatory nature, should study the matter most carefully, to see to it that the independence received by Western Samoa should not be fictitious independence, but should be genuine independence. Apparently the representative of New Zealand cannot give us the names of the foreigners who constitute a majority of the Board of Directors of this bank. We trust that when independence is granted to the Territory, measures will be taken so that control of this vital part of the economic life of the country will be given over to the Government of Western Samoa. Otherwise, one cannot properly speak of a transfer of power, if control of the Bank continues to be vested in the hand of New Zealanders.

Our next question is addressed to Mr. Rifai, the United Nations Commissioner for the Plebiscite in Western Samoa, as well as to the Special Representative of New Zealand. Possibly, Mr. Rifai will find it possible to reply to this question. We should like to know whether the Government of Western Samoa intends to request admission to the United Nations -- to apply for membership in the United Nations -- whether there are any indications to this effect. Were there any statements made either in favour of being admitted to the United Nations or against such admission?



Mr. RIFAI (United Nations Commissioner for the Plebiscite in Western Samoa): As far as I can tell, I do not recall that I was informed, at any juncture, that there was any official decision taken by the Samoan Government in this regard. However, as I stated in my report, and also as I said in my statement today, several people have addressed this question to me. Several people have said: "Would Western Samoa have the opportunity to be admitted to the United Nations?" I think the question was put in this way or perhaps they may have said: "Will the United Nations admit Western Samoa to its membership after independence?" As far as I can recall, this was the way in which the question was put to me, but as I said earlier nothing official has been brought to my attention in this regard.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Perhaps some additional information on this question could be given to us by the Special Representative.

Mr. WRIGHT (Special Representative): The question of the admission of Western Samoa to the United Nations, or the application by the future independent Government of Western Samoa for membership of the United Nations, is one which is entirely for the bodies concerned to decide, that is, the future independent State of Western Samoa and the United Nations Organization.

As far as New Zealand is concerned, it has taken the attitude that this is a matter for the Samoans themselves to decide. The only comment that has been made to the Samoans is that as a small country they have many problems -- many internal problems -- to solve themselves, that it would cost a good amount of money to maintain a permanent delegation in New York and that it is entirely up to them to decide this question of priorities -- whether they feel that they have the resources to maintain a permanent delegation to the United Nations in New York. It is not only a question of financial resources; it is a question of human resources and I think you will have gathered from my remarks this morning and those of my colleague that the human resources of Samoa are going to be stretched very thinly and that they are going to have tremendous tasks to fulfil in Samoa itself. However, the question of their joining the United Nations is one for them to consider and decide.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Our last question relates to the statement made by the representative of the Administering Authority in past sessions of the Trusteeship Council, in particular during the twenty-sixth session last year. I refer to the statement made by the representative of New Zealand to the effect that New Zealand had no intention of placing any armed forces in the Trust Territory or establishing military bases there, or introducing Western Samoa in any other way into the pattern of military alliances of which New Zealand is a member at the present time. We should like to ask whether the situation in this respect remains unchanged and whether the representative of the Administering Authority can, at the present time, confirm the statement made on this subject last year by the Administering Authority.

Mr. QUENTIN-BAXTER (New Zealand): I can give that reassurance and reaffirmation without any qualification at all..

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): We think that this confirmation and reaffirmation of the statements made before the Council last year will be welcomed very warmly by all of us. These statements are so important and significant that they should be particularly stressed by the Council either in a draft resolution or in a report of the Council.

As to our general observations in connexion with the future of Western Samoa and the report of the United Nations Commissioner for the Plebiscite, we shall give these in our statement tomorrow.

The PRESIDENT: Are there any other representatives who would like to speak to this item?

Since no representatives have indicated that they wish to speak now, and since the representative of the Soviet Union would like to make his general statement on Western Samoa tomorrow, I take it that the draft resolution which has been placed before the Council will have to be considered tomorrow also.

## AGENDA ITEM 4a

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF RUANDA-URUNDI: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 1959 (T/1552, 1572; T/L.1013; T/PET.3/133/Add.1,136; T/PET.3/L.118-122; T/COM.3/L.50-L.52)(continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Coppens, Special Representative for the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi under Belgian administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): In reply to a question posed at an earlier meeting by the representative of the Soviet Union, I wish to make a brief statement in order to give the Council members the information which I have in this connexion.

At the outset, let me remind you that there are no political crimes or offences recognized in Ruanda-Urundi. The law inflicts penalties only for actual offences and does not take into consideration, in any way, the political opinions of the offenders. At the request of the United Nations, the Administering Authority decided to relax this rule and to give amnesty in connexion with offences which were committed under the influence of strong political feeling during the period extending from 1 October 1959 to 1 April 1961, making an exception only of certain crimes which were considered to be very serious.

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

The first step to take, therefore, was to determine which, during this period, were the offences which could properly be considered to have been committed for political reasons. This was the role assumed by the Commission for Political Amnesty which was composed of three Belgian magistrates. This Commission examined slightly over 2,000 cases and among these 128 were considered to fall in the category of very grave crimes, that is crimes not covered by the Amnesty Law. All the other cases were either offences which were committed without political motives or offences coming under the terms of the Amnesty Law. I would recall in this connexion that several hundred offenders had already been released following collective or individual pardons, several hundred more are at present being released from prison or are about to be released. I can also remind you of the cases which were reviewed and which have not yet led to any conviction. I sought to get specific figures relating to these various cases, but I have not yet obtained them. In any case the total figure must be the difference between less than 2,000 cases, probably approximately 1,500, and the 128 cases which do not fall under the Amnesty Law. The last, the 128 cases, are at present being reviewed by the special United Nations Commission.

The Administering Authority will take up in the spirit of resolution 1605 the cases submitted to it by the Special Commission with a view to granting a pardon eventually.

The PRESIDENT: Does anyone wish to speak? Since there are no speakers who would like to speak on Ruanda-Urundi, I take it that the item on our agenda, namely, Ruanda-Urundi, is concluded.

I give the floor to the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It seems to us that the problem of Ruanda-Urundi is of such a nature that perhaps it would be advisable to debate it to obtain more complete information from the Administering Authority and see whether or not the Administering Authority is fulfilling the terms of the General Assembly resolution on this question of Ruanda-Urundi.

(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

Thus, we would encourage the Administering Authority to deploy every possible effort to implement the decisions of the General Assembly in the stipulated time. It seems to us that the members of the Trusteeship Council are not so indifferent to this problem that they find it unnecessary to ask any questions; that is why we think it would perhaps be desirable to give the members of the Council more time in order that they may express their views on this question.

The Soviet delegation in turn intends to express its views on the situation in Ruanda-Urundi on the basis of the unfortunately rather vague, ambiguous and incomplete information that so far we have been given by the Administering Authority.

Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America): I wish to comment just very briefly on the remarks just made by the representative of the Soviet Union. I can assure him that my delegation at least is not indifferent to the events in Ruanda-Urundi. We are all intensely concerned with events there and it is perhaps because of that concern that we at least have not intervened in this debate nor have we asked questions, nor do we propose to make a statement by way of general debate.

We are all aware that the United Nations Commission, headed by Ambassador Dorsinville, is currently at work in the Territory and that they have very grave and heavy responsibilities working with the representatives of the Administering Authority. It seems to us that we could not possibly debate this matter intelligently here without the presence of the Chairman of the Commission to advise us as to the course of events and surely it would not be wise at this critical juncture for him to interrupt his labour there, and that of the Commission, to return to give us that report.

Therefore, in our view, there is no purpose to be served by a debate at this time in this Council on the matter of Ruanda-Urundi. We are all intensely interested that the matter should progress satisfactorily and that the terms of the resolution of the General Assembly should be carried out. But the time for a debate on that subject will be the time when the Commission submits its report on that subject and we feel that to embark upon a debate at this time would only

(Mr. Bingham, United States)

lead to some confusion on the situation. We cannot see that it would serve any purpose. I only intervene at this time to emphasize the fact that our silence at this time is for this reason and not because we are indifferent to the matter. On the contrary we have, as I have said, the most intense concern and it is our fervent hope that matters will progress satisfactorily on the spot with the co-operation of all elements concerned and at this stage we feel that all we can do is to express that hope.

The PRESIDENT: As I remember correctly, the representative of India, during the meeting yesterday, expressed the opinion that his delegation might ask a few questions in regard to the conditions in Ruanda-Urundi, based on the further information that the Administering Authority might be in a position to furnish to the Council. The Council has also heard the statement made by the representative of the Soviet Union that the debate on Ruanda-Urundi should not at this stage be concluded.

Since at least two representatives have expressed the opinion that they might like to make statements based on further information which will be furnished in due course by the representatives of the Administering Authority, the Chair takes the position that the item on Ruanda-Urundi is not concluded and that the Council will take it up at a subsequent meeting.

The Council will now turn to the next item, which concerns conditions in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration.



## AGENDA ITEM 4c

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 1959 (T/1573; T/L.1011)

Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I had not expected that this item on the agenda would be reached this afternoon and I had therefore not prepared any statement. But the situation is, I think, clear, from the point of view of our obligation and therefore I would wish, in order not to delay the work of the Council, to make a short statement of the present position.

The situation is, of course, governed by General Assembly resolution 1608(XV) and I should remind the Council of the principal provisions of that resolution, after the introduction and preamble.

"The General Assembly...."

"2. Endorses the results of the plebiscites that:

"(a) The people of the Northern Cameroons have, by a substantial majority, decided to achieve independence by joining the independent Federation of Nigeria;

"(b) The people of the Southern Cameroons have similarly decided to achieve independence by joining the independent Republic of Cameroun;

"3. Considers that, the people of the two parts of the Trust Territory having freely and secretly expressed their wishes with regard to their respective futures in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1352(XIV) and 1473 (XIV), the decisions made by them through democratic processes under the supervision of the United Nations should be immediately implemented;

"4. Decides that, the plebiscites having been taken separately with differing results, the Trusteeship Agreement of 13 December 1946 concerning the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration shall be terminated, in accordance with Article 76 b of the Charter of the United Nations and in agreement with the Administering Authority, in the following manner:

"(a) With respect to the Northern Cameroons, on 1 June 1961, upon its joining the Federation of Nigeria as a separate province of the Northern Region of Nigeria;



(Sir Hugh Foot, United Kingdom)

"(b) With respect to the Southern Cameroons, on 1 October 1961, upon its joining the Republic of Cameroun;

"5. Invites the Administering Authority, the Government of the Southern Cameroons and the Republic of Cameroun to initiate urgent discussions with a view to finalizing, before 1 October 1961, the arrangements by which the agreed and declared policies of the parties concerned will be implemented."

That was the substantive part of the resolution passed by the General Assembly, and I think it only remains for me to report on the action taken to carry out the directions on the invitation of the General Assembly in regard to the negotiations between the Government of the Southern Cameroons and the Government of the Republic of Cameroun.

Discussions on the complex matters which have to be settled before the date stated are continuous. They have been going forward over a considerable period of time and a meeting took place in the middle of June at Buea, the capital of the Southern Cameroons, attended by the representatives of the Southern Cameroons, of the Republic of Cameroun and of the United Kingdom Government. Some progress was made at those discussions and informal discussions have continued since, and it is hoped that further discussions will take place very soon as a result of the informal talks which are proceeding without interruption.

That is the main point that I have to report to this Council. It would not be possible, nor, I think, desirable, to attempt to cover the points, many of them, as I say, complex, which have to be settled in these discussions while they are under discussion by the two authorities concerned in accordance with the wishes of the General Assembly.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the Council I wish to thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his statement.

Does any member wish to ask questions or make comments on the statement just made by the representative of the United Kingdom?

I call on the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Since we are at the present time taking up this problem in a rather unexpected way, we would hope that at future meetings the representative of the United Kingdom could possibly provide us with more concrete and comprehensive information regarding the negotiations which are to bring about the fulfilment of the terms of the General Assembly resolution.

I should like to know whether we may expect to receive this more detailed and concrete information subsequently. We should also like to ask how the Administering Authority plans to report to the General Assembly, to inform that body. Is it to report to the General Assembly on the conduct of these negotiations and their outcome so that various questions may be put in this connexion? We should like to know when we can expect to hear the concrete outcome of these negotiations.

Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom): I should like to be able to make a full comment in answer to the question that has been raised, but I must frankly say that I cannot hold out any prospect that it will be possible to do so before this Council completes its present duties. The discussions have led to one tripartite meeting in Buea, to which I referred, in the middle of last month; I do not believe that it will be possible for any further tripartite meeting to take place before our own work at this Council's session is concluded. It would therefore be quite wrong for me to hold out any prospect that I can make a fuller report before our work is completed, as I understand it ought to be soon after the middle of this month.

There is a second heading to the question. I cannot say when these matters will be disposed of by agreement between the two parties principally concerned -- though Great Britain is also most concerned in achieving a satisfactory settlement of all outstanding points -- or how, exactly, it would be right for the report to be made. But I note the comment, or rather, the request, of the representative of the Soviet Union that a report should be made in due course.

Mr. HOOD (Australia): At the risk of appearing to raise unnecessary difficulties, I should like to say that it seems to me, objectively speaking, that we are getting into somewhat deep waters at the present stage of our business. A great deal of what has been put before the Council during this afternoon in relation to three Territories -- three in one afternoon -- refers to political arrangements affecting the future status of the Territories under discussion. The Trusteeship Council has always in the past rightly exercised its obligation to examine conditions within the Territories in order to assure itself that the Administering Authority in each case is discharging its own responsibilities vis-à-vis the respective Trusteeship Agreements.

(Mr. Hood, Australia)

It would seem to me that we are in some danger of getting into territory which is not strictly the province of the Trusteeship Council, namely, we are dealing here in some respects with recommendations and decisions of the General Assembly in respect of political matters and political arrangements. It is not a point which I would want to press. But I do put it that we should not perhaps contemplate that all these matters have to be discussed in the Council and explained in the Council. The proper place for the exposition of the political arrangements is probably in the General Assembly, in the Fourth Committee, and not in this Trusteeship Council. I think we would then have our own remaining business better organized and more orderly if that thought might perhaps be borne in mind.

The PRESIDENT: The Council has just heard the statement made by the representative of Australia. Are there any comments?

If there are no questions to be put to the representative of the Administering Authority in regard to conditions in the Cameroons under United Kingdom Administration, the Chair takes it that the working paper on conditions in the Cameroons which is circulated in document T/L.1011 should be included in the Council's report to the General Assembly.

Mr. OLEBNEKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): We consider that the Trusteeship Council's report should also include the statements made here in the Council in our very brief consideration of the problem, that is to say, reference should be made to the fact that information was requested regarding the conduct of negotiations and the fulfilment of the General Assembly resolution on the Cameroons under United Kingdom Administration. I think that this should be on record as well as the reply of the representative of the United Kingdom, who, if we understood him correctly, assured the Trusteeship Council that the Administering Authority will make every effort to present a report at the proper time prior to the next session of the General Assembly regarding the fulfilment of the terms of the General Assembly resolution adopted at the last session. We feel that all these points should be included in the report of the Trusteeship Council.

Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom): There are two points that I think are raised. On one of them I certainly would agree it would be right and proper, in addition to dealing with the annual report for 1959 in the way the President suggested, that a note of the question raised by the delegate of the Soviet Union and of the reply made should be made in our record. That's the first point. I see no objection to that. It seems to me that as it is right and proper it should be so.

On the second point -- forgive me if I'm not yet fully familiar with the procedures of the Organization -- certainly I agree that it would be right and proper that a report should be made following the completion of the negotiations. That should be made as soon as possible after the agreement, as we trust, will be reached. How and at what particular time, I'm afraid that I would not be able to say, but the point I think is, on which we are agreed, that when these negotiations have been completed and agreement reached, in the proper manner and at the proper time a report should be made to the Organization.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no objection to the suggestion made by the representative of the Soviet Union and supported by the representative of the United Kingdom the Council will so decide.

Mr. KUSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France)(interpretation from French):

At this stage in our debate I in no way propose to speak to this question of the Cameroons. I should, however, like to reserve the position of my delegation, which did not have an opportunity to study the substance of the matter. I should like to emphasize -- and this should be properly recorded -- that on a reading of the General Assembly resolution it does not seem to me that the Administering Authority is in duty bound to report to the next session of the General Assembly on this matter. I am not, however, prejudging the substance of the matter. I simply want to put forward this view of my delegation, and possibly I can elaborate on it in proper time, not before the Trusteeship Council, for at the present time this debate would seem to be rather meaningless, but if need be subsequently before the General Assembly.

## ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: The comments by the representative of France will be duly recorded in the records of the Council.

The last item on our agenda today concerns the question of "The attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territories and application to Trust Territories of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples".

I suppose no member is prepared right now to participate in the debate. Does any member wish to comment? I suppose that many members of the Council would like to address themselves to this very important item on the agenda, but as this is not an appropriate time, in view of the lateness of the hour -- it is now 5 o'clock -- I take it that the members might be well interested in what is going on in the next chamber, if the debate is still going on there.

Does any member wish to comment otherwise?

Mr. OPIREMIKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We consider that the problem just raised and put before the Council, that is, the question of the application to the Trust Territories of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, is a problem which can well be considered the major item on the agenda of the Council, and it must therefore be most carefully examined by the Council.

(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

Clearly, the Soviet delegation will speak on this subject and express its views thereon and we hope also to hear the views of all other members of the Council, since this is an extremely vital question. We should like to know, Mr. President, how you propose to direct the debate on this particular question.

So far as we remember, after the majority of the Council unfortunately rejected a Soviet proposal to submit a special report to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session regarding implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, a proposal submitted by India was adopted, to the effect that a special chapter in the report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly should cover this point.

We should like to know whether you, Sir, have any information as to how this chapter is to be drafted and how the debate on this very important item is to be carried out.

The PRESIDENT: As is well known to the Council, a decision was made by the Council that a chapter should be devoted to this item -- that is, the item on the attainment of independence -- with reference to General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

The Chair's position is this: that the Council will have to decide what form and substance this chapter -- I believe it is chapter V -- which will be included in the Council's report to the General Assembly, should assume. I take it that when we consider this matter at a subsequent meeting, perhaps tomorrow, the Council will have to decide how that chapter should be formulated and included in the Council's report to the General Assembly. Obviously, members of the Council will make certain statements which will be carefully noted by the Secretariat and included.

The final form should be decided upon by the Council and, of course, the Chair is not in any position to assume what form it should take. If that is clear, I take it that the Council will so decide.



(The President)

Tomorrow, there will be two meetings of the Council. At our morning meeting, the Council will resume consideration of the item concerning Western Samoa and then resume the item concerning Ruanda-Urundi.

The Chair would earnestly ask members to be ready with any statements which they may wish to make so that we can, we hope, dispose of these items.

Also on our agenda tomorrow will be the very important item concerning attainment of self-government or independence.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Mr. President, we have no objection to the procedure you have just outlined regarding the debate on this item. Now, with your permission, we should like to make a few comments which are not directly related to the item under discussion, but we should like to make these comments if you feel that this is the proper time for us to speak. We would be grateful for an opportunity to comment at this time.

The PRESIDENT: Before I give the floor to the representative of the Soviet Union, I was going to mention the items that we will be taking up tomorrow; that is, in addition to the item on the attainment of self-government or independence, we have other items such as the revision of the Questionnaire, dissemination of information, Offers of study and training facilities, arrangements for a visiting mission to Nauru and New Guinea and revision of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We should like very briefly to dwell on three problems which are of interest to our delegation, regarding which we should like to have some information.

The Secretariat distributed the text of a petition in document T/PET.3/L.120; this is a petition dated 8 May 1961 and it is addressed by Mr. Mushatsi-Kareba, a petitioner from Ruanda-Urundi. First of all, we do not understand why this petition, which was received by the Secretariat in May, has not yet, apparently, been distributed to members of the Council. We are not clear either as to why the complete wording of the petition has not been published. We should like to

have the Secretariat distributed the complete text of this petition in the next few days as well as a translation of this petition into Russian which we urgently need.

I now come to my second question, which concerns document T/L.1012/Add.2 relating to Nauru. This addendum, the question of the inclusion of which was raised by the Soviet delegation and approved by the Council, includes statements made here by Mr. Gabadu, a member of the Nauru Local Government Council. For reasons which we fail to understand, the Secretariat unfortunately has not included in this document some important parts of the statement made by Mr. Gabadu in the Council, which do, however, appear in the records of our meetings. I refer more particularly to an important statement made by Mr. Gabadu to the effect that the opinion of the Nauruan people on resettlement in Australia -- as appears in a part of his statement on page 21 of T/PV.1156 -- is as follows:

"As we understand it, if we are to be resettled in Australia, that can be done only at the expense of sacrificing our national identity as a Nauruan people."

And, subsequently, we find the following explanation given by Mr. Gabadu -- an explanation of the reasons for which the Nauruans find the proposal of the Administering Authority regarding resettlement to be unacceptable. Mr. Gabadu concluded his statement by saying:

"Therefore, to us, resettlement on an island or in a place where we can retain our identity as Nauruans is a most important matter."

Reference has quite rightly been made to this part of the statement by various members of the Council during the course of the general debate and we feel that this statement of Mr. Gabadu -- which is one of the most important statements made by him before the Council -- should be included in extenso in the document concerned.

(Mr. Oberemko, USSR)

We should like to have the Secretariat complete this document with the statement which I have just quoted and taken from the verbatim record of the meeting of the Trusteeship Council held on 26 June of this year.

I come now to the last question that we should like to raise, and this is in connexion with the summary records of the Trusteeship Council. We have no complaints against our interpreters, nor do we have any complaints against those who draft these records. We read through these records and find that our statements are correctly reflected in the records of the meetings. This, however, can be said only of the verbatim records and not of the summary records. The documents which appear under the symbol "T/SR" virtually do not reflect statements made by the representative of the Soviet Union and have to be corrected by us. Quite frequently we have had to submit a complete text in correction of a statement which appeared under our name in the summary records. We call the attention of the Secretariat to this so that the quality of the summary records may be improved upon.

Mr. PROTICHI (Under-Secretary): Regarding the two points which were raised by the representative of the Soviet Union, the Secretariat will look into the matter, and at our next meeting I will be in a position to give a reply concerning the petition mentioned.

Regarding the addition to the working paper, this will be taken into account and the necessary correction will be made in the working paper which was circulated.

Regarding the third point, the attention of the competent service of the Secretariat will be drawn to the question of the summary records of the Council.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.