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Chairman: Mr. Santiago PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela).

**Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2427)
(*continued*)**

[Item 13]*

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) said that the end of 1953 would coincide with the expiry of his country's term of office on the Trusteeship Council. That term had been one of its most significant experiences in the international field, and the Dominican delegation had made every effort to contribute to the full and progressive development of the International Trusteeship System. It was leaving the Council with the satisfaction of having fulfilled all its undertakings and with many hopes for the future. He expressed his delegation's deep gratitude for the friendly and loyal cooperation of the other members of the Trusteeship Council.

2. The Trusteeship System was one of the most fascinating sides of the United Nations work. The gradual conversion of the former Mandates System, some vestiges of which still subsisted, into the wider, more generous and more humane system of trusteeship was closely linked with the fate of millions of human beings. He urged that the General Assembly should not weaken the action of the Trusteeship Council, but rather strengthen it and allow it gradually to develop, weighing the apparent disadvantages of the system of equal representation of Administering Authorities and non-administering Powers in the Council against the system in the General Assembly by which a two-thirds majority was required for the approval of all resolutions relating to Chapter XII of the Charter. Any weakening of the Trusteeship Council would affect the Trust Territories and their inhabitants.

3. In the period covered by the Trusteeship Council's report (A/2427), the Council had put into effect the new plan of work which had emerged from the previous lengthy debates held during the eleventh session, and in so doing had introduced greater unity into the consideration of reports, particularly from the African Territories. At its twelfth session, the Council had had occasion to note, in connexion with its consideration of the Trust Territories of the Pacific, how useful the study of reports could be in conjunction with the report of a visiting mission. The Dominican delegation considered

that the new arrangements would greatly improve the Council's procedure.

4. The Dominican delegation confessed to a special interest in the treatment of petitions. At the Council's sixth session, it had tried to construct a system of rules governing petitions and their examination and had sought consistently to lay down standards which would be of advantage to all, particularly when the problem of anonymous petitions or unsigned petitions received by the Council from groups, persons or communities was under discussion. The important point was that some method of procedure must be found which would remove the impression that the vast majority of petitions were dealt with according to a fixed routine, that mere "rubber stamp" decisions were taken.

5. During 1953, the Standing Committee on Petitions had been inundated with demands, many of which could have been settled in the Territories themselves by the Administrations and the inhabitants concerned, leaving the Council to deal with more serious matters like the problem of the lands of the Meru tribe in Tanganyika. He wondered how the confusion which seemed to govern the exercise of the right of petition, or indeed the treatment of those petitions in the Trusteeship Council, had arisen; its origin would seem to be in the absence of any genuine instructions regarding the right of petition. Insufficient knowledge was the reason for both abuses and neglect in exercising it. Both extremes should be analyzed by the Council, and also by the Administering Authorities, which might be spared many difficult problems if a proper campaign were initiated in the Trust Territories to vitalize the right of petition by spreading a knowledge of its scope and exercise.

6. One of the most interesting and urgent aspects of the right of petition was the Fourth Committee's practice of granting oral hearings to any person from a Trust Territory, often without due study of the background of the case or without bearing in mind any action which the Standing Committee on Petitions or the Trusteeship Council might have taken. Many representatives who had not had time to read the reports the Administering Authorities had submitted to the Council prolonged the oral hearings with questions which they could find answered in greater detail, and backed up by statistics, in those reports or in documents produced by the Secretariat; that was particularly true of questions concerning education, social services, health or even economic matters. The Fourth Committee would be compelled sooner or later to regulate such hearings, and in so doing it would revive and give greater importance to the institution of petitions, which, as defined in the Charter, provided full safeguards for both parties involved. The obvious course would appear to be for the General Assembly, through the Fourth Committee, to act as a court of appeal in the case of important and serious petitions which had already been through the Standing Committee on Petitions and the Trusteeship Council. In the meantime, matters could be considerably improved

* Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

if a campaign of popular education were started in the Trust Territories to instruct the population with regard to the meaning of the right of petition. In particular, the provisions of rule 81 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council should be widely disseminated in the Trust Territories. That rule said that normally petitions would be considered inadmissible if they were directed against judgments of competent courts of the Administering Authority or if they laid before the Council a dispute with which the courts had competence to deal. That rule would not of course be interpreted as closing the doors of the Trusteeship Council to a petition involving legislation which was contrary to the provisions of the Charter or of the Trusteeship Agreement. Such educational campaigns would be useful in connexion with the visiting missions, which held powers from the Trusteeship Council to receive and study—although not, of course, to pronounce upon—any petition from the inhabitants of the Territory concerned.

7. The visiting missions were one of the most important features of the Trusteeship System. They provided a means whereby international supervision over the Trust Territories could be exercised. The Council chose its visiting missions by a system of rotation. It was the Council's present practice to advise its members to choose persons who were representatives on the Council or as far as possible associated with its work and with the International Trusteeship System. It tried to avoid sending on mission people who were not acquainted with its procedure and were not profoundly interested in its development. The results of that policy had been excellent. The objectivity of the reports of the United Nations Visiting Missions to East Africa in 1951, to West Africa in 1952, and to the Pacific in 1953, and the readiness with which the Council had been able to accept them were proof of that fact, as was the constructive reaction of the Administering Authorities to them. The first-hand contact of the members of visiting missions with conditions in the Trust Territory made for a great increase in realism in their attitude towards the various problems with which the Administering Authorities had to deal. In that connexion, he quoted the fourth sentence of paragraph 11 of the 1953 Visiting Mission's report on New Guinea (T/1056). The members of the visiting missions thus reaped great benefits from their participation in the missions, but they also made certain sacrifices. The Dominican delegation had protested strongly when unfair charges had been made against the 1952 Visiting Mission to West Africa. If the Fourth Committee tolerated such a policy, the Trusteeship Council would find it hard to find persons willing to serve on visiting missions, unless of course they were to be used to sow the seeds of political extremism or ill-comprehended nationalism in the as yet untutored minds of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories.

8. The Council's procedure in regard to visiting missions deserved whole-hearted support from the Fourth Committee. The success or failure of a mission depended entirely on its members. A mission in which the members mutually respected each other's political positions, laid aside all personal ambitions in order to serve the United Nations, and formed a bridge between the Administering Authority and the people of a Trust Territory, could be one of the most successful embodiments of the Trusteeship System. A mission in which the members merely supported movements in a Trust Territory whose opinions coincided with their own would be failing in its duty to the United Nations.

9. In considering the problem of the visiting missions, the Fourth Committee could be satisfied that the General Assembly's resolutions had been observed. The Trusteeship Council realized that if it was carried out well, that method of supervision worked as much to the benefit of the Administering Authority as to that of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories. The machinery was naturally not perfect. It was inevitably governed to a certain extent by the circumstances in the areas in which the Trust Territories were situated. The Council would bear those circumstances in mind when it considered the possibility of altering the itineraries of the visiting missions. For example, in 1954 a visiting mission would be sent to East Africa to study the situation in Ruanda-Urundi under Belgian administration, Tanganyika under British administration and Somaliland under Italian administration. The suggestion had often been made of a separate mission to the latter, with more time to study its problems, chiefly because a final date for the independence of that Territory had been fixed in the Trusteeship Agreement between Italy and the United Nations. On the other hand, in the Pacific area there were problems of transport and facilities which might well require the alteration of the itinerary that had twice been followed by missions sent to that area. The isolation of the Trust Territory of Nauru—the placing of that Territory under trusteeship had been one of the errors of the international community—might entail a change in the itinerary of the mission. In addition, recent political events in Western Samoa, where measures tending towards complete self-government had just been announced, might require the Council to alter the itinerary of the mission to be sent out in 1956.

10. The Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration was the first Territory for which the United Nations had varied the normal formula for trusteeship agreements and it therefore deserved the Assembly's particular attention. The United Nations Advisory Council established under General Assembly resolution 289 A (IV) had duly carried out its functions in an atmosphere of cordiality; during the past year, moreover, the anomalous situation that had arisen in 1951 had been corrected, since all the members of the Council had been present in the Territory. The Advisory Council was a necessary link between the Administration, the people of Somaliland and the United Nations; as such, it was an essential to the carrying out of the Assembly's purpose in the Territory and to the application of the Trusteeship Agreement. Yet, while the Fourth Committee had decided to hear the representative of the Somali Youth League and other representatives, the Advisory Council, which had been set up by the General Assembly and was responsible to it, was not represented as such in the Committee. The members of the Council, speaking in that capacity, could have helped the Committee to assess the positions adopted by the Administering Authority, the Trusteeship Council and the petitioners. He would like to know why the Advisory Council, as such, was not present.

11. From the Trusteeship Council's report (A/2427), it was obvious that the General Assembly must study the question of the frontiers to be given to the future independent Somaliland. Many of the petitions considered by the Council came from the undefined territory between Italian Somaliland and Ethiopia, where the indefinite frontier gave rise to all the difficulties inherent in such a situation. The United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1951, had described the question of the provisional border between

the Trust Territory and Ethiopia as an urgent matter. The clear definition of the boundary line was an essential prerequisite for the establishment of the independent State. He quoted the Trusteeship Council's conclusion on the frontier question (A/2427, p. 42) and hoped that it would be heeded by the two governments concerned and would be given effect through friendly and constructive bilateral negotiations. The problem would vitally affect the new independent State, and it must not be allowed to go unsolved.

12. Turning to the question of the dissemination of information about the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in the Trust Territories, he said that his delegation might submit a draft resolution on that matter. The situation in the Pacific Islands under United States administration was very satisfactory; in Western Samoa, which had already been visited by three visiting missions, information on the United Nations was fairly well understood and accepted owing to the social structure of society; it was virtually non-existent in New Guinea, although comparatively widespread in Nauru. Certain African Trust Territories, for various reasons, had absolutely no information about the United Nations, but Somaliland under Italian administration was very well informed, partly because some members of the Secretariat and the Advisory Council were permanently stationed there, but also because it was the Italian Administration's policy to give widespread publicity to anything concerning the Trusteeship System and the United Nations. He drew particular attention to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 556 (VI) and regretted that it had not so far produced the expected results or made it possible for the Trusteeship Council to include in its report the information it should have received from the Administering Authorities and its comments thereon. The issue was a vital one and the Administering Authorities must be urged to comply with that resolution. Many of the difficulties encountered in trusteeship matters were due to ignorance about the United Nations, the principles and purposes of the International Trusteeship System, the relationship between the United Nations and the Administering Authorities and the world's interest in the political, social, economic and educational advancement of the peoples of the Trust Territories. One method of ensuring the distribution of information material would be through co-operation between the Administering Authority and the appropriate departments of the United Nations, particularly in order to overcome the difficulties which arose from the diversity of dialects and languages. It was for the Administering Authority concerned to suggest the solution to such problems in the light of its own experience in the Territory. He hoped that resolution 556 (VI) would be more fully and sincerely applied in the Trust Territories and felt that it was not being unduly optimistic to believe that a valuable publicity campaign could be undertaken.

13. In applying the principles of the Charter to the Trust Territories the human element must not be ignored. Ideas were changing and the spirit of colonialism was gradually giving way to more advanced ideas of the value of individual aspirations and human rights; intolerance and exploitation were disappearing, but without true understanding and the co-operation of all men of goodwill the principles and purposes of the Charter and, in particular of Chapter XII, could not be achieved. In Tanganyika, the Territory's advancement was conditioned by the multi-racial structure of society and the lack of any regional or national consciousness.

In the Pacific, the islands under United States trusteeship were advancing along the path of democracy but they were separated by vast expanses of ocean, composed of separate ethnic groups, and had no desire for federation; they placed their hopes in the United Nations. In New Guinea there would be no possibility, even in fifty years' time, of any form of self-government; the inhabitants were subjected to outside forces which they did not understand; there were vast unexplored areas which were only occasionally entered by Australian officials on peaceful missions; there were racial conflicts which jeopardized the intellectual and social future of the indigenous inhabitants. Nauru was nothing more than an island of phosphate and would disappear in sixty years or so once the phosphate deposits had been exhausted; the soil could not be reclaimed and the inhabitants would have to be resettled elsewhere with assistance from the funds derived from the royalties and other payments of the British Phosphate Commissioners. It was obvious that Article 76 of the Charter could not be applied to Nauru. Such varying human elements showed the need for moderation on the Assembly's part. The Fourth Committee could do much to enhance the prestige of the United Nations, provided that it acted in a realistic way, did not confuse the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories and did its utmost to co-operate with the Administering Authorities. That spirit had always guided his delegation.

14. In conclusion he reserved the right to speak later on any draft resolutions that might be submitted.

15. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) said that the provisions of Chapters XII and XIII of the Charter set out in detail the legal rights and obligations of the Administering Authorities on the one hand and of the international community on the other. Any doubts which some delegations might entertain with regard to the extent of the legal obligations of the administering Powers under Chapter XI of the Charter were therefore without foundation in the case of Chapters XII and XIII. In the case of the Trust Territories the situation was clear: they had never been and were not under the sovereignty of the Administering Authorities, whose right to administer the Territory was temporary. The Mandates System had implicitly provided for the end of that right in the case of certain Territories; the Trusteeship Systems provided for it explicitly in the case of all Trust Territories. The obligations of the Administering Authorities were therefore clear and the other contracting party, namely the United Nations, was entitled to ask that they should be fulfilled.

16. Apart from the provisions of the Charter, the progress achieved by the international community in protecting the dependent people at the international level was also shown by the fact that, bearing in mind the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination, the United Nations had recognized that all dependent people must be allowed to develop in accordance with their aspirations and to achieve independence. It had rejected as contrary to contemporary ideas the division of territories and peoples into categories and had thus recognized that all people were equal in law and were equally entitled to their national, political and other aspirations. Hence, the United Nations had condemned once and for all any form of annexation which certain States had felt and apparently still felt to be implicit in the case of "B" and, more particularly, "C" Mandates. Only recently, the United Nations had categorically refused to endorse the annexation proposed by one Member State.

17. His delegation was happy to note the considerable progress achieved in Western Samoa. The New Zealand Government's policy might not be satisfactory in every field, but New Zealand deserved the recognition and congratulations of the General Assembly. The Administering Authority had said it would correct some of the defects that still remained. Its achievements provided a solid basis with which the efforts of the other Administering Authorities could be compared. The noble efforts of the New Zealand Government, which had published far-reaching proposals for constitutional reform intended to lead to the early establishment of self-government for Western Samoa proved what could be done with a little goodwill and unselfishness. He congratulated the New Zealand Government on its achievements in Western Samoa and hoped that in the future it would continue to be guided by the interests and aspirations of the Samoan people and would eventually promote the establishment of an independent State of Western Samoa, possibly before the 1954 visiting mission went to the Territory. The New Zealand Government's decision to transfer the plantations and other properties of the New Zealand Reparations Estates to the Samoan people would help to lay the essential economic foundations for complete political independence and free self-determination.

18. He was sorry that he could not also congratulate the other Administering Authorities in the same area, even taking into consideration some of the specific conditions in the Trust Territories concerned. After studying the reports of the Administering Authorities as well as of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific, 1953, and the Trusteeship Council, he had reached the conclusion that the political situation was far from satisfactory. The participation of the indigenous inhabitants in legislative, executive and judicial organs was insignificant or even non-existent and the same was true of their access to public and other posts and their participation in the Administration. The reasons given to justify that state of affairs had not convinced his delegation. It was alleged that the indigenous inhabitants were incapable of assuming such responsibilities; that raised the question of how much the Administering Authorities had done to promote education. It was surprising that the schools which should have been set up in 1926 or perhaps 1932 had not trained enough indigenous inhabitants with at least elementary or technical education.

19. Tribal differences were said to prevent political development and the development of a national consciousness and a feeling of a community of interests, but his delegation did not believe that they need necessarily prove an insuperable obstacle. Its contention had been proved in the case of New Guinea. The annual report on that Territory¹ described the establishment of training centres for the co-operative movement, and said that the response to such training and the enthusiasm of the indigenous inhabitants had been amply demonstrated by their willingness to submerge tribal differences and co-operate in constructing the buildings at the training centres.

20. In the economic field there had been little advance over the previous year. The indigenous population played only a very small part in the economic activities of the Territories and had still less part in the profits

¹ See Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of New Guinea from 1st July 1951 to 30th June 1952, Commonwealth of Australia, 1952.

derived from exploiting their natural resources. Their standard of living was extremely low. The royalties, land rental and other payments made by private industry were paltry and inadequate. The Administering Authorities showed little interest in the economic development of the indigenous inhabitants and their efforts in that direction could scarcely be compared with what they often did to assist European enterprises. That was clear from nearly all the reports of the Visiting Mission. He quoted certain passages from the Visiting Mission's report on New Guinea (T/1056, paras. 20 and 21) describing the steps the village councils were taking to encourage indigenous agricultural production and concluding that the indigenous population was prepared to share with the Administering Authority the financial cost of advancement and improved well-being. In the same report (para. 76) there was an account of the steps proposed by the Administration to bring the land under cultivation. It was clear that the Administration intended *inter alia* to supply new colonists with land in accessible areas and to build service roads. While the over-all plan might be praiseworthy, it could only lead to an increase in the number of Europeans and further alienation of indigenous land. It should be remarked that since 1947 the number of Europeans had increased by 114.6 per cent and, to quote the Trusteeship Council's report, "that the indigenous people in general showed no desire to dispose of their land and sometimes desired to repossess land which had been alienated" (A/2427, p. 97).

21. The Visiting Mission and the Trusteeship Council had considered the need for resettling the people of Nauru when the phosphate deposits were exhausted in approximately seventy years' time. It was quite possible that that question might eventually arise, but it would be better, for the moment, if the Council urged the Administering Authority to supply it with information on the financial operations of the British Phosphate Commissioners and the price they paid for phosphates compared to the price on the world market; it could then decide whether the royalties and other payments to the indigenous inhabitants should be increased to bring them up to at least the level of the payments in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, under United States administration. He wondered why the Trusteeship Council had not recommended that the same measures to protect the soil should be taken in Nauru as in the island of Angaur where, under the agreement between the United States and the Phosphate Mining Company of Japan, the phosphate excavations were being filled in with soil, which, suitably fertilized, could later be used for agricultural purposes. Those measures largely protected the interests of the indigenous inhabitants. They were described in paragraph 109 of the Visiting Mission's report on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/1055).

22. The question of alienated land was a very delicate one and it varied from one Territory to another. He hoped that the Administering Authorities would do everything necessary to settle existing disputes and avoid disputes in the future.

23. The Council's contention in its report on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (S/3066) that the United States, as Administering Authority, had no legal obligations with regard to the indigenous population's claims concerning Japanese shares and currency, since article IV of the Treaty of Peace with Japan provided that such claims would be settled by special agreements between the two States, was open to doubt in his delega-

tion's view. He hoped the United States would show its goodwill by trying to meet the wishes of the indigenous people.

24. The various annual reports contained considerable evidence of racial discrimination and corporal punishment despite all the recommendations by the Council and the General Assembly. The Council had even refrained from making any recommendations with regard to corporal punishment at its twelfth session and had merely appealed to the humanitarian feelings of the Administering Authorities in the hope that that might be more successful than an appeal to their legal obligations. The difference between the wages paid to indigenous and European workers was still enormous. In the field of social security, too, the indigenous workers had inferior rights, particularly in the case of industrial accidents. He had been surprised and sorry to note from the annual report on New Guinea that the compensation paid by the Administration in case of the death or injury of a worker was normally far below that paid by private enterprise. That was a highly unsatisfactory state of affairs. His delegation supported the Council's recommendations in such matters and hoped that they would be carried out. In that connexion, it should be borne in mind that the Trusteeship Council was one of the principal organs of the United Nations; it was not enough to speak of its decisions with respect; they must actually be respected.

25. The Yugoslav delegation was not satisfied with the manner in which the Trusteeship Council had dealt with questions on the basis of General Assembly resolutions. With regard to petitions, for example, in a very large proportion of cases the Council had merely postponed examination or decided that no action was called for. Petitions were so important as a link between the United Nations and the dependent peoples that they deserved much more careful consideration by the Council, and he hoped that that body would revise its procedure and make it more consistent with the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the subject.

26. In the matter of scholarships, the Administering Authorities, recognizing the low level of education in their Territories, had not taken advantage of the opportunities offered by other Member States. They stated that language was one of the main difficulties in the way. However, international exchange of students would be difficult, if not impossible, if they depended either upon the students' previous knowledge of the language, or on knowledge of the languages of the students or that of the Administering Authority in the other countries concerned. The General Assembly should acknowledge the difficulties and try to give a constructive reply to the Administering Authorities, for example by adopting a resolution inviting Member States, taking into consideration the level of education and special requirements of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories, to offer scholarships which would enable the indigenous inhabitants to continue their post-primary, secondary or technical education.

27. The question of the land system and of the alienation of indigenous land was so important and acute that it was at the basis of numerous conflicts, sometimes of actual war. The Committee on Rural Economic Development of Trust Territories and the Trusteeship Council had not dealt adequately with that question. The Council had deferred it indefinitely by linking it with special investigations being made or to be made in the Trust Territories. The Secretariat had, however, placed excellent documentation at the disposal of the Council,

which would enable a complete study of the problem to be made and recommendations drawn up that could have a positive effect on the studies to be made by the Administering Authorities. One solution to the problem might be to ask the Secretary-General either to appoint one or two experts for the purpose, or himself to submit to the General Assembly a detailed report on the subject.

28. With regard to administrative unions, the Yugoslav delegation held that although administrative unions were permissible, the existing unions were not consistent with the present and future interests of the people of the Trust Territories or with the provisions of the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreements, since they had almost all been transformed into political unions. All the efforts of the various committees on administrative unions to convince the members of the Fourth Committee that the administrative union of Togoland under British administration and the Gold Coast had not resulted in the integration of the former in the latter had been nullified by the United Kingdom representative's statement that Togoland under British administration was already an integral part of the Gold Coast. The General Assembly might perhaps set up a new committee to re-examine the question in the light of recent events.

29. After thirty-five years of administration of the territories which had been placed first under the Mandates System and then under the Trusteeship System, it should be possible to judge of the progress accomplished and press for the termination of the sacred trust; hence the Yugoslav delegation whole-heartedly endorsed resolution 558 (VI) and congratulated its sponsors. That resolution was a turning point in the history of the International Trusteeship System. In spite of its importance, however, very little information had been forthcoming on the subject. The General Assembly should invite the Trusteeship Council to devote several pages of its regular report to the General Assembly to that resolution and the information submitted thereon by the Administering Authorities. He associated himself with the remarks on the subject made by the representative of Haiti (380th meeting).

30. With regard to the general attitude of the Trusteeship Council, he regretted the increasing divergencies between that body and the General Assembly, and the fact that certain delegations showed a growing tendency to use the Council to change decisions taken in the General Assembly. If continued, that practice might undermine the authority and prestige of the United Nations and might call for direct action by the General Assembly. He hoped that that would not be necessary and that the Council would continue to carry out its work as a subordinate organ. He did not underestimate the value of the Council's efforts or of a number of its decisions, but its activities should be consistent with the general activities of the United Nations in safeguarding peace and realizing complete equality between the peoples of the world.

31. In conclusion, he assured the Committee that the Yugoslav delegation was guided solely by the interests of peace and international security. Its only desire was to contribute to the elimination of causes of conflict and to create an atmosphere of friendship and confidence between all peoples.

32. Mr. LOOMES (Australia) said that it might be well briefly to outline the policies of the Australian Government in its administration of New Guinea and Nauru.

33. He expressed his Government's appreciation for the visits to those two Territories of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific during the early part of 1953. During their stay in the Territories the members of the Mission had clearly acquired a real appreciation of the conditions, problems and difficulties that existed there. The work of the Trusteeship Council had been greatly assisted by its reports.

34. With regard to New Guinea, the Visiting Mission had recognized clearly the physical difficulties arising from the mountainous nature of the terrain and the rigours of the climate, and it had emphasized that there was no parallel to those conditions in any other Trust Territory. The immensity of the task was fully recognized by the Australian Government, and although all the difficulties had not been overcome, the efforts which had been made were proving very effective.

35. He reminded the Committee of the disruption in the lives of the people and the physical destruction caused by enemy occupation during the Second World War. The work of rehabilitation, however, had been begun even before the end of the war and had been continued, so that the Territory was now entering on a developmental stage of its history. Since the restoration of the civil administration in October 1945, more than £28 million had been spent in reconstruction and administration, the Australian Government providing £21 million and the remainder coming from Territory revenue.

36. The Administration was confident that firm ground was being laid for the foundation of local indigenous institutions and for eventual direct participation of the indigenous inhabitants in the work of government. Progress must necessarily be slow, as had been recognized by the Visiting Mission. The policy of the Administering Authority was gradually to replace the direct rule system of village officials by properly constituted Native councils, and to establish councils whenever and wherever the indigenous people were ready and able to accept responsibility. Up to the present six such councils had been established. In the wider field an experiment was being carried out to arrange participation in the recently constituted Legislative Council of suitably qualified indigenous inhabitants, and future wider participation would depend upon the experience gained and upon the political development of the people.

37. He would refer to the work being done by patrol officers in bringing under the control of the Administration the very wild country in the interior of the Territory. Good progress had been made in that respect, and during the year 1951-1952 over 4,000 square miles had been brought under control and 4,750 square miles penetrated by patrols and contact made with the indigenous people. Since 1945 twenty-eight new stations had been established in newly opened-up areas. Plans had been prepared to bring under administrative control the whole of the remaining restricted area, which was approximately 10,000 square miles, by the end of 1954. Most of the people in the areas being brought under control were continually engaged in tribal fighting. The initial contact of the people with the patrol was usually in the form of a band of armed warriors who had no knowledge of the Administering Authority's intentions or its laws. In most cases, however, friendly relations were established without difficulty, owing to the methods and procedure adopted by the patrols, the correct approach to the contact and pacification of hostile tribes, and the fact that such patrols were led by experienced

officers. The policy of peaceful penetration of the restricted areas of the Territory by patrols was in general having good results and clashes with the indigenous people were carefully avoided.

38. In the field of administration generally, a great effort was being made to train adequate staffs, and when that had been achieved it was hoped that it would be possible to decentralize more responsibility in the administrative structure.

39. In the economic field, the Administration's policy was to set long-term objectives and to plan for their fulfilment by means of annual work programmes, in the light of the results of various surveys being carried out and the available resources. An important survey of the natural resources of the Territory was being made, and as its results became known and other investigations proceeded, the position regarding the possibilities of economic development would become clearer. The immediate economic policy was to encourage development on the basis of existing knowledge regarding the crops that could be grown and the most suitable areas for development. Land development was also being assisted by the construction of new roads, which during the year last reviewed had totalled 366 miles.

40. The indigenous people were being encouraged to play an increasingly active part in economic development, and they responded very well to that encouragement. An ever increasing number were engaging in the production of cash crops. The co-operative movement was being fostered and was developing along sound economic lines. Co-operatives would continue to play an important part in the economic advancement of the indigenous people and also in their social and educational advancement, and would eventually be an important factor in the economic development of the Territory. Community development schemes were also serving as an important means of fostering greater participation by the indigenous people in economic and social life.

41. In the social and educational fields the Administering Authority was making steady progress, despite the difficulties of the task. In that respect an important event had recently occurred: the passing of the Education Ordinance, providing for the establishment of an Education Advisory Board and district education committees for each education district. The ordinance also provided for the establishment and maintenance of schools, including pre-school establishments, adult education and vocational training institutions, and for the registration and recognition of schools. Provision was made besides for compulsory school attendance at places to be specified.

42. Beginning with the 1954 school year, twenty scholarships would be provided annually for secondary education in Australia of selected indigenous inhabitants from Papua and New Guinea. It was the newly appointed Education Advisory Board that had recommended the granting of such scholarships. Scholarships awarded under that scheme would be available to students of either sex who were qualified for secondary education, irrespective of whether they were already attending secondary schools in Australia or whether they wished to pursue a general education or a special calling. The awards would not be a substitution for secondary educational facilities in the Territory, but would ensure that indigenous inhabitants had access to secondary education pending the establishment of appropriate schools in Papua and New Guinea.

43. In Nauru the Australian Government was making every effort to improve the conditions of the indigenous inhabitants, and the Visiting Mission in its report (T/1054) stated that that community had services exceeding by far those of any other community of similar size. That had been made possible chiefly by substantial payments in the form of royalties or otherwise by the British Phosphates Commissioners. The island of Nauru owed its very existence to its valuable deposits of phosphate, which it was estimated would last for at least seventy years. The Australian Government was fully aware of the necessity of adequate planning to ensure the continued well-being of the inhabitants after the phosphate deposits were exhausted. The problem was clearly one of paramount importance and the Administering Authority was taking steps to formulate plans for gradual and progressive resettlement. Those plans included consultation with the indigenous inhabitants, who were beginning to take a deep interest in their future.

44. The Administering Authority had for some time been building up a long-term investment fund which would ultimately provide the sum of about £2.5 million which would be used to establish elsewhere those Nauruans left on the island when the phosphate deposits came to an end who desired to leave. The Australian Government had also drawn up plans to increase the educational training of the younger generation of Nauruans, some of whom were already receiving special training outside Nauru. It was fully alive to the necessity of enabling them to retain, wherever they might be, the high standards of living they had acquired. The special attention being paid to education was therefore fully justified.

45. The Australian Government was continuing its efforts to promote the political, economic and social advancement of the people of Nauru and in those fields substantial progress was being made.

46. He expressed his Government's appreciation of the work of the Trusteeship Council, with which Australia was happy to co-operate. He welcomed the Council's constructive assistance and recognized its competence and responsibility. Australia was prepared to give it close and whole-hearted co-operation and in good faith to carry out its obligations under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreements.

47. Mr. LAWRENCE (Liberia) had been glad to note from the Trusteeship Council's report that in some respects the Administering Authorities had made progress in the discharge of their sacred trust. He had also been glad to have the opportunity to hear the views of the representatives from the Trust Territories of Togoland under French administration and Togoland under British administration, and of Somaliland under Italian administration. His delegation had already expressed its views on the former during the general debate on item 31 of the Assembly's agenda. With regard to Italian Somaliland, the remarks of Mr. Issa, the representative of the Somali Youth League, and his replies to questions, had given the Committee a clear picture of conditions in that Territory.

48. In that connexion his delegation had been unable to see the point of the questions put to Mr. Issa concerning the length of time he had been away from his country. Mr. Issa had appeared before the Fourth Committee and the Trusteeship Council as representative of the Somali Youth League for a number of years, so that his *bona fides* was clearly established, and the length of time

that had elapsed since he had visited his country in no way affected his ability to express the point of view of his principals to the Committee.

49. The Liberian delegation was deeply concerned at the very slow manner in which the Administering Authority was preparing the inhabitants of Somaliland to take over the affairs of their country as an independent State in 1960. All important government posts were filled by Italians. Although a number of scholarships had been made available to Somalis by neighbouring countries, those opportunities had not been grasped. The school system was poor and inadequate. While less than 8 per cent of the budget estimates would be spent on education, over 35 per cent had been allocated to military and police expenses. That might appear modest at a time when the great nations were spending over half their income for military purposes; nevertheless the chief need of the people of Somaliland was the establishment of a system of primary and secondary schools with compulsory attendance and a free and adequate adult education programme.

50. The Administering Authority's long experience in its former African colonies should have enabled it to appreciate the problem of leading the inhabitants of Somaliland to independence by 1960. The Liberian delegation felt that the utmost vigilance should be exercised by the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly to ensure that an adequate educational program should be established without further delay.

51. In view of the backward educational situation in the Territory, his delegation had expected a firmer tone in the Trusteeship Council's report in connexion with the disregard of many of its recommendations by the Administering Authority. Had it not been possible for petitioners to appear before the Committee, delegations would have had very little idea of the life of underprivileged peoples in the Trust Territories.

52. His delegation much regretted the continued existence and enforcement of the "penal decree," which permitted the conviction of an accused person without his appearing before a court of justice. Such a statute was contrary to the most fundamental rights of man, to the Charter, to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to decent relations between men. In a Trust Territory, and in those sectors which were the special concern of the United Nations, those fundamental rights should be guaranteed. The Trusteeship Council, through its Visiting Mission, had urgently requested the repeal of that anachronism, but without avail. Such conditions should not be allowed to subsist without the Committee's recording its disapproval in a suitable manner.

53. The economic situation of the Territory was equally serious. A large portion of the budget had been earmarked for Italian military and civil personnel. He hoped the Administering Authority would be urged to make a further drastic reduction in the numbers of Italian soldiery in the Territory. With regard to civilian personnel, there should be more teachers and fewer administrators, thus leaving more administrative posts available to the Somalis.

54. The Liberian delegation would like to know why the Administrator was delaying the discussions necessary for the evolution of a national flag for Somaliland and the definition of the nationality of the people of the Territory. The adoption of a flag would give the people a physical symbol of their ideals and the matter should be dealt with without delay. The definition of the people's national status should also receive urgent attention.

55. One problem which affected most of the Trust Territories was that of the alienation of land to Europeans. There was also a tendency in those Territories towards union with the Administering Authority rather than towards self-government and independence. In the view of the Liberian delegation the Trust Territories should be led towards self-government and independence and their peoples should then be at liberty to choose their political future.

56. He had dealt chiefly with conditions in Somaliland because of the immediacy of the problems confronting that Territory, and had dwelt on them at some length in order to bring home to the members of the Committee the seriousness of the situation. He reserved the right to speak again concerning any draft resolution that might be submitted.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.