

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH SESSION

Official Records


 Monday, 10 November 1958,
at 3.20 p.m.

NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Frederick H. BOLAND (Ireland).

AGENDA ITEM 13

Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/3822, A/C.4/L.542/Rev.1, A/C.4/L.543 and Add.1, A/C.4/L.545, A/C.4/L.547, A/C.4/L.548, A/C.4/L.549) (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE (concluded)

1. Mr. MELINESCU (Romania) said that the imperialist colonial system was on the point of collapsing in spite of the efforts of the colonial Powers to halt that process. There were still 160 million people in Trust or Non-Self-Governing Territories who were under the colonial yoke. Contrary to what some claimed, the situation in the Trust Territories was not at all satisfactory and the Trusteeship Council's report (A/3822), in spite of its omissions, showed that the policy of the Administering Authorities in the Trust Territories was in contradiction with the obligations they had assumed under Article 76 of the Charter.

2. The Territories were exploited as if they were colonies, for the benefit of foreign monopolies. The slave-trade had been followed by a "trade economy": raw materials from the Territories were exported to industrial countries, and the resulting chronic imbalance was harmful to the Territories, which were primary-producing countries. Except for a few processing industries set up to facilitate the transport of minerals, such as the aluminum factory at Edéa, in the Cameroons under French administration, the Administering Authorities refused to develop industry in the Trust Territories. Agriculture in the Territories was still based on a single or limited crop system, often developed at the expense of the food crops needed by the population. The economy thus rested on one or two staple products and was seriously affected by fluctuations in the price of such commodities on the world market, as had been the case in 1956-1957. To concentrate still further on the development of mining and single-crop culture, as some had advised, and to call on foreign investments would only enhance the dependence of the Trust Territories on foreign capital without increasing their income.

3. Another characteristic of colonial exploitation was the small place given to indigenous inhabitants in the economic life of the Territories, the existing indus-

tries, large plantations and commerce being in the hands of foreigners. Under such a system the small producer was compelled to sell his products cheaply and to buy what he needed at a high price. The situation was made worse by the land alienation policy, which deprived the indigenous inhabitants of the most fertile land and pushed them towards the least productive regions. In New Guinea, for example, the 606 large grants made free of charge or leased by the Administering Authority represented 500,000 acres or one-third of the 1.5 million acres available to the 1.3 million indigenous inhabitants. In addition timber rights were granted to foreigners. Consequently the living standard of the indigenous inhabitants was very low, as the report of the Trusteeship Council mentioned on several occasions.

4. The idea of associating the Trust Territories with the European Common Market, which had been under discussion for several years, was nothing but a more elaborate attempt to exploit those Territories by means of a sort of collective colonialism. The General Assembly had adopted a special resolution on that question at its twelfth session (1210 (XII)) and it was necessary to watch the course of events closely now that the Common Market was about to begin functioning.

5. As regards the political development of the Trust Territories, the situation was no better. Political progress, already very slow in most Territories, was further hampered by measures taken under the pretext of respecting the traditions of the indigenous inhabitants. The Administering Authorities were delaying the introduction or generalization of elections by universal suffrage in many Territories and were hindering in every possible way the activities of political parties fighting for independence; claiming that those parties threatened public order, they went so far as to ban or dissolve them, as in the case of the Union des populations du Cameroun (UPC), the Jeunesse démocratique camerounaise (JDC) and the Union démocratique des femmes camerounaises (UDEFEF), and the bans were accompanied by police and military measures which sometimes went as far as terrorism. The colonial system was none the less on its way out.

6. The slowness of the Administering Authorities was also shown by the half-measures they were adopting with regard to the establishment of representative executive and legislative bodies with real powers, the training of indigenous inhabitants and their appointment to important administrative posts.

7. The social situation too was only improving very slowly. Racial discrimination was practised in many Territories and manifested itself in many fields: the status of the inhabitants differed according to whether they were Europeans or Natives; for equal work, the indigenous inhabitants everywhere received lower wages than the Europeans, and their opportunities for professional training were very limited. Separate

quarters were reserved for Europeans in various Territories and the indigenous inhabitants were required to carry permits and observe a curfew. Compulsory labour and corporal punishment were in general use and reserved for the indigenous inhabitants. It was the duty of the United Nations to take steps to put an end to such scandalous practices.

8. With regard to the health situation, the number of doctors was scarcely one per 20,000 or 25,000 inhabitants in most Territories and only one per 65,000 in Ruanda-Urundi and one per 52,000 in the Cameroons under British administration. Malnutrition was widespread and diseases claimed a very large number of victims. The Administering Authorities claimed that it was difficult to recruit European doctors, but they opposed higher medical training for the indigenous inhabitants; the three scholarships which the Romanian Government had offered to students in the Trust Territories had not been used because the Administering Authorities had not supplied the necessary travel papers to students who had been accepted.

9. With regard to education, the number of children attending primary school never exceeded one-third of the school-age population; less than 1 per cent attended secondary schools; only very few students attended a university, and even primary education was neither free nor compulsory.

10. Hence he considered that the Administering Authorities were failing in their duty and were trying to delay the development of the peoples of the Trust Territories towards independence. That view was confirmed by the fact that the Administering Authorities had refused to give effect to the General Assembly resolutions requesting them to set time-limits for the attainment of independence by the Trust Territories. If the inhabitants of those Territories were not to lose confidence in the United Nations, the General Assembly should compel the Administering Authorities to comply with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

11. In his delegation's opinion, a great responsibility devolved on the Trusteeship Council. The automatic majority enjoyed by the colonial Powers in that body had prevented it from carrying out its functions satisfactorily, and the General Assembly should call upon it to make a radical change in its attitude.

12. With regard to the question of the Cameroons under French administration, he feared that France sought to grant only fictitious independence to that Territory. Before there could be any question of termination of the trusteeship it was necessary to withdraw the tens of thousands of soldiers and police, to restore a normal political situation in the Territory, to grant an amnesty to all persons sentenced for political reasons since 1955 and to revive the dissolved or banned parties. Elections by universal suffrage under United Nations supervision would then permit of the establishment of a Government, and only after all powers still held by the Administering Authority had been transferred to that Government could the independence of the new State be proclaimed and the trusteeship terminated.

13. The Romanian delegation expressed its deep interest in the peoples of Trust Territories who were struggling for their independence and assured them of its unqualified support.

14. For all the above reasons, his delegation would firmly support any proposal providing for fixed time-limits for the attainment of independence by the Trust Territories, utilization of the wealth of those Territories for the benefit of the indigenous populations, abolition of racial discrimination and practical application of Articles 73 and 76 of the Charter.

15. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) noted that a number of delegations which had made an objective study of the work being done in Ruanda-Urundi had expressed reservations on certain aspects of conditions in the Territory, particularly with regard to its political advancement, which they had considered to be too slow. Actually, the institutions of Ruanda-Urundi had been misjudged. In order to create the proper conditions for a truly democratic government rooted in the people, it was necessary, as the representative of Ceylon had said, to build on the local institutions. The Administration had therefore consistently attempted to perfect those institutions and to make them more democratic. For example, the principle of election of the local councils by universal male suffrage had been successfully adopted in 1956. Moreover, it was incorrect to argue that the local councils and organs had no real powers: they could issue police and administrative regulations, establish and organize the services required for the administration of their circumscriptions, take measures to alter custom by adapting it to new needs, order compulsory crops and soil conservation work, fix the amount of increases in taxes and establish rates to be levied for their benefit; they administered large budgets with a total revenue and expenditure amounting to 50 per cent of the revenue and expenditure of the regular budget of the Territory. They were likewise empowered to make recommendations on all matters of concern to their circumscription. Local institutions were constantly developing; the nature, functions and powers of political bodies were rapidly developing and the Belgian Administration was encouraging such development, as was its duty under Article 76 of the Charter.

16. Moreover, there was no discrepancy between Belgium's economic policy and the political measures it took. The evolution of a community was an indivisible whole; the progress of education, the improvement in health conditions, the campaign against malnutrition, the development of transportation—all those factors were politically as important as the creation of a council or the extension of the powers of an assembly. It was by learning to manage their own affairs that the Africans were learning to take an interest in politics. There could be no theoretical approach to the development of government institutions and the Belgian Government had made it a rule to change institutions in accordance with the needs and wishes of those concerned with a view to establishing increasingly responsible, efficient and autonomous representative institutions. It was certainly not a policy of procrastination and neglect. The United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1957, had recognized that fact in its report on Ruanda-Urundi (T/1346, para. 11).

17. With regard to the unification of Ruanda with Urundi, which was strongly supported by some delegations, it should be recalled that long before European penetration of Arica, Ruanda and Urundi were two small and quite separate kingdoms. The Belgian Gov-

ernment, like the Government of the German Empire, had retained those two political organizations and had applied the principles of the Charter even before they were written, namely, it had assisted the inhabitants in the gradual development of their free political institutions. Belgium was certainly not seeking to perpetuate the division of the country; on the contrary, it believed that their union contributed to their development and it was trying to strengthen it, though it remained convinced that forcible or premature measures would be self-defeating and that the final decision should be freely taken by those concerned.

18. With regard to the administrative union of Ruanda-Urundi with the Belgian Congo, it should not be forgotten that the Act of 21 August 1925 which established that union was entirely compatible with the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement approved by the General Assembly. Ruanda-Urundi had everything to gain from its union with the Belgian Congo and the Indian representative had pointed out in the Trusteeship Council that the two territories complemented each other: Ruanda-Urundi, overpopulated and poor in mineral and natural resources, and the Congo, sparsely populated and relatively rich. In any case, the inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi would decide their own future when the time came.

19. Mr. LEWANDOWSKI (Poland) congratulated the people of Togoland under French administration on behalf of his delegation and hoped that after the necessary transition period the delegation of the independent State of Togoland would take its seat among the Members of the United Nations.

20. The Polish delegation had the greatest respect for the right of peoples to self-determination and was convinced that with the complete liquidation of the colonial system all the dependent peoples would soon attain self-government. The United Nations Trusteeship System should play an important part in that evolution. Care should be taken to ensure that the United Nations organs established to apply to the Trusteeship System carried out the task entrusted to them by the Charter. The principal organ, the Trusteeship Council, was composed of an equal number of representatives of Administering Authorities and non-administering Powers. Close co-operation among those members was necessary, particularly on the part of the Administering Authorities, which were responsible for carrying out the recommendations of the Council and the General Assembly in the Trust Territories and were expected always to abide by the principles of the Charter in those Territories. However, the Council did not always give sufficient weight to those principles in its work and the petitioners from the Trust Territories preferred to submit their petitions to the Fourth Committee. Moreover, one of the permanent members of the Trusteeship Council, the Soviet Union, was regularly excluded from membership in the visiting missions to the Trust Territories. There was no justification for its exclusion; indeed, it was contrary to the principles of the equality of all Member States. The Polish delegation asked the members of the Trusteeship Council to put an end to that practice, in the interest of the prestige of the Council.

21. Resolutions on trusteeship questions were especially important; yet those calling for the establishment of time limits for the attainment by Trust Terri-

tries of self-government or independence had never been applied.

22. With regard to the manner in which the United Nations should exercise its functions with respect to the right of petition, it was important that each petition should be considered, together with the observations of the Administering Authorities, and for the opinion of the United Nations to be communicated to the petitioners. The Trusteeship Council and the Standing Committee on Petitions should submit definite proposals for more effective consideration of petitions received from the Territories.

23. The political advancement of the Trust Territories was an essential aspect of the problem. Some political advancement was being made in the Territories despite the efforts of the Administering Authorities. That was an historical development which nobody could stop. However, the duty of the United Nations was to promote the political advancement of the peoples of the Territories and to facilitate their progress towards independence. The Administering Authorities were not discharging their obligations in that respect. In all the Trust Territories, with the exception of New Guinea, conditions favoured the establishment of universal suffrage without restrictions based on wealth, race or nationality. Progress had been achieved in that field in the Territories administered by France and the system should be applied in all the Trust Territories. The system introduced by the United Kingdom in Tanganyika was definitely not preferable. The Polish delegation was opposed to the policy of dividing a population into racial groups, thus enabling the European minority to maintain power in violation of the Charter.

24. Ruanda-Urundi was still far behind the other Territories from the point of view of political advancement. There had been no basic change in the policy of the Administering Authority, and if the situation did not change soon, the General Assembly should hold a special debate on the question. The United Nations and the Administering Authorities should follow closely the political development of the Trust Territories and grant in good time fairly extensive rights to the population rather than wait until the situation became dangerous.

25. A comparison of the progress made in education with the tremendous needs and the backwardness of the Trust Territories unfortunately showed that, in many cases, there had been retrogression rather than progress. Similarly, conditions as regards labour legislation, wages, sanitation and job security were unsatisfactory.

26. The Polish delegation was convinced that the United Nations and the Trusteeship System could play an important part in helping the Trust Territories to secure their independence. If that aim was to be achieved, sincere efforts would have to be made by all concerned with a view to fulfilling the purposes of the Charter.

HEARING OF PETITIONERS (continued)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Félix Roland Moumié, representative of the Union des populations du Cameroun, took a seat at the Committee table.

27. The CHAIRMAN recalled that at the 783rd meeting he had read a telegram from Mrs. Ouandie of the

Bureau of the Union démocratique des femmes camerounaises authorizing Mr. Moumié to act on behalf of the UDEFEC. He invited Mr. Moumié to make a statement for that organization.

28. Mr. MOUMIE, speaking on behalf of Mrs. Ouandie of the Union démocratique des femmes camerounaises, first reviewed the history of the organization up to the time of its dissolution. Founded in 1952 in a Territory where, despite the express recommendations of the United Nations Charter, the Administering Authority had made no effort to emancipate women and to make them conscious of their political and social rights, the UDEFEC had enabled the women of the Cameroons to make great advances in the political field. The goals of the UDEFEC were immediate independence and reunification, and the moral and material welfare of women, children and the family. It had participated, side by side with the UPC, in all the struggles to achieve national aspirations ever since the signature on 22 April 1955 of the proclamation which laid down a minimum joint programme.

29. The French Government could no longer tolerate the activities of the UPC because there could be no doubt that France had never ceased to harbour integrationist designs against the Cameroons.

30. The savage measures of repression of May 1955 had not spared the women of the Cameroons. In the Cameroons under French administration alone, more than 2,000 women had been thrown into concentration camps. According to recent reports, it would seem that after the assassination of Mr. Um Nyobé, General Secretary of the UPC, the French authorities had killed his wife and children. However, the horrors of the repression had not succeeded in stifling the aspirations of the Cameroonian women, who had many heroines in their ranks.

31. The UDEFEC like the UPC had not escaped dissolution. In the Cameroons under French administration, the Decree of 13 July 1955 which dissolved it had been issued in pursuance of the Act of 10 January 1936 which, as he had pointed out to the Committee at the 775th and 780th meetings, was quite inapplicable to the Cameroons. Moreover, who would believe that the UDEFEC was a paramilitary organization? In the Cameroons under British administration, it had been said that the UPC had been dissolved and its leaders deported in accordance with the Decree of 30 May 1957 because, having failed in the elections of 15 March 1957, it might constitute a threat to public order. That argument was not applicable to the UDEFEC, which had not taken part in the elections of 15 March 1957 because in the Cameroons under British administration women could as yet neither vote nor stand for office. Moreover, even if it had been shown that the leaders of the UPC and the UDEFEC had been guilty of the offences with which they had been charged, those movements should not have been dissolved in virtue of the principle that none but a person could commit or be punished for an offence. Indeed, the Penal Code of the Federation of Nigeria, like the French Penal Code, contained a provision under which no organization could be prosecuted as such for an offence committed by one of its members, even if he was a leader.

32. He proceeded to discuss the attempts by the Administering Authorities to justify repressive measures. The dissolved organizations had been accused

of being supported by the Arab League. The members of those organizations had been accused of being terrorists, but no French or British newspaper had published a list of their victims. The real reason for the measures taken against the UPC and the UDEFEC was essentially economic, as shown by the statements of qualified persons. On 10 August 1954, Mr. Buron, Minister for Overseas France, had said with regard to the independence of the Cameroons that it was impossible to set a date for the end of trusteeship and that subsequent policies would depend on economic developments. Using articles published in such newspapers as *La Vie française*, *Le Monde* and *Le Figaro* to substantiate his remarks, he enumerated the economic advantages which France derived from its association with the Cameroons. He emphasized the natural wealth of the country and the size of the profits made by the French companies established there. Moreover, the fact that the Cameroons belonged to the franc zone enabled France to effect an appreciable saving in hard currencies, and the Territory provided it with an assured market. While it was true that the overseas territories sold France some of their products at prices above world market rates, the balance of profits was still definitely in favour of France. Furthermore, France enjoyed priority in the exploitation of African mineral wealth and the success of industrial undertakings such as the aluminium plant at Edéa made it possible to plan larger undertakings. The Cameroons was one of the richest territories in Africa South of the Sahara and that was why France insisted on giving it only a fictitious independence, aware that once trusteeship was terminated, that independence would become mere internal autonomy.

33. Speaking of the efforts of the British authorities to integrate the Cameroons under British administration into the Federation of Nigeria, he said that the UDEFEC, like the UPC, was an ardent advocate of African unity, but it intended that unity to be built by the Africans themselves. Although the Nigerian leaders had never formally expressed a desire to see the Cameroons under British administration integrated into Nigeria, that integration was a permanent aim of British policy in the Cameroons. A great variety of arguments were used to camouflage that policy. In the opinion of some, the Western Cameroons, after having been under the influence of British civilization for forty-five years, was more closely tied to Nigeria than to the Cameroons under French administration. Yet, in the forty-five years the British had been there, there had been little spread of British civilization for, according to official statistics, only 6 per cent of the Cameroonians in the British zone knew how to read and write. On either side of the very artificial line separating the two parts of the Cameroons, there were identical peoples, speaking the same language, sharing the same traditions and having little in common with the Nigerian peoples. Nor would the Moslem religion be any justification for integrating the Northern Cameroons under British administration into Nigeria, since Islam was also the religion of the Northern Cameroons under French administration. As the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British Administration and the Cameroons under French Administration 1955, had stated, the people saw in the unification of the Cameroons the possibility of a reuniting of tribes divided by incomprehensible barriers (T/1226, para. 122).

34. At the twenty-first session of the Trusteeship Council, the representative of Belgium had expressed the view that a referendum in the Cameroons under British administration would show whether the peoples of the Territory wished to renew their older ties with the Trust State of the Cameroons to which they were ethnically linked. The United Kingdom disregarded those ties. Mr. Lennox-Boyd, Secretary of State for the Colonies had clearly indicated at the Nigeria Constitutional Conference held in London in May-June 1958 what the United Kingdom was planning for the Cameroonian, namely, either independence by integration into Nigeria, or the maintenance of the trusteeship, and he had said that in the latter case the Cameroonians would not be given "the golden key of the Bank of England". There was no better way to exert pressure on the Cameroonian people to accept integration into Nigeria. At the London Conference, the same Secretary of State had made it plain that he thought the interests of the Cameroons would be best served by integration with the Federation of Nigeria, and the Conference had provided that the Southern Cameroons should become the fourth region of that Federation. It was mainly for economic reasons that the United Kingdom placed such emphasis on the question of integration. Yet, the special representative of the United Kingdom had told the Trusteeship Council during its nineteenth session that there was no doubt that all political parties had come out in favour of the reunification of the two Cameroons. By opposing the reunification of the Cameroons, the United Kingdom Government was acting contrary to the wishes of a people which it was obligated, under the Charter, to respect.

35. Integration was also a basic aim of France's colonial policy in the Cameroons under French administration, where the Administering Authority was strongly opposed to all nationalist organizations. The Fourth Republic's openly integrationist policy had been followed by the policy of the Fifth Republic established under the Constitution of 28 September 1958, which recognized some kind of verbal self-government or independence for the colonial territories. He would not dwell on the unrepresentative character of the puppet "Assembly" and "Government" established as a result of the elections of December 1956, to which France was planning to transfer power. If that "Assembly" and "Government" were considered representative, why was there such fear of dissolving them and organizing completely democratic elections, leaving it to the Cameroonian people to choose between them and the dissolved organizations? The truth was that the Administering Authority was afraid to repeat in the Cameroons its failure in Togoland. As the newspaper *Paris-Presse* had pointed out on 30 October 1958, France was seeking the termination of the trusteeship in order to integrate the Cameroons into the "community of free peoples" by means of elections held solely on the issue of association with France.

36. In conclusion, Mr. Moumié pointed out that the Administering Authorities envisaged the future of the Cameroons in a manner totally incompatible with the spirit and letter of the United Nations Charter. The UDEFEC considered that the injustice committed against the dissolved political organizations and the Cameroonian masses which had placed their confidence in them should be redressed as a matter of urgency by revoking the Decrees of July 1955 and May 1957 dis-

solving those movements by means of a law proclaiming a general and unconditional amnesty. It was essential to restore a normal political climate by means of a general amnesty and by the unconditional exercise of public freedom. The UDEFEC also considered that a commission of the General Assembly excluding the colonial Powers and with a fair representation of the African, Asian and Latin-American States, should organize a referendum to be held in 1959 simultaneously in both parts of the Cameroons on the following question: "Are you for or against the immediate reunification and independence of the Cameroons?" The same commission would organize general elections for a constituent assembly of the unified Cameroons to proclaim independence and give the country a government which might then ask for the termination of trusteeship.

37. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) protested against the references made by Mr. Moumié to the position of Belgium; they were out of place in a discussion of conditions in the Cameroons.

38. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) said that what he understood to be the petitioner's interpretation of United Kingdom policy with regard to the Cameroons was totally incorrect. He would put forward the views of his Government on that important question with a few days.

39. Mr. OSMAN (Morocco) suggested that the complete text of the statement made by Mr. Moumié speaking in the name of Mrs. Marthe Ouandie of the Union démocratique des femmes camerounaises should be circulated to members of the Committee.

It was so decided.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/C.4/L.542/Rev.1, A/C.4/L.543 and ADD.1, A/C.4/545, A/C.4/L.547, A/C.4/L.548, A/C.4/L.549)(continued)

40. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said that his delegation would vote against the draft resolution in document A/C.4/L.542/Rev.1 for reasons which it had already explained on several occasions.

41. It would also vote against the draft resolution in document A/C.4/L.543 and Add.1, which was merely based on unjustified suspicions. Although the title of the draft resolution referred to "certain" Territories, it was intended to apply to the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi only. Somaliland under Italian administration, Togoland and the Cameroons under French administration would be independent in 1960, and no delegation had expressed the view that their association with the European Economic Community would hamper the realization of the objectives of trusteeship. The economic advantages enjoyed by some Territories under the British Crown within the Commonwealth had not prevented them from attaining complete independence or from retaining their links with the Commonwealth after becoming independent. As he saw it, the same would happen in the case of Ruanda-Urundi.

42. The operative part of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, in so far as it related to the associated territories, covered three points: firstly the progressive reduction of import duties imposed on the entry of their products into the markets of the six member States; secondly, the establishment of a fund for economic and social invest-

ment, to which they could have recourse; thirdly, their unconditional freedom to protect themselves against the importation of goods, including goods from Common Market countries, which would compete with their young industries. Moreover, under the provisions of the General Act of the Conference of Berlin signed on 26 February 1885, reiterated in the Convention concerning that Act signed at St. Germain-en-Laye on 10 September 1919, Ruanda-Urundi was subject to the "open-door" régime and could not establish a preferential customs tariff either in favour of a member of the European Economic Community or of any other State.

43. In the second paragraph of the preamble, the sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.4/L.543 and Add.1 noted "with concern" that the Administering Authorities had thus far transmitted no information on the possible effects of the association of the Trust Territories with the European Economic Community. Under the terms of the Charter, such information would be provided in the annual reports when it was available, and it was impossible to make any prediction in that connexion. The assumption in the third paragraph of the preamble that the association of the Trust Territories with the Community might have a significant impact upon their development towards independence or self-government was refuted by the facts, as an attentive reading of the relevant Treaty would show. The invitation in operative paragraph 1 addressed to the Administering Authorities was superfluous, since it merely requested them to do what they had already agreed to do under the terms of the Charter. There was no impact of the association on the development towards independence or self-government.

44. He therefore invited the sponsors to withdraw the draft resolution and asked the members of the Committee to reject it if it were voted on.

45. His delegation would abstain in the vote on the draft resolution in document A/C.4/L.548. The use of scholarships abroad could be of interest only to graduate students, and the training of an élite detached from the rest of the people was not desirable. The Administering Authorities of the Territories provided education for all those who were capable of studying, including higher studies. His delegation asked for a separate vote on operative paragraph 2 and would vote against that paragraph.

46. The Belgian delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution in document A/C.4/L.549. The important statement of the Italian representative at the 782nd meeting augured well for the future of Somaliland under Italian administration, but it was important that any form of aid which the United Nations could provide for Somaliland should be studied.

47. Mr. KANAKARATNE (Ceylon) introduced the draft resolution concerning the dissemination of information on the United Nations and on the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories (A/C.4/L.545). The question was extremely important, not only for the United Nations, but for all Member States and for those Trust Territories which would shortly become Members. In its resolution 754 (VIII) the General Assembly had regarded the question as being sufficiently important for it to request the Secretary-General to initiate a direct flow of information ma-

terial addressed to the general public in the Trust Territories. On studying the report which the Secretary-General had submitted in pursuance of that resolution (T/1378), the sponsors of the draft resolution had reached the conclusion that the action taken in the matter by the Administering Authorities was inadequate. To cite only one example, he would refer to the passage in the Trusteeship Council's report (A/3822, vol. I, p. 31) which said that the Secretary-General had received 430 communications from the inhabitants of the Trust Territories requesting information on the scholarship programme of the United Nations. Since the eighth session of the General Assembly, several Territories had made substantial progress towards the objectives of the Trusteeship System, and four were on the point of attaining independence. It was therefore essential that their inhabitants should be thoroughly informed not only on the principles of the United Nations, but also on the practical steps taken by the Organization under the Trusteeship System.

48. The sponsors of the draft resolution considered that the attainment of the objectives laid down in Article 76 would be substantially facilitated by the establishment of information centres in the Trust Territories. However, they had not asked that such centres should be set up immediately, but only that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to submit a report on the subject at the fourteenth session. In operative paragraph 2 of the draft, they had suggested that the information centres should be directed by representatives of the indigenous populations, because they considered that the persons in charge of such centres should be familiar with local conditions and with at least one of the languages of the area, if the centres were to play their part effectively. That was in fact one of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on United Nations Public Information. The word "representatives" did not mean that the centres should be directed by elected representatives; it was intended merely to refer to persons belonging to those populations who would be chosen by the Secretary-General on the ground of their personal aptitude.

49. He hoped that the Committee would approve the draft resolution unanimously and would thus enable the people of the Trust Territories to be fully informed on the work which the United Nations was doing for them.

50. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) said that before introducing his delegation's amendments (A/C.4/L.551) to the draft resolution in document A/C.4/L.545, he would point out that his delegation fully endorsed the objectives which the sponsors of the draft had in mind. He hoped that his amendments would not simply be put to the vote, but might serve as a basis for the preparation of a text acceptable both to the sponsors of the draft and to the United Kingdom delegation.

51. With regard to the third preambular paragraph, he remarked that after studying the report of the Secretary-General (T/1378), he had not reached the conclusion that the dissemination of information on the United Nations for the people of the Trust Territories was inadequate. He therefore proposed an amendment to that paragraph (A/C.4/L.551, para. 1).

52. Operative paragraph 1 provided for the "establishment of information centres... in the Trust Territories", but he felt that the decision on the siting of

such centres should not be prejudged. Information might very well be more effectively disseminated on a regional basis from outside a Territory, and there would appear to be no need for a centre in each Territory. He therefore proposed the changes set forth in his delegation's second amendment (A/C.4/L.551, para. 2).

53. With regard to operative paragraph 2, it would not be proper for the Fourth Committee to recommend that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the establishment of information centres while the Fifth Committee had yet to study the report of the Committee of Experts on United Nations Public Information (A/3928). It would be better to ask the Secretary-General to give special

attention to the question when studying the general problem of information and to prepare a report taking into account the conclusions reached by the Fifth Committee. Moreover, having regard to the functions of the Trusteeship Council, it would be logical for the report to be submitted to the Council, not to the General Assembly. Lastly, although the recommendation that the centres should be directed by indigenous inhabitants was of practical interest, it was incompatible with the provisions governing the recruitment of staff for the United Nations and would unduly limit the prerogatives of the Secretary-General in that matter. He therefore proposed a new text of operative paragraph 2 (A/C.4/L.551, para. 3).

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.