



UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



PROVISIONAL

T/PV.1324  
23 November 1967

ENGLISH

Thirteenth Special Session

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Thursday, 23 November 1967, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Miss BROOKS (Liberia)

Future composition of the Trusteeship Council

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.1324 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed version.

## FUTURE COMPOSITION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (T/1674)

The PRESIDENT: I now draw the Council's attention again to the future composition of the Trusteeship Council, for at our last meeting we decided to request the Secretary-General to submit a legal study on the future composition of the Council. I therefore call on the Under-Secretary.

Mr. DJERMAKOYE (Under-Secretary, Department of Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories) (interpretation from French): Madam President, in accordance with the wish you expressed in the name of the Council at yesterday afternoon's meeting, the Secretariat has made available to members of the Council document T/1674. It deals with the composition of the Trusteeship Council once Nauru has achieved independence. As you know, this is scheduled for 31 January 1968.

The PRESIDENT: Are there any comments on the document?

Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In relation to the presentation to the Trusteeship Council of the note by the Secretary-General regarding the future composition of the Trusteeship Council, which is contained in document T/1674, the Soviet delegation wishes to make the following statement.

In the past, the Soviet delegation has, on many occasions in the Trusteeship Council itself as well as in the General Assembly, presented its point of view regarding the activities of the Trusteeship Council. Our assessment of those activities flowed from the place in the over-all efforts of the United Nations in the cause of decolonization occupied by the Trusteeship Council, an organ which under the Charter is to contribute to the political, economic and social progress of peoples of Trust Territories in their advancement towards self-determination and independence.

The facts have shown that the Trusteeship Council, as a result of the excessive presence in it of colonial Powers and those who support their positions, has on a number of occasions been unable to take firm and effective action for the

(Mr. Shakhov, USSR)

elimination of colonial régimes in Trust Territories, as is called for by the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Trusteeship Council continues to ignore numerous decisions of the General Assembly and the Committee of Twenty-Four aimed at the speedy implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. We firmly condemn such a policy.

Given these circumstances, we approach the question of the composition of the Trusteeship Council which has arisen as a result of the impending departure of New Zealand as a member of the Council on 31 January 1968 when Nauru attains its independence.

In our opinion the question of the possibility of making any amendments whatsoever to the United Nations Charter, as mentioned in paragraph 6 of the note by the Secretary-General (T/1674), is not the result of any need and is not based upon any provisions of the Charter. It is entirely clear that under Article 86 of the Charter, the parity of the administering and non-administering Powers in the Council is designed not to permit an increase in the number of administering Powers over non-administering Powers. It is known that at the present time a situation has been produced in which the number of non-administering Powers is larger than the number of administering Powers.

(Mr. Shakhov, USSR)

This being so, it is no longer possible to implement artificially the provisions of Article 86 (1) c of the Charter. This situation has arisen because a number of colonial countries have attained independence. That is why the existence of the Trusteeship Council with a limited membership -- in other words without the participation of New Zealand -- is not contrary to the requirements of the Charter.

Here it is understood that Liberia, which was elected to the Council in accordance with Article 86 of the Charter, must remain as a member of the Trusteeship Council until its term of office expires.

Also, as we see it, the question of the future composition of the Trusteeship Council is not an urgent matter from any standpoint, or at least is not one which calls for any amendment to the United Nations Charter. The question of the elimination of the remnants of colonialism and the implementation of the requirements laid down in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples can, and indeed must, be solved by the Committee of Twenty-Four and the General Assembly.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no further comments or any objections, I propose that the Council should decide to take note of the Secretary-General's note on the future composition of the Council (T/1674), together with the observations made by a member of the Council. If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We have now concluded the work before us and if I hear no objection I propose that the Council should authorize the Secretariat, in consultation with the President, to prepare a factual report to the General Assembly on the thirteenth special session. As I see it, the report will cover our work during the special session, in particular the resolution adopted in respect of Nauru and the note by the Secretary-General on the future composition of the Trusteeship Council, of which we have just taken note. If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I should now like to inform the Council that following the adoption of the resolution regarding Nauru I have just received a petition from Nauru. In view of the fact that we have completed our work, I should like to suggest that this petition be circulated to the members and that the Administering Authority should be requested to furnish the Secretariat with its comments so that both the petition and the comments can be circulated to members and, thereafter, forwarded to the General Assembly. If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Is there any further business? Then let me again, on behalf of the Council, extend hearty congratulations to Head Chief Hammer de Roburt and, through him, to the people of Nauru, together with best wishes for their continued prosperity and success as an independent nation.

I now declare closed the thirteenth special session of the Trusteeship Council.

The meeting rose at 11.5 a.m.