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THE TOGOLAND UNIFICATION PROBLEM AND THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY
OF TOGOLAND UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

The future of Togoland under French administration

Statement made by Mr. Georges Apedo-Amah, Minister of Finance of the
autonomous Republic of Togoland, member of the French delegation, at
the 584th meeting of the Fourth Committee, on 2 January 1957

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with the decision taken
by the Fourth Committee at its five hundred and eighty-fourth meeting,
the following text of the statement is circulated to the members of the
Committee for their information.

Mr. Chairman,

As His Excellency, the Minister for Overseas France, has just said, a historical event of great moment has taken place in the Trust Territory of Togoland under French administration: on 30 April 1956, a new statute was promulgated, emancipating the Trust Territory and promoting it to the dignity of autonomous republic; this statute was ratified by the country on 28 October by means of a popular referendum. On 14 September, a Togoland Government was constituted which will henceforward guide the destiny of the Republic of Togoland with sovereign power.

The people of Togoland now have their own national Parliament, Government, flag, currency and anthem, all attributes of a modern democratic State. The people of Togoland regard this long-awaited culminating stage in a lengthy process of development as the beginning of a new era and consequently as the end of the former Trusteeship System; this for them is a source of legitimate and jealous pride which can be detected at all levels of the population.

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The people of Togoland attach overwhelming importance to this event; any reference to it arouses the liveliest emotions. As the emanation and lawful spokesman of the people of Togoland, the Parliament of Lomé has asked the Government of the autonomous Republic to submit to the United Nations, on behalf of the people, a memorandum on the situation arising out of the new statute.

Mr. Chairman, it is my privilege to present this memorandum to you. It has been communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations through the Government of the French Republic. Nevertheless, I should be very grateful, Mr. Chairman, if you would allow me to read it out: [The text of the memorandum in question appears in document A/C.4/341.] Such are the contents of this memorandum. Any comment by me would be superfluous and might distort its meaning. I shall confine myself therefore to expressing the hope of the people of Togoland that their great interest in the new statute and the importance which they attach to their country's autonomy will find their due response in this Assembly.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your kindness in calling upon the representative of the Government of the autonomous Republic of Togoland. I take this opportunity to convey to you and the members of this Committee, at the opening of the new year, the good wishes of the Prime Minister and his Government.
