

# United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SEVENTEENTH SESSION

Official Records

**FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1429th  
MEETING**

Tuesday, 18 December 1962,  
at 11 a.m.



**NEW YORK**

## CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda items 13, 58 and 59:	
Report of the Trusteeship Council ( <i>continued</i> )	
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General ( <i>continued</i> )	
Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in the Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General ( <i>continued</i> ) . . . . .	683
Agenda items 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 and 55:	
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations: reports of the Secretary-General and of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories ( <i>continued</i> ):	
(a) Political and constitutional information on Non-Self-Governing Territories;	
(b) Information on educational, economic and social advancement;	
(c) General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information	
Dissemination of information on the United Nations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General ( <i>concluded</i> )	
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General ( <i>concluded</i> )	
Preparation and training of indigenous civil and technical cadres in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General ( <i>concluded</i> )	
Racial discrimination in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General ( <i>concluded</i> )	
Election to fill vacancies in the membership of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories ( <i>concluded</i> )	
Amendment of the report of the Fourth Committee . . . . .	686

**Chairman:** Mr. Guillermo FLORES AVENDAÑO  
(Guatemala).

## AGENDA ITEMS 13, 58 AND 59

**Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/5204, A/C.4/L.772 and Rev.1) (*continued*)**

**Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5228) (*continued*)**

**Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in the Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5231, A/C.4/L.773) (*continued*)**

1. Mr. ROBERTS (New Zealand), referring to the report of the Trusteeship Council (A/5204), paid a tribute to its President, Mr. Bingham, who had contributed greatly to the efficient work of the most recent session. The New Zealand delegation welcomed Liberia to the Council and wished to stress the important part played by Bolivia and India, the outgoing members, in helping to achieve the aims of the Trusteeship System.

2. The Trusteeship Council had carried out its work successfully. By its exertions and its example, it had hastened the movement of all dependent territories towards emancipation. Above all, it had helped the Trust Territories to achieve stable and well-ordered independence, so that the Fourth Committee had only two Trust Territories, Nauru and New Guinea, to discuss.

3. Having recalled the characteristics of those two Territories, he observed that, as the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru and New Guinea, 1962, had pointed out in paragraph 144 of its report on Nauru (T/1595 and Add.1), the interests of the people of that Territory had so far been well served by the Administering Authority. A study of the Mission's own observations and of the Territory's annual report<sup>1/</sup> showed that the Administration had made earnest efforts to improve the well-being of the Nauruans. It could not be denied, however, that the question of the future of the Nauruan people remained unresolved and could be settled only by means of long-term planning. Political progress became uncertain when no one knew what the ultimate form of government would be and economic progress was unsettled by the coming change in the entire Nauruan economy. Finally, educational progress must take into account the possible demands of a different environment.

4. The land of Nauru had always been largely barren, and in the past century had enabled barely a thousand people to subsist. With phosphate mining, many Nauruans had become skilled workers whose future was with modern technology. Furthermore, owing to the phosphate mines, the level of living of the island's population was extremely high, and there could be no question of the Nauruans returning to a coconut and fish economy when the deposits were exhausted. The Nauruan people would thus have to be resettled. They had made their views on the subject known on several

<sup>1/</sup> Commonwealth of Australia, Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of Nauru from 1st July, 1960, to 30th June, 1961 (Canberra, A. J. Arthur, Commonwealth Government Printer). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1589).

occasions through their elected representatives and their Head Chief, Mr. Hammer De Roburt, had confirmed at the Trusteeship Council's twenty-ninth session that there could be no going back on that decision. The wishes expressed by the Nauruan people must be taken as the starting-point for the efforts of both the Administering Authority and the United Nations. Now that the Nauruan representatives had stated their desiderata for an island home and for the form of government they wished to establish on it, the next step was to see how far those desiderata could be fulfilled, taking into account the facts of geography, economics and international life.

5. To that end, the Australian Government had appointed a Director of Nauruan Resettlement. Together with the Nauruan leaders, that official had been examining in the past few months possible island sites off the coast of Australia where the Nauruans would be able to resettle, retain their identity and yet continue to share in the benefits of the industrialized and highly developed society to which they had become accustomed. Several sites had been suggested, and the decision must now be left to the Nauru Local Government Council. It might therefore be said that the question of Nauruan resettlement was advancing towards a favourable solution.

6. With regard to the Trust Territory of New Guinea, the New Zealand delegation welcomed the presence in the Committee, among the Australian delegation, of two elected members of the Legislative Council of the Territory. It was encouraging to note that, thanks to budgetary aid, law and order had been extended almost throughout the Territory, social services had been created, hospitals, schools and roads had been built and mutually hostile tribes had been initiated into the processes of democratic government. Nevertheless, no immediate solution could be found for the problem of New Guinea, and patient and tireless efforts would be needed to unify such a diversified Territory.

7. New Guinea was, however, entering upon a new stage of its development, one which should yield rapid results. That had been recognized by the recent Visiting Mission, and its three main suggestions for educational, economic and political progress in New Guinea, as set out in its report on that Territory (T/1597 and Add.1) had been designed to accelerate the pace of development. The Visiting Mission's recommendations had been accepted by the Australian Government and were being implemented. That was an excellent illustration of the co-operation between the United Nations and the Administering Authority which constituted the basis of the Trusteeship System.

8. The first recommendation of the Visiting Mission dealt with the expansion of higher education. Any society, however advanced, must still take twelve to fifteen years to give children reasonable secondary schooling. In New Guinea, therefore, the results of fifteen years' primary and secondary schooling were beginning to make themselves felt, and it was therefore logical to lay the emphasis on university and technical training. In that connexion, the Australian Government had announced that it was in full agreement with the Trusteeship Council on the desirability of selecting a hundred or so students each year for special higher training. As more and more young people completed their secondary and higher education, the economic and political development of the Territory would be accelerated.

9. In economic matters, the Territory faced the challenges of any agricultural society struggling to free itself from the constraints of a subsistence economy. It would therefore be advisable to rationalize land tenure, to develop suitable cash crops and to improve marketing and transport methods. The prime need in that connexion was for a comprehensive survey to fix priorities and plan future work. On that point, the Australian Government had already begun negotiations with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development before the Visiting Mission had independently reached the same conclusion. Such surveys were essential if sensible use was to be made of the Territory's limited resources. Nevertheless, economic surveys were not a panacea and certainly did not do away with the necessity for hard work by the people themselves. It was therefore essential to arouse creative enthusiasm among the indigenous population. That was the reason why the Administering Authority was now engaged in setting up local government councils which gave the leaders of each community an opportunity to acquire experience in political activity and self-government. Unlike what had happened in other dependent territories, the Administering Authority itself had been creating pressure for self-government. That vigorous activity had naturally led to the expansion of the Territory's own legislature.

10. In that connexion, the New Zealand delegation noted with satisfaction that the Administering Authority and the Trusteeship Council were in substantial agreement that the time had come for such expansion. The Australian Government and the Visiting Mission had accepted a number of important points, namely that there should be a considerable expansion of the membership of the Legislative Council, that a majority of the members should be indigenous, and that the members of the Council should be elected from a common roll, by universal suffrage and secret ballot. Those were the essential conditions which made a legislative body into a practical political force. Hitherto it had been the Administering Authority that had taken the initiative in arousing a political consciousness in New Guinea, but the time had now come for the initiative to pass to the leaders elected by the people of the Territory. Henceforth the pace of development would accelerate as political experience was gained and a true national consciousness developed.

11. It might be asked by some why it had taken fifteen years to reach the stage now attained by New Guinea and Nauru. That delay might be explained by the complexity of the situation in the former Territory and by the highly individual position of the latter. In any case, the example of those two Territories proved that the Trusteeship System continued to contribute, as its founders had always hoped it would, to the rapid emergence of the peoples placed under its protection.

12. Mr. EL-SHAFEI (United Arab Republic) said that, despite the fact that the objectives of the Trusteeship System were to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence, the General Assembly had decided, by its resolution 1514 (XV), that immediate steps should be taken in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, and all other territories which had not attained independence, to transfer all powers to the peoples of those territories, without any conditions or reservations, in order to enable them to enjoy complete independence and freedom.

13. Much had been said about the role of the Trusteeship Council in the past and in the future. Although his delegation did not entirely agree with the idea that the Council had been a mere recorder of political developments in the former Territories with which it had been concerned, it hoped that the three remaining Trust Territories would very shortly achieve freedom and independence. It therefore hoped that the Council would intensify its efforts and adjust its methods to fulfil its mandate much more speedily than it had done in the past. Despite the difficulties and problems facing both the Council and the Administering Authorities, drastic reforms must be made quickly in all fields and the pace of development must be hastened to meet the aspirations of the peoples concerned. Those peoples, who had been long neglected, belonged to a region of the world where a historical development was taking place in a neighbouring territory and his delegation believed that the development of the three Territories in question should be as rapid as that of the rest of the region concerned, so that the entire area could join the free international community and contribute its share in the building of an international system.

14. As it had done in 1961, the Committee was considering the report of the Trusteeship Council in the light of the purposes of the Charter, the Trusteeship Agreements and the provisions of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)). In that regard, his delegation noted with satisfaction the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement concerning Ruanda-Urundi and the accession to independence of the Republic of Rwanda and the Kingdom of Burundi. It saluted the peoples and Governments of those two African States and warmly welcomed their representatives in the Committee. It also saluted the peoples and Governments of the newly independent States of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and assured them of its sincere desire for full co-operation.

15. During the twenty-ninth session, the members of the Trusteeship Council had had the benefit of the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru and New Guinea, 1962. Nevertheless, his delegation wished to make a few preliminary observations before discussing the reports of the Mission and the Council.

16. His delegation felt, but hoped it was mistaken, that the principle of self-government, especially in regard to New Guinea, was questionable. The Mission's mandate, as established by Council resolution 2105 (XXVII), had not been to ascertain whether that principle was applicable or not, but to investigate and report on the steps taken in both Territories towards the fulfilment of the purposes set forth in the Charter, the Trusteeship Agreements, and in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

17. The Mission had, however, had useful meetings with the people in each district of the Territory, and it was worth noting that at nearly every meeting the New Guineans had expressed their desire for greater participation in the conduct of their affairs, for improvements in education, training, economic development and their level of living, and for the elimination of all types of racial discrimination.

18. Although his delegation agreed with most of the conclusions and recommendations of the Mission as set out in its report (T/1597 and Add.1), it differed

with the Mission in its analysis of the situation and in particular its analysis of the factors which had in the past impeded progress in New Guinea and would probably continue to do so in the future. Geographical and economic obstacles had been mentioned, but his delegation did not believe that such obstacles made the attainment of independence impossible, as was shown by the example of many countries which had achieved independence despite similar obstacles. The tendency to emphasize the difficulties and obstacles was beneficial to no one.

19. He recalled that the Territory had initially been occupied by the Australians in 1914 and that a civil administration had taken over from the military occupation in 1921 under a Mandate from the League of Nations. Between the two world wars, the main task had been to open up the country and the work of penetration and exploration had still not been completed in 1962.

20. Very little had been done in the matter of social services and schemes for economic and political advancement, and economic development had been primarily the work of the Australians, who had taken over the former German plantations. The Mission said in its report that it was only in 1945 that any serious attention had been given to improving administration and education and to promoting economic development. It was also said in the report that all the work so far done had been to prepare for the achievement of the declared aim, namely self-government in the Territory.

21. His delegation regretted having to say that what had been done could not be considered preparation for self-government. All that had been done during the past fifteen years did not constitute sufficient preparation. According to the report of the Visiting Mission, the Administration was now manned by 4,000 Australians and 600 New Guineans, mainly clerks and artisans, and 80 per cent of the cash crops of the Territory were produced by non-New Guineans, mainly Australians. Only a tiny percentage of local revenues came from the indigenous inhabitants. The local government councils, which enabled the people to familiarize themselves with the workings of representative government, were concerned with less than one third of the population. The Legislative Council included only six members elected by the indigenous inhabitants out of a total of thirty-seven members, and the Council had virtually no real legislative power. No one could, therefore, in fairness speak of preparation for the achievement of self-government.

22. He emphasized, however, that political, economic or social backwardness could not be used as a pretext for delaying independence for the Territory.

23. The Trusteeship Council had endorsed the view of the Visiting Mission that the time had come to create a parliament and that it was possible to proceed more rapidly politically than had been contemplated (A/5204, p.14, para.29). In that regard, his delegation commended the suggestion made by the Visiting Mission that the members of parliament should be elected on the basis of universal adult suffrage and that all arrangements should be made so that elections following that principle could be held before the end of 1963. It believed that, once a legislative body had been established, it should have all powers of legislation, provided that four out of five of its members were familiar with the submission of

draft legislation and financial proposals such as the annual budget. Once the Council had full powers of legislation, the Administering Authority would no longer worry about the wishes of the population. The Council could select a few members to act as an executive, with the participation of officials of the Administering Authority. Thus, in a very short time, the Administering Authority would be able to give up its responsibilities, which would be gradually transferred to the representatives of the population.

24. In his delegation's opinion, the drafting of economic development plans, the expansion of primary and secondary education, and the selection each year of a hundred New Guinean students for higher education should go hand in hand with the creation of a representative body for both Papua and New Guinea. The three main suggestions of the Visiting Mission, which had been endorsed by the Council, were complementary and must be pursued together. The Administering Authority could work for their implementation with the collaboration of the peoples concerned by initiating progressive policies.

25. With regard to the future of the Nauruans, he recalled that the Nauruans had twice rejected proposals for their assimilation into the metropolitan communities of Australia, New Zealand or the United Kingdom. They wanted a new homeland where each Nauruan could live without being subjected to selective screening and where they could constitute a sovereign nation capable of managing their own affairs. They also believed that the expenses of the search for their new home must be met by the three Governments comprising the Administering Authority. The Nauru Local Government Council, in its proposals of June 1962 (T/1600), had laid emphasis on the fact that, in the view of the inhabitants, the question of resettlement should not be dissociated from that of independence.

26. The Fourth Committee's agenda also included items on offers by Member States of study and training facilities and on the dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in the Trust Territories. The Visiting Mission had found that more could and should be done in New Guinea to bring home to the people the implications of the Trusteeship System. A United Nations Information Centre had been opened at Port Moresby on 24 April 1962. With the co-operation of the Administering Authority, that Centre would undoubtedly improve the situation, which, according to the report, was far from satisfactory. In Nauru, the situation seemed better in that regard than in New Guinea and his delegation paid a tribute to the efforts of the United Nations Information Centre at Sydney as well as those of the Administering Authority in that field. As regards offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories, his delegation entirely agreed with the suggestion in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report (A/5228) that the scholarship programme, in its present form, should be administered together with the programme for students from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and felt that that could easily be done. That was what his Government had had in mind when, on 16 April 1962, it had replied to a note from the Acting Secretary-General inquiring whether it was prepared to make available scholarships for students from South West Africa. His Government had stated in its reply that it would offer

twenty-five scholarships as its share of the UNESCO programme for the academic year 1961-1962 and twenty-five other scholarships for the academic year 1962-1963.

#### AGENDA ITEMS 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 AND 55

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations: reports of the Secretary-General and of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/5078 and Add.1-19, A/5079 and Add.1-6, A/5080 and Add.1-19, A/5081 and Add.1-5, A/5120, A/5215) (concluded):

- (a) Political and constitutional information on Non-Self-Governing Territories;
- (b) Information on educational, economic and social advancement;
- (c) General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information

Dissemination of information on the United Nations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5244 and Add.1) (concluded)

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5242 and Add.1) (concluded)

Preparation and training of indigenous civil and technical cadres in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5122, A/5125, A/5215, A/5235) (concluded)

Racial discrimination in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/5215, A/5249 and Add.1) (concluded)

Election to fill vacancies in the membership of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (concluded)

#### AMENDMENT OF THE REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/5371)

27. Mr. DE PINIES (Spain) noted that the report of the Fourth Committee on the agenda items concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/5371), which was before the General Assembly, did not contain the reservations which the Spanish delegation had expressed concerning sovereignty over the Territory of Gibraltar or the counter-reservations on the subject expressed by the United Kingdom representative. His delegation asked that the Rapporteur should be requested to make the appropriate additions to the report submitted to the General Assembly, if necessary in the form of an additional paragraph.

28. Mr. WALL (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had no objection to the Spanish representative's request, provided that it was also stated in the report that the United Kingdom Government had no doubt about its sovereignty over the Territory in question.

29. The CHAIRMAN said that the Rapporteur would make the necessary changes.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.