



Fourteenth session
Agenda item 41 (a)

THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER UNITED KINGDOM
ADMINISTRATION: ORGANIZATION OF THE PLEBISCITE IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF
THE TERRITORY

Report of the Fourth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Eamonn L. KENNEDY (Ireland)

1. By its resolution 1350 (XIII) of 13 March 1959 on the future of the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration, the General Assembly recommended that separate plebiscites be held in the northern and southern parts of that Territory in order to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants of the Territory concerning their future. After making recommendations concerning the holding of the plebiscite in the northern part in November 1959, the General Assembly further recommended that the plebiscite in the southern part should be conducted between the beginning of December 1959 and the end of April 1960 and decided that the two alternatives to be put to the people and the qualifications for voting in the plebiscite there should be considered by the General Assembly at its fourteenth session.

2. In accordance with the above-mentioned resolution, the General Assembly included the following item in the agenda of its fourteenth session:

The future of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration:

- (a) Organization of the plebiscite in the southern part of the Territory; question of the two alternatives to be put to the people and the qualifications for voting;
- (b) Report of the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner on the plebiscite in the northern part of the Territory and report of the Trusteeship Council.

At its 803rd meeting, the General Assembly allocated that agenda item to the Fourth Committee.

3. At its 883rd meeting, the Fourth Committee decided to consider the organization of the plebiscite in the southern part of the Territory as the first item of its agenda. At the same meeting it decided without objection to grant requests for hearings before the Committee in connexion with this question submitted by Mr. Namaso N. Mbile on behalf of the Kamerun People's Party and by Mr. Ndeh Ntumazah on behalf of One Kamerun.

4. At its 885th meeting, the Committee heard statements by the representative of the United Kingdom, by Mr. J.N. Foncha, Premier of the Southern Cameroons and by Mr. E.M.L. Endeley, Leader of the Opposition in the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly, speaking as members of the United Kingdom delegation. From these statements it emerged that the parties concerned had not, as had been hoped by the General Assembly in its resolution 1350 (XIII), been able to reach agreement on the alternatives to be put in the plebiscite and on the qualifications for voting. Mr. Foncha, on behalf of the Kamerun National Democratic Party, expressed the view that the Territory should be separated from Nigeria with a period of continued trusteeship; he therefore considered that that course should be the alternative in the plebiscite to integration with an independent Nigeria; moreover, only persons born in the Southern Cameroons should take part in the plebiscite. Mr. Endeley, on behalf of the Kamerun National Congress, which was in favour of the Southern Cameroons continuing as an autonomous self-governing region in an independent Federation of Nigeria, considered that the alternative to that course should be secession from Nigeria in order to effect reunification with the Cameroons Republic; he also considered that the existing voting qualifications, which included Nigerian and French Cameroonian inhabitants, should be maintained.

5. Mr. Mbile (Kamerun People's Party) and Mr. Ntumazah (One Kamerun), appearing as petitioners, made statements at the 885th and 889th meetings respectively. From the 885th to 890th meetings, members of the Committee put questions to the United Kingdom delegation and to the petitioners with a view to clarifying the position of the Cameroonians who had made statements to it.

6. At the 890th meeting, Mr. Foncha and Mr. Endeley presented to the Committee a joint written statement (A/C.4/414), in which they stated that they agreed, subject to the agreement of the General Assembly, that there should be no plebiscite in the Southern Cameroons in 1960, and that pending settlement of its future the Southern Cameroons should be administered under the present Trusteeship Agreement, but should be separated from Nigeria not later than 1 October 1960; that the wishes of the people should be ascertained in 1962 and that the Trusteeship Agreement should be terminated not later than 26 October 1962. A procedural discussion arising out of the implications of this statement took place at the 890th and 891st meetings.

7. The general debate on this item took place from the 892nd to the 899th and from the 901st to the 903rd meetings.

8. During the 898th meeting, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Republic and the United States of America submitted a draft resolution (A/C.4/L.591) whereby the General Assembly would:

(1) Decide that the arrangements for the plebiscite referred to in resolution 1350 (XIII) should begin on 30 September 1960, and that the plebiscite should be concluded not later than March 1961;

(2) Recommend that the two questions to be put at the plebiscite should be:

"(a) Do you wish to achieve independence by joining the Independent Federation of Nigeria?

"(b) Do you wish to achieve independence by joining the Independent Republic of the Cameroons?";

(3) Recommend that only persons born in the Southern Cameroons or one of whose parents was born in the Southern Cameroons should vote in the plebiscite;

(4) Recommend that the Administering Authority, in consultation with the Government of the Southern Cameroons, take steps to implement the separation of the administration of the Southern Cameroons from that of the Federation of Nigeria not later than 1 October 1960.

9. Mr. Foncha and Mr. Endeley made further statements in which they accepted this proposal as a compromise.

10. Subsequently, Cuba, Iran and Panama associated themselves with the other sponsors of the draft resolution, the preamble of which was revised

(A/C.4/L.591/Rev.1).

11. The draft resolution was put to the vote by parts at the 903rd meeting with the following results:

(a) The preamble was adopted unanimously.

(b) Operative paragraph 1 was adopted by a roll-call vote of 73 to none, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Brazil, Iraq, Venezuela.

(c) Operative paragraph 2 was adopted by a roll-call vote of 75 to 1.

The voting was as follows:

In favour: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Afghanistan.

(d) Operative paragraph 3 was adopted by a roll-call vote of 64 to none, with 12 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Argentina, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Uruguay, Venezuela.

(e) Operative paragraph 4 was adopted by a roll-call vote of 71 to none, with 5 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Brazil, Greece, India, Iraq, Nepal.

(f) The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by a roll-call vote of 74 to none, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Iraq.

12. The Fourth Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

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ADMINISTRATION: ORGANIZATION OF THE PLEBISCITE IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF
THE TERRITORY

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1350 (XIII) of 13 March 1959 concerning the future of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration, which expressed the hope that all concerned in the Territory would endeavour to reach agreement before the opening of the fourteenth session of the General Assembly on the alternatives to be put in the plebiscite in the Southern Cameroons and the qualifications for voting in it,

Noting the statements made by the representative of the Administering Authority, by the Premier of the Southern Cameroons and by the Leader of the Opposition in the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly to the effect that no agreement was reached before the fourteenth session of the General Assembly as to the alternatives to be put in the plebiscite and the qualifications for voting in it, and that a postponement of the plebiscite in the Southern Cameroons to a later date would help to establish more favourable conditions for ascertaining the freely expressed wishes of the population,

Noting the opinions expressed during the debate on this question at the fourteenth session of the General Assembly,

Noting the statements made by the Premier of the Southern Cameroons and by the Leader of the Opposition in the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly at the 898th meeting of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly,

1. Decides that the arrangements for the plebiscite referred to in resolution 1350 (XIII) shall begin on 30 September 1960, and that the plebiscite shall be concluded not later than March 1961;

2. Recommends that the two questions to be put at the plebiscite should be:
"(a) Do you wish to achieve independence by joining the Independent Federation of Nigeria?"

"(b) Do you wish to achieve independence by joining the Independent Republic of the Cameroons?";

3. Recommends that only persons born in the Southern Cameroons or one of whose parents was born in the Southern Cameroons should vote in the plebiscite;

4. Recommends that the Administering Authority, in consultation with the Government of the Southern Cameroons, take steps to implement the separation of the administration of the Southern Cameroons from that of the Federation of Nigeria not later than 1 October 1960.
