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AGENDA ITEM 48

**Question of the future of Western Samoa: report of the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner for Western Samoa and report of the Trusteeship Council thereon (A/4818, A/4840)**

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner for Western Samoa to take a place at the Committee table at all the meetings at which the future of the Trust Territory was to be under consideration.

*Mr. Najmuddine Rifai, United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner for Western Samoa, took a place at the Committee table.*

2. Mr. RIFAI (United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner for Western Samoa), introducing his report (A/4840), said that in his work as Plebiscite Commissioner he had endeavoured to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious colleagues, the Commissioners who had supervised the plebiscites in other Trust Territories. The final results of the plebiscite had shown that 86.1 per cent of the estimated electorate had participated and that of the people who had voted 83 per cent had been in favour of the Constitution and 79 per cent in favour of Western Samoa achieving independence on 1 January 1962 on the basis of that Constitution.

3. From his own observations and those of his staff he was able to state that the plebiscite had been conducted with impartiality and in complete freedom. No information likely to invalidate that conclusion had been brought to his attention. The people of Western Samoa had shown a strong sense of discipline and maturity and had behaved with dignity. It was his hope that the lessons of the plebiscite would find their place in the political life of Western Samoa.

4. The first petition ever received by the Trusteeship Council had come from Western Samoa and the first visiting mission had been sent to that Territory. Thus the people of Western Samoa had been the pioneers in the quest of the peoples of the Trust Territories for emancipation. They had moved forward smoothly, thanks to the harmonious relations between themselves and the Administering Authority and between the latter

and the United Nations. It was a chapter in the history of the International Trusteeship System of which all concerned could be justly proud.

5. He wished to congratulate the Government and people of Western Samoa and the New Zealand Government. He was grateful to the Prime Minister and Government of Western Samoa, to the Plebiscite Administrator and to the Government of New Zealand for their help. He also thanked the members of the Secretariat, whose devotion to duty deserved the warmest praise.

6. Mr. CORNER (New Zealand) observed that the final stage in Western Samoa's evolutionary progress from dependent status to full sovereignty had been reached. A Constitution, the first clause of which read "The independent State of Western Samoa ... shall be free and sovereign", had been adopted on 28 October 1960 and confirmed by the Samoan people in the plebiscite of May 1961. It was now for the United Nations to confirm that the Samoan people were to enjoy the freedom they so profoundly desired. His country, which had come to know the Samoan people well and had great respect and affection for them, hoped that the General Assembly would adopt the unanimous recommendation of the Trusteeship Council (resolution 2102 (XXVII)) that the 1946 Trusteeship Agreement should be terminated. His Government believed that the Samoan people were worthy of the confidence which the United Nations would be showing in them by taking that historic step.

7. It was an honour for New Zealand to have the Prime Minister of Western Samoa attending the General Assembly as a member of the New Zealand delegation. Having been confirmed in his position as the leader of the Samoan Government by the elections of February 1961, Mr. Flame Mata'afa would be able to address the Committee with the authority and support of the Samoan people.

8. The New Zealand Government considered that adequate preparations had been made for Western Samoa to function as an independent country and that suitable arrangements had been or could be made for the new State to obtain the assistance it would need in the early years of independence. The plebiscite had shown that the overwhelming majority of the Samoan people wished to see their country become independent on 1 January 1962 on the basis of the Constitution they had adopted. His Government had confidence in the ability of the Samoan people, through their parliamentary system, to control the full range of their internal and external affairs.

9. He wished to pay a tribute to the work of Mr. Rifai, the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner, and his staff, who would always be remembered as having played a key role in Western Samoa's progress towards independence. The Commissioner's report on the conduct of the plebiscite was an example of the

thorough and impartial attitude which was expected from the United Nations in such matters.

10. The termination of a Trusteeship Agreement was a three-way process; it affected not only the country attaining independence and the country which was relinquishing its responsibility but also the United Nations itself, which was completing its work of ensuring that a dependent people was given the opportunity to develop its potentialities to the full. In guiding the Samoan people towards full self-government, New Zealand had made mistakes but it had learned from those mistakes. The very close relationship which had been built up between the Samoan and New Zealand Governments showed that New Zealand had conscientiously striven to promote the welfare of the Samoan people and had respected their unique character and their dignity. For practical purposes New Zealand had already withdrawn from its former position as Administering Authority and had taken up its new role as friend and helper of Samoa. If the Samoan Government so desired, there was much that New Zealand could do to help Western Samoa in the future but that help could be given only on the basis of a new and equal partnership between them.

11. For the past fifteen years, under the Trusteeship System, the United Nations had co-operated in the endeavours to bring Western Samoa to self-government. That partnership with the United Nations had provided a constant stimulus to successive New Zealand Governments, which had been spurred on by visiting missions from the Trusteeship Council. Sometimes United Nations representatives had been able to persuade the Samoan leaders to accept essential changes even when New Zealand itself had failed. The Trusteeship System had fully justified itself and the United Nations could pride itself on having done its work well in Western Samoa. He was confident that, just as Western Samoa was committed by its Constitution to observing in its domestic affairs the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it would also respect the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations in the exercise of its sovereign rights as an independent State.

12. The main credit for Western Samoa's rapid political progress, however, rested with the Samoan people themselves and with their leaders. They had shown great capacity for adaptation; justly proud of their ancient society, they had nevertheless modified Samoan custom in response to the demands of a modern State. Evidence of a major adjustment made in the Samoan social system was the recommendation of the Constitutional Convention that all Samoan citizens, regardless of their race, who were related to families possessing rights to Samoan land should be permitted to hold "matai" titles and thus to exercise control over customary land. Many similar measures had been adopted over the past year to foster the development of an integrated society owing undivided allegiance to the Samoan State. A people who were determined to hold fast to the values of their traditional way of life, but who were constantly creating a flexible social and political system suited to their needs, were surely well fitted to have undisputed control over their own affairs.

13. Although the majority of the Samoan people still adhered to the system of "matai" suffrage associated with the traditional social system, the experience of a plebiscite based on universal adult franchise might well pave the way for a change. There was nothing in

the new Constitution to preclude that change; indeed, by leaving the method of electing members of the Legislative Assembly to be prescribed by ordinary law, the Constitution had deliberately left the matter open. It would clearly be improper to attempt to force upon the Samoan people a change for which they were not ready and which they would at present regard as undermining their social system.

14. The new constitutional and political framework in itself would not solve the problems facing the Samoan Government. Hard work, careful planning and outside assistance would be needed if Western Samoa was to make a success of independence. It would have to face the problems of a rapidly increasing population, too great a dependence upon a narrow range of export crops the world prices of which were often falling, and a shortage of specialists and experts. The Samoan Prime Minister and his Government had started to deal with their problems realistically and energetically.

15. When the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Agriculture and Education had visited New Zealand in August 1961, there had been a frank discussion of many of Western Samoa's problems and consideration of the ways in which New Zealand might continue to help, especially in the early years of independence. Such arrangements would include assistance in education, in training administrative officers, in helping Samoa to run its airport and its observatory and in recruiting experts for service with the Samoan Administration. Any assistance given would naturally be fully consistent with the country's independence, the aim being to help Western Samoa to become self-reliant as quickly as possible. Because of the pressing need to produce an increasing number of well qualified young Samoans for posts in the Administration, New Zealand's assistance had been largely concentrated on education. During the present year, the second year of a five-year plan of educational assistance, the New Zealand Government had allocated some £94,000 to various educational projects, which would continue to receive its support after independence. Already a considerable number of Samoans were taking over positions of responsibility from New Zealanders employed on a contract basis. The two Governments were at present considering the possibility of an expanded system of administrative assistance which would enable Western Samoa to secure the experts it needed and at the same time to train its own Samoan officers to replace them at a faster rate. Thus almost every project of technical assistance would be accompanied by a training scheme which would eliminate the need to repeat it.

16. During the August discussions some consideration had also been given to possible future arrangements whereby New Zealand might provide assistance to the Samoan Government in conducting its international affairs. No final solution had been attempted because both Governments recognized that the negotiation of any agreement between the two countries should wait until after independence. Throughout the informal discussions the New Zealand Government had stressed that it did not wish to interfere in any way with the right of the Samoan Government to formulate its own internal and external policies. New Zealand had its own economic problems, but it would do its best to meet any requests the Samoan Government might make. It would be for the independent Samoan Government to decide precisely what assistance it wanted from New Zealand; any formal arrangements which might be entered into

would in no way detract from Western Samoa's sovereignty.

17. The New Zealand Government felt, however, that Western Samoa would also have to look to a wider field of technical assistance. He hoped that those international organizations and countries which had in the past given generous assistance to Western Samoa would continue to do so when that State became independent.

18. Western Samoa stood on the threshold of independence. The leaders of the Samoan people had provided a viable constitutional framework and New Zealand had done all it could as a trustee for the Samoan people. The New Zealand Parliament was about to consider legislation revoking all New Zealand powers and authority over Western Samoa. If the Assembly agreed, at the beginning of 1962 Western Samoa would become the first sovereign and independent Polynesian State of the twentieth century. The New Zealand Government had pledged itself to work with the new State not only for the welfare of the Samoan people but also to help bring about a community of outlook among the peoples of the South Pacific region. New Zealand realized that by virtue of its geography and by virtue of its own Maori inhabitants its destiny was involved in the destiny and well-being of the South Pacific. He hoped that Western Samoa's attainment of independence would be the beginning of a new period in which the peoples of that area would learn to pool their resources, to help one another more actively and to break down the isolation imposed upon them by the vast distances of the Pacific Ocean. New Zealand and Western Samoa, linked by history, geography and a common heritage in the great traditions of Polynesia, had an important role to play in that development. He hoped that they would always have the support of the United Nations in their endeavours to provide a fuller life for the island communities of the South Pacific.

19. The CHAIRMAN extended the Committee's sincere welcome to Mr. Fiame Mata'afa, the Prime Minister of Western Samoa, and invited him to address the Committee.

20. Mr. FIAME (New Zealand), Prime Minister of Western Samoa, recalled that he had appeared before the Committee at the previous session (1081st meeting) to inform it of Western Samoa's desire for independence. Since 1959, he and his Cabinet had taken over responsibility for all aspects of internal government. Those two years of self-government had been of immense value in extending the Samoans' experience of the art of government and in teaching them that administration required training as much as the arts of politics and debate in which they were traditionally skilled.

21. On that previous occasion he had also told the Committee of the work of drafting the Constitution. He had been proud of the fact that the Constitution had not been provided from outside but was a Samoan creation. The legal authority in the new State would therefore derive not from any law of the Administering Authority but from the act of the people's representatives in adopting the Constitution. The Constitution had blended the best of the traditional social system with the needs of a modern State. It would doubtless need amendment and modification in due course but it provided the basis for progress by evolution rather than by revolution, for peaceful and orderly development. All Samoan history showed how essential it was to take account of Samoan tradition and custom.

Indeed, he would emphasize how much reliance the Samoans placed on their social stability in facing the future.

22. He had also stated in his previous address that the virtual unanimity of the Constitutional Convention, the most widely representative body ever called together in Western Samoa, meant that the Constitution was generally supported by the people as a whole. He had at that time questioned the necessity for a plebiscite but had agreed that Western Samoa would stand by the undertaking to the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of Western Samoa, 1959, to hold a plebiscite, if requested by the United Nations, on the basis of universal suffrage. The result of the plebiscite had been an overwhelming majority in favour of independence based on the Samoan Constitution. Included among those voting in favour had been a large proportion of the people of Falealili, who had previously been extremely cautious in their approach to independence. On the basis of the report of the United Nations Commissioner, he sought from the Committee a favourable recommendation to the General Assembly to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement and to enable Western Samoa to obtain independence on 1 January 1962.

23. He would not like to say that Western Samoa was perfectly ready for independence: what country was? It was necessary to enter on the road to learn the difficulties and dangers of the journey. Perhaps it was only the knowledge that they must themselves face those difficulties and dangers that would enable the Samoans to develop their full capacities. Faced with a rising population, a shortage of experts and administrators and a dependence on a small range of export crops, they would have to make a sustained effort to develop their country. One of the greatest needs was for people with the skill required for administering and developing a modern State. Despite the progress made in education over the last fifteen years and the growing awareness of the need for education, there was the usual problem of lack of funds. His Government was therefore most appreciative of the five-year New Zealand educational aid programme, which provided over £80,000 per annum.

24. Samoa's economic situation, like that of other primary producing countries, was rather sombre, in relation both to the immediate problem of development and to the long-term problem of the increasing population and its rising expectations. It was unfortunate that low world prices for the two main crops of copra and cocoa and the prospect of loss of markets had coincided with a year of destructive storms which had seriously affected the cocoa and banana crops. To help remedy the situation, expenditure was being reviewed and taxes increased; the overseas exchange position was being carefully watched. Economic surveys were being prepared and it was hoped soon to have a development plan which would allow the Government to utilize the resources in the best possible way and to seek aid overseas. His country would prefer to rely primarily on its ability to trade rather than on aid and would support all measures to provide fair and stable prices and equal access to markets for the world's primary producers. Nevertheless, since trade alone would not suffice, it would certainly need capital and technical assistance from abroad. Although he recognized that the amount of aid available to any individual country was limited, he hoped that the United Nations and its agencies would be able to supplement the efforts of New Zea-

land. The latter would, he was sure, continue to assist Western Samoa in maintaining the pace of internal development. He had discussed the matter with the New Zealand Prime Minister in August 1961 and had been assured of sympathetic consideration should his Government, after independence, ask for an agreement for mutual co-operation and assistance. It was particularly important to ensure a continuing supply of officers to maintain the civil service, education, civil aviation and other services at full strength.

25. With regard to the conduct of external relations, while his Government had also discussed assistance in that field with New Zealand, it did not intend to make any rapid decisions but would rather let the system of external relations evolve according to need. As a small country, with limited resources, Western Samoa would have to devote its best endeavours to overcoming domestic problems. It would naturally expect to have relations with its close neighbours and to share in the work of regional associations, particularly the South Pacific Commission. His country did not intend to seek immediate membership of the United Nations but it might well join some of the specialized agencies whose work had particular relevance to Samoan problems, such as WHO, FAO and UNESCO.

26. Although Western Samoa might not be completely ready for independence, it was ready so far as was humanly possible. The Trusteeship System had completed its work. While he was grateful to the United Nations and to New Zealand for their efforts in preparing Western Samoa for its responsibilities, he felt that it needed the spur of freedom; he doubted whether any nation could fully accept its responsibilities without independence. He had therefore come to claim independence for the State of Western Samoa. He claimed it with satisfaction in that it had been attained by friendly agreement and not by force, and that Western Samoa could be sure of friendship with New Zealand and its other neighbours; and with humility, recognizing that a small, isolated country could not expect to emerge fully fledged among the nations of the earth. The Samoans did not regret the efforts they had made and they knew they must be prepared to make even greater efforts. They would build on their faith in God, their hope in their country and their will to labour together with patience and care.

27. Mr. McINTYRE (Australia) said that it had been a pleasure for the Committee to welcome the Prime Minister of Western Samoa and to hear his wise and modest words, spoken with such sincerity and conviction. The fact that Western Samoa would be achieving full independence and sovereignty on 1 January 1962 was yet another proof of the patient and devoted work carried out under the Trusteeship System and provided an effective answer to those who criticized that System and the Trusteeship Council. The Prime Minister had spoken of the problems, both political and economic, which independence would bring; it had therefore been encouraging to receive the assurance of the Administering Authority that it would give the new State every possible assistance if Western Samoa requested it. He congratulated the Prime Minister, his Government and people, as also New Zealand, on their constructive collaboration which had made it possible for Western Samoa to join the free community of nations in 1962. Congratulations were also due to the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner on having carried out his task so ably and conscientiously.

28. It would be an honour for his delegation to be one of the sponsors of a draft resolution terminating the Trusteeship Agreement.

29. Mr. LACKO (Czechoslovakia), speaking also on behalf of the other socialist States, congratulated the people of Western Samoa on the forthcoming termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and their accession to independence. That event showed how mistaken it was to allege that Trust Territories or Non-Self-Governing Territories were not ready for independence or did not desire it. The plebiscite had once more confirmed, as had the Prime Minister in his statement, that there was no Territory that was not ready for independence. The colonialist Powers were alone in maintaining the opposite view but they could no longer mislead anyone. He congratulated the people of Western Samoa on their historic decision and hoped in the near future to be able to welcome their country as a Member State.

30. It now rested with the people of Western Samoa to build their future in their own way and to take the road towards social progress and higher levels of living. They should beware of dangers such as that of neo-colonialism and the economic dependence it entailed, which rendered political independence illusory. The end of the trusteeship was a great victory for the people and was a source of encouragement to all Territories fighting to liberate themselves from the colonialist yoke.

31. The socialist States extended their best wishes to Western Samoa; it was their hope that it would develop its economy and culture and build the truly independent State—independent both politically and economically—for which its people had yearned so long.

32. Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America) said that his delegation had been very happy to welcome the Prime Minister and to hear his moving and eloquent statement of the views of his people, who possessed such great dignity and sense of responsibility. He was speaking not only on behalf of the people of the continental United States but also on behalf of the 20,000 cousins of the Western Samoans who lived as United States nationals in American Samoa. His delegation joined in the tribute paid to New Zealand, which had contributed in a conscientious and orderly way to the forthcoming independence of the Trust Territory, and to the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner for the fairness, impartiality and imagination which he had shown in a country where universal adult suffrage had hitherto been unknown. As Mr. Rifai had said, the event did indeed constitute a chapter in the history of the Trusteeship System of which all concerned could be justly proud.

33. Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) said that the people of Western Samoa had conveyed their decision unmistakably in an impartial plebiscite supervised with great skill by Mr. Rifai. He himself had had an opportunity to visit the Territory and to see how its free and democratic people combined love of tradition and tolerance with the desire for progress and a deep sense of responsibility. France rejoiced to see them masters of their own destiny and extended its warmest good wishes and congratulations. Thanks were due to the people of New Zealand, their Government and their administrators who had worked in the Territory for the way in which they had discharged their task. He welcomed the offer by New Zealand to continue to assist Western Samoa after it had attained independence.

34. Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom) warmly congratulated the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner on the way in which he had carried out his task. It was a day of triumph for the Trusteeship Council and the Trusteeship System; it was a proud day for New Zealand; and above all it was a day of triumph for the people of Western Samoa. It had been a pleasure to welcome the Prime Minister of Western Samoa and to hear him refer to the challenge of independence and to what he had so justly termed "the spur of freedom". He felt confident that, as in other countries, independence would bring an upsurge of new energy in Western Samoa, especially when it was headed by so able a leader. The Prime Minister would be able to take back to his country the affectionate good wishes of every member of the Committee.

35. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) said that his delegation rejoiced at the forthcoming independence of Western Samoa and expressed its good wishes to the people and Government of the Territory. His delegation felt sure that the Government would be ready to shoulder all its responsibilities and contribute to world peace and security. He associated himself with the congratulations addressed to the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner on the able manner in which he had accomplished his task and his valuable contribution to the work of the Committee and the cause of freedom and independence. New Zealand, too, was to be congratulated on having carried out its duties faithfully and efficiently.

36. Mr. KIANG (China) said that his delegation had already had an opportunity in the Trusteeship Council of expressing its appreciation of the excellent work Mr. Rifai had performed in supervising the plebiscite, which had been conducted with the utmost impartiality and in complete freedom. Credit should also go to the plebiscite administrators for their able guidance in the organization and conduct of the operation. It was significant that a large number of both titled and untitled men had gone to the polls and the active participation of the women voters had been most encouraging.

37. Both Western Samoa and New Zealand could take pride in the fact that Western Samoa was ready to take its place as a sovereign independent State. That achievement would not have been possible without the hard work of the Samoan people and their leaders and the generous assistance and guidance given by the Government of New Zealand. It must be a source of satisfaction to the people of Western Samoa, who had such close kinship and ties of friendship with the people of New Zealand, that the Government of New Zealand was ready to render further assistance to them if they desired it.

38. The Government and people of China extended its warmest congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity of the first independent Polynesian State. Once again a Trust Territory had attained the objective of the Trusteeship System through an orderly process of progressive development.

39. Mr. MAKKAWI (Lebanon) said that he wished in the first place to address his congratulations to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur on their election. He also wished to associate his delegation with the tributes paid to Mr. Wieschhoff, who had died on a mission of peace to the people of Africa.

40. The report of the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner showed how successfully Mr. Rifai and the members of the Secretariat who had assisted him had

carried out their task. The success of the plebiscite was also due to the maturity of the Government and people of Western Samoa, who had proved that they deserved their independence. His delegation extended its warmest congratulations to the Government of Western Samoa and looked forward to the day when that country would be a Member State. It also wished to express its satisfaction at the help which the Administering Authority had given to the people of the Territory.

41. Mr. PEIRIS (Ceylon) said that his delegation wished to thank the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner for his able and detailed report and to express its appreciation of the manner in which the Administering Authority had discharged its task. As he had observed on another occasion, political organizations should not be foisted on any people but should evolve spontaneously according to the wishes, needs and genius of the people concerned. Western Samoa furnished a fine example of such an evolution, which had been carried out in a peaceful manner, in complete understanding between the Administering Authority and the people and within the framework of local customs and usages. It was an example of what could be achieved in a spirit of understanding and partnership and, as the Australian representative had said, was an answer to the charge that the Trusteeship Council had outlived its usefulness and should be dissolved. He wished the Trusteeship Council equal success in the three tasks that still lay ahead of it.

42. It was particularly heartening that women had participated in the plebiscite in such large numbers; he hoped that in the future the women of Western Samoa would continue to assert their rights and to associate themselves with the task of meeting the problems that would face the first fully independent Polynesian State.

43. He expressed his best wishes for happiness and prosperity to the Prime Minister and people of Western Samoa. In the course of his moving statement, the Prime Minister had said that New Zealand had guided Western Samoa to independence notwithstanding the fact that the Territory might not have been ready for it. He hoped that the other Administering Authorities would follow the example set by New Zealand.

44. Mr. VALENCIA (Ecuador) congratulated the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur on their unanimous election to office.

45. He expressed his delegation's appreciation of the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner's report and of the impartiality and sense of responsibility with which Mr. Rifai had carried out his task. The plebiscite had undoubtedly taken place in conditions of complete freedom and had revealed the political maturity of the people of Western Samoa. The Administering Authority was to be congratulated on the efficient and responsible manner in which it had led the people of the Territory to freedom; its example should be followed by other Governments administering Trust Territories.

46. The happy result of the plebiscite was a triumph not only for Western Samoa and its leaders but also for the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System. He expressed his delegation's sincere good wishes for the prosperity of the people of Western Samoa, to whom his country offered collaboration and friendship, and his congratulations to the Prime Minister on his brilliant and moving speech and his appeal for peaceful international co-operation.

47. Mr. WEEKS (Liberia) congratulated the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner on the successful manner in which he had accomplished his task and fulfilled the trust placed in him by the Committee. It had been a pleasure for his delegation to hear the representative of the Administering Authority say that the people of Western Samoa were ready for independence; New Zealand was also to be congratulated on its achievement.
48. He had been glad to learn from the Prime Minister's eloquent statement that Western Samoa would enjoy complete internal authority and autonomy in external relations. He hoped that its people would soon be engaged in industry and commerce to the benefit of their country and he was glad to learn that they were willing to accept assistance from the specialized agencies as well as from New Zealand. It was his delegation's wish to be able to welcome Western Samoa to the United Nations and that the new State would join in fighting for the liberation of other nations that were yearning for independence.
49. His delegation would gladly sponsor any draft resolution calling for the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. The people of Western Samoa had much to do and would need tenacity of purpose in order to achieve the prosperity which his country sincerely trusted they would enjoy.
50. Mr. MAKI (Guinea), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Ghana, Mali and Guinea, congratulated the people of Western Samoa on their forthcoming accession to independence. Although they had experienced two colonial dominations, they had never accepted colonialism and were now determined to reaffirm their personality. He hoped that the Government of Western Samoa would lead the people to a happy future and he was confident that it would know how to avoid the many pitfalls that lay ahead. He congratulated the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner and his staff on their work and expressed confidence that the reactionary forces in the world would make no headway and that General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) would truly become the tombstone beneath which colonialism would be buried.
51. Mr. ROS (Argentina) expressed deep satisfaction at the forthcoming attainment of independence by Western Samoa. He asked the Prime Minister of Western Samoa to convey to his people the Argentine people's sincerest wishes for their future. He thanked the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner for the successful work he had accomplished on behalf of the United Nations.
52. Mr. SENU (Federation of Malaya) said that the people of Malaya, who belonged to the same stock as the people of Western Samoa, were especially glad that Western Samoa was about to become independent. The Federation of Malaya also had in common with Western Samoa the fact that it was a small country and had attained its independence in the same way. The Federation of Malaya hoped that the forces which believed in co-operation, understanding and compromise would be strengthened as a result of the emergence of the independent State of Western Samoa. He associated himself with the congratulations addressed to the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner and to the Administering Authority on their contribution to the independence of Western Samoa.
53. Mr. SOLANO LOPEZ (Paraguay), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay, congratulated the Government and people of Western Samoa. The Government and people of New Zealand were also to be congratulated on the excellent manner in which they had carried out their task. He thanked the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner, who had justified his election by acclamation by having performed the work entrusted to him in a most conscientious way.
54. Mr. AKHUND (Pakistan) said that the forthcoming emergence of Western Samoa to independent statehood redounded to the credit of its people and leaders and to that of the Administering Authority. He asked the Prime Minister of Western Samoa to convey to his people the warmest congratulations of the people of Pakistan and he associated himself with the tributes paid to the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner for the successful manner in which he had accomplished his task.
55. Mr. SKALLI (Morocco) said that the statements made by the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner, by the New Zealand representative and by the Prime Minister of Western Samoa had been in perfect harmony, without one discordant note. The Plebiscite Commissioner deserved thanks for the efficient way in which he had carried out the task entrusted to him. To the Prime Minister of Western Samoa he addressed the best wishes of the Moroccan people and Government on the occasion of Western Samoa's forthcoming accession to independence and national sovereignty.
56. The Committee had heard the Prime Minister of Western Samoa say that his country still had to face numerous difficulties. No country was, however, immune from difficulties and he was confident that the people of Western Samoa would overcome them and strengthen both their political and economic independence. He looked forward to the day when Western Samoa would be admitted to membership of the United Nations, where it would come to reinforce the ranks of those struggling for justice and liberty in the world. His delegation would support any draft resolution providing for the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. It hoped that soon the curtain would fall on the final act of the Trusteeship System, when all nations would rejoice to see all the former Trust Territories sovereign and independent.
57. Mr. PALAR (Indonesia) expressed his heartfelt congratulations to the Prime Minister and people of Western Samoa on the manner in which they were attaining freedom. His own country had had to shed blood and tears to achieve that end. He had been disappointed to hear from the Prime Minister that Western Samoa did not intend to apply immediately for membership of the United Nations, though, as a sovereign State, it was entitled to take that decision. He wished Western Samoa every success and would whole-heartedly vote in favour of the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.
58. Although the New Zealand representative had made an excellent statement, he preferred to congratulate New Zealand on the statement which had just been made by the Prime Minister of Western Samoa. Any doubts that might have been entertained concerning the work done by New Zealand in Western Samoa had been dispelled by that statement, which bore witness to the fact that the Administering Authority had carried out its tasks well and successfully. The United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner also deserved congratulations on his work, of which the United Nations could be proud.

59. Mr. VALDES LARRAIN (Chile) offered the Prime Minister of Western Samoa the congratulations of the delegations of Chile and Colombia on the occasion of his country's forthcoming attainment of independence in a democratic manner. He did not doubt that Western Samoa would continue along the road of progress. It was to be hoped that every country in the world would be independent before long. He associated himself with the congratulations addressed to the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner and to the Administering Authority.

60. Mr. RAMIN (Israel) congratulated the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur upon their unanimous election.

61. The Committee could take special pride in the fact that a Trust Territory was about to accede to independence. The plebiscite held in Western Samoa in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 1569 (XV) and with the full co-operation of the Governments of Western Samoa and of the Administering Authority had given the people of Western Samoa the opportunity to express their wish to become independent. The plebiscite had been very well conducted. The high percentage of voters was further indication of the maturity of the people. He offered the Prime Minister, Government and people of Western Samoa the sincere greetings and best wishes of the people of Israel and paid a warm tribute to the Government of New Zealand for the fine manner in which it had fulfilled the task entrusted to it and for the assurances it had given of continued assistance to Western Samoa in the future.

62. Mr. FAYEK (United Arab Republic) welcomed the emergence of the new independent State of Western Samoa. The smooth way in which the internal powers had been transferred and the forthcoming accession to independence were a source of satisfaction to his country. New Zealand was to be congratulated on giving Western Samoa its freedom. It was to be hoped that the Administering Authorities of the remaining Trust Territories would likewise respond immediately to the aspirations of the people. The successful manner in which the plebiscite had been conducted was evidence of the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner's high qualities.

63. Mr. BISTA (Nepal) welcomed the forthcoming emergence of Western Samoa to independent statehood. The assurance by the Prime Minister of Western Samoa that his country intended to rely on trade rather than aid was an indication that it would play a role of increasing importance in the world in the days to come. The United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner deserved thanks for the efficient and successful way in which he had carried out his task. The example of New Zealand, as Administering Authority, should be taken to heart by the other Administering Authorities, which should grant early independence to the Territories under their administration.

64. Mr. MONGUNO (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Congo (Leopoldville), Ethiopia, Togo, Tunisia and Nigeria, associated himself with the tributes paid to the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner and his staff for their efficiency and impartiality. The Administering Authority was to be congratulated on its excellent work in bringing Western Samoa to independence. He could assure the Prime Minister of Western Samoa that 1 January 1962 would be a day of rejoicing in the countries on whose behalf he was speaking.

65. Mr. ASSELIN (Canada) conveyed to the Prime Minister and people of Western Samoa Canada's best wishes and assurances of support and co-operation. New Zealand, which had behaved as a friend of the people of Western Samoa rather than merely as an Administering Authority, deserved congratulations. The United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner, too, deserved thanks for the truly excellent way in which he had fulfilled his task.

66. Mr. ABDO (Yemen) said that the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner and his staff were to be congratulated on the way in which they had carried out their task. He had been greatly moved by the statement made by the Prime Minister of Western Samoa and wished that country every success. It was to be hoped that in other parts of the world, too, territories which were now occupied would one day achieve independence and be reunited with their motherland.

67. Mr. HASSAN (Somalia) said that it was a source of pleasure to him, as the representative of one of the first Trust Territories to achieve independence, to congratulate Western Samoa on the occasion of its forthcoming accession to independent statehood. He paid a tribute to New Zealand for the way in which it had administered the Territory and expressed the hope that other Governments would follow in New Zealand's footsteps, so that all the remaining Trust Territories might gain independence and become members of the family of nations. He associated himself with the congratulations addressed to the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner and his staff.

68. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) congratulated the people, Government and Prime Minister of Western Samoa on the successful end of their quest for freedom and independence. He had noted from the Prime Minister's statement that it was not his Government's intention to seek immediate admission to membership of the United Nations. While it was the right of a sovereign State to decide that matter for itself, he would like to express the belief that the Government of Western Samoa would find the doors of the United Nations open to it should it ever decide to seek admission or to bring any matter before the United Nations under the provisions of Articles 11 and 35 of the Charter. He paid a tribute to New Zealand for having acceded to the demands of the people of Western Samoa without undue difficulty and he congratulated the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner and his staff on the admirable way in which they had carried out their work.

69. Mrs. MENESES DE ALBIZU CAMPOS (Cuba) associated her Government and delegation with the congratulations expressed on the occasion of Western Samoa's forthcoming accession to independence. Should the occasion arise, Western Samoa could count on Cuba to help it defend its sovereignty and independence from any threats. Colonialism was not dead and imperialism still stalked the earth. It was the duty of all those working for the independence of the dependent countries to help them consistently and to co-operate with them with a view to ensuring their speedy development. She hoped that all peoples would attain freedom and independence as soon as possible.

70. Mr. WOODS (Ireland) associated his delegation with those which had preceded him in the debate in congratulating Western Samoa on its approaching independence. He wished the Prime Minister and Government of Western Samoa every success in the tasks lying ahead of them. He also joined in the congratula-

tions addressed to the Administering Authority and the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner.

71. Mr. MAURICE-JONES (Sierra Leone) congratulated the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur on their election. Since he was taking the floor for the first time in the Committee, he would like to avail himself of the opportunity to thank the delegations which had congratulated his country on its admission to membership of the United Nations.

72. His Government, which was anxious that as many countries as possible should achieve sovereignty, was happy to be able to congratulate Western Samoa on its forthcoming accession to independence. He had been glad to hear New Zealand give assurances and the

Prime Minister of Western Samoa confirm that adequate arrangements had been made. He was sorry that Western Samoa did not intend to seek admission to the United Nations and felt that the latter would thereby be the poorer in that it would be deprived of the wise counsel which Western Samoa would have been able to bring to its debates. It was to be hoped that Western Samoa would reconsider its decision before long.

73. He associated himself with the expressions of thanks to the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner.

74. His delegation would be happy to co-sponsor a draft resolution providing for the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.