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Chairman: Mr. Santiago PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela).

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

[Item 13]*

1. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand) gave a broad outline of the policy pursued by New Zealand in its administration of the Trust Territory of Western Samoa. In 1953 New Zealand had announced far-reaching proposals for the development of the Territory in all fields, and notably in the political field. The Administering Authority had had the continuing co-operation of the Samoan people, which had supported it in the implementation of a series of reforms first promulgated on the occasion of the visit of the United Nations' Mission to Western Samoa, in 1947.

2. As the Prime Minister of New Zealand had announced on 19 March 1953, the Administering Authority had felt that the time had come to help Samoa to set up a strong, responsible and representative central government whose authority would be unquestioned and which would be Samoan in outlook, personnel and in the basis of its power; to form a united population comprising all Samoan citizens, regardless of race; and to set up the administrative machinery and institutions which would give the next generation the knowledge required for the solution of its political, social and economic problems. The fact that the population of Western Samoa would, at its present rate of growth, double in about twenty years introduced a note of urgency into those political objectives.

3. The New Zealand Government proposed that a constitutional convention, representative of all sections of the Samoan population, should be held in 1954. The convention would consider the proposals submitted by the New Zealand Government and any other proposals that might be made. The Administering Authority intended to give careful consideration to any recommendation made by the convention concerning, for example, the date on which the constitution would be put into effect, and to implement any scheme which was consonant with the responsibilities of an Administering Authority which had a natural regard for the welfare of the Samoan people and with its duty of keeping the Trusteeship Council informed and giving due consideration to its views and advice.

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

4. Mr. MUNRO went on to mention a number of measures which would have the effect of strengthening, in the economic, social and cultural fields, the progress made in political affairs. They included the adoption by the Legislative Assembly of Western Samoa of a local government bill, recommendations concerning changes in the broadcasting system, the approval of the recommendations of the Liquor Commission, the establishment of a working committee to prepare the ground for the constitutional convention in 1954 and recommendations concerning education.

5. He thanked the representatives for their favourable comments on the proposals of the New Zealand Government. He warned them, however, not to make the mistake of thinking that what was possible in Western Samoa was necessarily possible in the other Trust Territories. Western Samoa enjoyed many conditions favourable to the development of a Territory: the absence of any racial or religious hostility, the richness of the soil, the isolation of the Territory, which had been spared the ravages of the last two wars, and its small area and population. The relatively privileged situation of Western Samoa should be borne in mind before hasty comparisons with the other Trust Territories were made.

6. Mr. L. S. BOKHARI (Pakistan) congratulated the Administering Authorities on the progress they had achieved in certain fields. They had still, however, a great deal to do. It was regrettable, for example, that school attendance was generally so poor, as low in some cases as 2 per cent of the population of school age, that higher education was non-existent and that so little advantage was being taken of the training facilities offered by Member States. It was also regrettable that tribal allegiance should have remained proof against dynamic political thought and that the indigenous inhabitants were still restricted to minor positions in administration, trade and industry. It was a pity that the Administering Authorities had made little endeavour to diversify the economic structure, which had remained chiefly agricultural, and that where they had endeavoured to do so they had mainly encouraged primary industries or had failed to safeguard the interests of the local population. There was, moreover, rivalry between the various political parties. Progress had not been uniform either as between the various Territories or as between the various regions of a particular Territory. Restrictions had been placed on freedom of assembly and freedom of movement. Administration and trade were in foreign hands. There were practically no representative institutions, and such as existed were without effective political power. Natural resources remained unexploited. Nothing had been done to prevent deforestation or soil erosion. The health of the population was still precarious. The apprehensions of those who feared that the Administering Authorities wanted to amalgamate the Trust Territories with neighbouring colonies were not unfounded. The indigenous

farmers were not given a rightful share in the fruits of their labour. Innocent persons continued to suffer under the collective-fine system, despite recommendations for the introduction of the system of individual fines.

7. His delegation would like the recommendations on education in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, made in a report recently adopted by the Committee (A/2556, draft resolution III) to be followed also in the Trust Territories.

8. Most of the Trust Territories were situated on the continent of Africa and, with a single exception, had been under international supervision for more than thirty years without that supervision having brought them noticeably nearer the goal to which the indigenous peoples aspired. The Committee would remember that it had recently adopted three draft resolutions (A/2605), the objectives of which had been to unify the two Togolands, to prevent the integration of one of those Trust Territories with the adjoining Non-Self-Governing Territory and to institute elections on the basis of adult franchise. The Pakistan delegation had been a sponsor of one of those draft resolutions and had supported the other two, but it wondered whether they would be effectively implemented. Most of the Member States, the Administering Authorities and the peoples of the Trust Territories were equally sceptical on the subject.

9. To lay such doubts at rest, it had been proposed that visiting missions should be sent to the Trust Territories at regular intervals and allowed sufficient time to consider the communications received and to make the necessary investigations. His delegation would like a high-powered representative of the United Nations to be appointed in the Trust Territories. The field of action of such a plenipotentiary might be restricted for the time being to the African Territories that were giving the United Nations the greatest concern, in particular Somaliland under Italian administration. His activities would be instrumental in bringing about an understanding between the Administering Authorities and the peoples of the Trust Territories and would help the General Assembly to form a truer estimate of the situation there. Appointed, say, for a period of five years, such an ambassador-at-large would enjoy the prestige belonging to a representative of the President of the General Assembly. He would visit the Trust Territories and report regularly to the President of the General Assembly on his multifarious activities. The appointment of such a representative would have the immediate effect of reducing the number of petitions and would save the petitioners long and expensive journeys. The Pakistan delegation had already made such a proposal during the discussion of the Ewe and Togoland unification problem (372nd meeting). It was again putting the proposal forward, with a wider application, and hoped that the Committee would give it a favourable reception.

10. Mr. KUCHKAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that at the twelfth session (483rd meeting) of the Trusteeship Council, his delegation had opposed the adoption of the report under consideration. The report of the Trusteeship Council did not give an accurate picture of the situation in the Trust Territories. The documents available to the Council and the General Assembly showed that the Administering Authorities were not concerned with the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the

inhabitants of the Territories under their administration, or with the Territories' progressive development towards self-government and independence.

11. The indigenous population did not participate in the work of the legislative, administrative and judiciary organs. The Administering Authorities did not establish local bodies on which the inhabitants of the Territory would be represented and which would function in accordance with democratic procedure.

12. In the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the High Commissioner, appointed by the President of the United States, held all authority and appointed all officials of the administration; the important posts were held by United States officials, the indigenous inhabitants being admitted only to secondary technical positions. The United States did nothing to promote the political development of the indigenous population.

13. The same observation was true of all the other Administering Authorities. The population of Western Samoa, for example, had been clamouring for self-government since 1946 (T/Pet.1/1). In 1947, a visiting mission had made an inquiry on the spot and had stated, on pages 14 to 20 of its report,¹ that the majority of the inhabitants of Western Samoa wished to be administered by their own leaders and no longer to be under the authority of New Zealand. The request had been reiterated in 1950,² but again without success. New Zealand continued to administer the Territory through the High Commissioner. The Legislative Assembly of the Territory was not truly representative of the indigenous inhabitants, who were, in fact, discriminated against on racial grounds, having only one representative for every 6,500 persons, whereas the white population had one representative for every 950 persons. Moreover, all white adults were allowed to vote, whereas among the indigenous inhabitants only the *matais* (heads of family) were electors. Yet the *matais* constituted only one-fourth of the indigenous male inhabitants who were of age; the indigenous women were not allowed to vote.

14. Similarly, in New Guinea, the indigenous inhabitants were kept out of the government; all the power was in the hands of the Australian Administration. At the local level, the district commissioners had complete authority in all administrative, judicial and police matters; to strengthen its hold, Australia encouraged the continuation of the tribal system. Furthermore, under the Papua and New Guinea Act of 1949, New Guinea, under the guise of an administrative union, was united with the neighbouring colony of Papua. The two Territories had common organs of government and were under a single Administrator appointed by the Australian Government: the Trust Territory of New Guinea was not represented on either the Executive or the Legislative Council; the seat of the government was in Papua. The USSR delegation had repeatedly pointed out that that situation was incompatible with the provisions of the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement; it had asked that the Administering Authority should establish in New Guinea legislative and executive organs which would not be subject to any organs created on the basis of a union between the Trust Territory and the neighbouring colony of Papua, and to that end should take legislative

¹ See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Second Session, Special Supplement No. 1.*

² See T/792, para. 35.

and other measures to ensure the participation of the indigenous population in the legislative, executive and judicial organs of the Territory.

15. The situation was no better in Somaliland under Italian administration, which was all the more disconcerting in that the Territory was to attain independence in 1960. There again the Administering Authority was not carrying out the obligations it had assumed under the Trusteeship Agreement and the Charter; it had put back into force laws that had been enacted under the colonial system and had established an administration in the Territory which was similar in structure to that of the former colonial administration. The Administrator held all power and appointed the commissioners, who regulated the economic, social and political life of the Territory at the local level. The Administering Authority's report for 1952³ showed that all executive posts were held by Italian officials, while the indigenous inhabitants were relegated to minor, subordinate posts. Moreover, the Territorial Council was not really representative of the Territory's population, the majority of its members being tribal chiefs who were appointed and paid by the Administration. The report of the Administering Authority as well as the report of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration (T/1048) showed that the Administering Authority was encouraging the tribal system, in its own interests, despite the fact that that system was an obstacle to the development of the people of the Territory towards independence. The USSR delegation held that the Administering Authority should replace that obsolete system by a truly democratic structure of self-government. The reason the Administering Authority did not do so was that it was trying to strengthen its hold on the Territory by retarding the development of the Territory.

16. Under the pretext of contributing to the economic development of the Territories entrusted to them, the Administering Authorities were engaging in a systematic and cruel exploitation of the natural and human resources of those Territories. An example of that was the way in which the British Phosphate Commissioners were exploiting the phosphate deposits of Nauru, gradually transforming that country into a desert. Similarly, in New Guinea, foreign companies were continually raising the output of the gold-bearing deposits. That intensive exploitation of the natural resources of the Trust Territories was of advantage only to the foreign companies and the Administering Authorities; the standard of living of the indigenous population was still very low, and there was an almost chronic condition of semi-famine. Most of the indigenous inhabitants had no income in cash. When the indigenous inhabitants were employed for wages, the wages were miserable; the principle of equal pay for equal work was not applied to them; the wages of indigenous workers were lower than those of Europeans, the difference being very considerable. Thus, in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, a non-indigenous worker received on the average \$8.50 a week, whereas an indigenous schoolteacher was entitled to only \$7.50 a month. Those wretched wages did not even allow the indigenous inhabitants to obtain the clothing and food they needed. The position was still further aggravated

by the unjust system of taxation in force in the Territories. It was clear from the various documents that the Administering Authorities had not taken measures to replace the poll tax by income tax or any other fiscal system which would take into consideration the financial situation of the persons concerned.

17. The USSR delegation noted that the Administering Authorities had not yet restored alienated land to its rightful owners and were, on the contrary, continuing to alienate the best land, thus depriving the indigenous inhabitants of their principal means of subsistence. The United States Government, for example, had not restored to the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands the land which had been taken from them by the German and Japanese settlers and later by the United States authorities themselves, who at the present moment held 63 per cent of the total land area. The indigenous inhabitants, however, were continuously petitioning for justice (T/Pet.10/16 and T/Pet.10/17). In paragraph 84 of its report on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/1055), the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific, 1953, stated that 1,080 complaints had been presented in connexion with the alienation of land. In some cases, the Administering Authority did not hesitate to evacuate the population of entire islands without troubling to provide for the future of the inhabitants elsewhere. A particularly significant example of that was the island of Bikini, whose whole population, which had been expelled when the island had become an experimental area for testing atomic bombs, was still not resettled. In New Guinea, too, the Administering Authority was still robbing the indigenous inhabitants of their best land to further the interests of the European settlers. In 1949-1950, the area of alienated land had been 915,000 acres; in 1950-1951, the figure had risen to 940,000, and in 1951-1952 it had exceeded 1 million. In Western Samoa, a large part of the cultivable land belonged to non-indigenous inhabitants or to the religious missions. While the indigenous population was living in primitive economic conditions, the New Zealand Reparations Estate, possessing 33,000 acres of alienated lands, was producing and exporting the major part of the Territory's copra, cocoa and rubber. The situation was similar in Somaliland under Italian administration, where the Administering Authority had not yet restored to the indigenous population the land which had been alienated before the introduction of the Trusteeship System and, furthermore, it continued to alienate land belonging to the indigenous inhabitants under various pretexts. The Administering Authority, together with Italian companies and individuals, held 88,342 hectares. In 1952, the Administration had granted the Sinclair Somal Corporation and the Società Mineraria Somala concessions for the exploration and development of petroleum resources covering areas of 200,000 and 28,000 square kilometres respectively.

18. The Administering Authorities had not organized adequate medical services in the Trust Territories, where the morbidity and mortality rates were very high, a fact which was largely due to under-nourishment. The United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1951 had stated in its report on Somaliland under Italian administration (T/947 and Corr.1) that the standard of health among the indigenous populations was low and that a number of diseases, including tuberculosis, malaria and tropical

³ See *Rapport du Gouvernement italien à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'administration de tutelle de la Somalie, 1952*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome, 1953.

ulcers, were widespread. In New Guinea, there was not a single indigenous doctor and the number of European doctors had fallen from 35 in 1950 to 27 in 1952. Medical assistance was not available to the great majority of the population of New Guinea. That was one of the main reasons for the high mortality rate, especially among the children: 300 out of every 1,000 children born alive died before reaching the age of one.

19. The situation was not satisfactory either with regard to education, for the appropriations assigned to education were very small and the Administering Authorities were inclined to let the religious missions take over their responsibility for the education of the indigenous population. The budget estimates for Somaliland under Italian administration allocated only 7.6 per cent of the total budget of the Territory for 1953-1954 to education while expenditure for the armed forces and police absorbed 35.2 per cent of the total revenue. In New Guinea, the rural schools, which provided a very elementary type of education, were insufficient in number and entirely in the hands of the religious missions, which thus held a monopoly of education, since the Administration schools were unable to accommodate more than 3 per cent of the total number of pupils. The Administering Authority had announced its intention of respecting the privileged position of the religious missions with regard to education. There were very few schools in the Territory, and in the central plateau there were no schools whatever. That was the reason for almost complete illiteracy among the population.

20. All those facts, which were to be found in the official documents of the United Nations and in the reports of the Administering Authorities, bore witness to the wretched situation of the indigenous populations resulting from the failure of the Administering Authorities to discharge their obligations under the Charter and the trusteeship agreements. Furthermore, the Trusteeship Council, which was responsible for defending the interests of those peoples and for seeing that the Charter and the trusteeship agreements were strictly applied, was not able to carry out its task owing to the attitude adopted by the Administering Authorities and certain delegations supporting them. During the period covered by the current report, the Trusteeship Council had taken no action to ensure the achievement of the purposes of the Trusteeship System. Similarly, the way in which the Trusteeship Council dealt with petitions was inadmissible. Under pressure of the Administering Authorities, the Trusteeship Council disregarded the complaints made in the petitions and merely adopted stereotyped and meaningless resolutions containing nothing constructive. The Committee had heard the petitioners' complaints on that score. Many of them lost confidence in the Trusteeship Council when they received from it a banal reply of no practical significance. The representative of the Somali Youth League had described to the Committee the disappointment and bitterness it had felt at the Council's attitude towards the petitioners. The USSR delegation considered such an attitude inadmissible and intended to support any draft resolution designed to induce the Administering Authorities to discharge their obligations under the Charter and the Trusteeship Council to perform its task in accordance with the aims and purposes of the International Trusteeship System.

21. Mr. ITANI (Lebanon) proposed to make only a few general observations.

22. The Trusteeship Council must take immediate steps to give effect to the new, provisionally adopted rules of procedure relating to the action to be taken on petitions. The Standing Committee on Petitions should present its report on that subject at the Council's next session.

23. As the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1952, had pointed out in its report on procedures of visiting missions (T/1044 and Corr.1), visiting missions should be allowed greater latitude in planning their itinerary and choosing their methods of work. They should also reserve a certain number of days at regular intervals for examining the communications received and undertaking the necessary investigations in connexion with the more important petitions.

24. He was glad to note the co-operation between the Council and the Administering Authorities, on the one hand, and the specialized agencies, on the other, in the matter of the development of the Trust Territories. Such co-operation could not but be in the general interests of the international community.

25. The Lebanese delegation was of the opinion that the right of petition was a sacred right embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and that it should therefore be fully respected. Petitions must be considered carefully and conscientiously, without regard to their authorship, circumstances or length, so that the Trusteeship Council could take the necessary action on them as rapidly as possible.

26. He had already explained his delegation's position with regard to the problem of Togoland unification (373rd meeting). On the subject of the Cameroons under British administration, he noted with satisfaction that the indigenous populations were better represented than before in the joint organs of government, that the Administering Authority had begun to take the necessary steps to overcome frontier difficulties, and that it was encouraging the development of a civic consciousness among the Native Authorities and was trying to improve agricultural methods and increase the number of primary schools. The Administering Authority should also be congratulated on having, in the northern section of the Territory, changed the rigid structure of the Emirates system by the progressive introduction of elected members in all councils. Freedom of expression, both at public meetings and in writing was strictly respected by that Authority.

27. Those achievements, however, must not overshadow the fact that many people in the Cameroons were afraid that the interests of the Trust Territory were being subordinated to those of Nigeria and that the new provisions would impede the development of the Trust Territory as a separate entity. Those fears had led the two political parties in the southern part of the Territory to ask for a separate regional status and the appointment of the Commissioner of the Cameroons as Governor of the region. Another political party had requested unification of the Cameroons and self-government for the two Territories so unified within a period of five years. The Lebanese delegation had the greatest sympathy with all those claims and was prepared to support them within the limits of peaceful and democratic methods. Whilst recognizing that the population of the Cameroons was represented in the new legislative bodies and that the Governor of Nigeria could veto any bill incompatible with the obligations

imposed by the Trusteeship Agreement, the Lebanese delegation supported the recommendation of the 1952 Visiting Mission in its report on the Cameroons under British administration, to the effect that the Commissioner of the Cameroons should be given extended powers in performing his functions in representing the Territory's interests (T/1042, para. 60).

28. The Lebanese delegation was aware of the difficulties encountered in replacing traditional Native Authorities by bodies drawn from the educated and developed elements of the community. Nevertheless, it was in agreement with the demand of the Cameroons National Federation for the abolition of the system of Native Authorities and the establishment of local-government institutions in conformity with the legislation adopted in 1950.

29. It appreciated at its proper value the varied and considerable activities of the Cameroons Development Corporation, which was an important element in the economic life of the Territory; it thought, however, that the Cameroons population should be more widely represented on its Executive Board and that people living in the areas near the Corporation's plantations should have the advantage of its educational and health services, even if they were not working for it. The indigenous inhabitants should have a share in the profits made by all the companies operating in the Trust Territory. The schools should have a greater part in the practical teaching of agriculture and should encourage the young to adopt modern methods of cultivation.

30. The Lebanese delegation must point out that the four Nigerian statutory marketing boards which were official bodies and had a monopoly in the disposal of the cocoa, oil palm produce, cotton and groundnuts cultivated in the Territory, allocated only 22.5 per cent of their profits to the economic development of the producing areas, whilst the Trust Territory was not represented on any of those boards.

31. It shared the opinion of the Visiting Mission that the improvement of transport was of prime importance for the development of the Territory in every sphere. Permanent installations should also be set up throughout the Territory to assure a supply of drinking water.

32. The conclusions of the 1952 Visiting Mission showed that the existing educational facilities in the south of the Territory were satisfactory but that much remained to be done in the north to reduce the high percentage of illiteracy.

33. In regard to the Cameroons under French administration, the Lebanese delegation was glad to note that the Administering Authority intended to set up the new institutions essential for any system of democratic government, without, however, interfering with traditional practice. It shared the opinion of the 1952 Visiting Mission, as stated in its report on the Cameroons under French administration (T/1043), that the Administering Authority should remember that the south was more advanced than the north. It was happy to note that the Administering Authority proposed to send some chiefs and notables to France every year, to familiarize them with democratic methods. However, the dual electoral college system, in which some political parties saw a form of racial discrimination, had excited lively criticism. It was imperative that a single electoral college should be introduced as soon as possible. The Administering

Authority should also respond favourably to the manifest desire of the people of the Territory that the Territorial Assembly should be given broader powers. The representative bodies of the Territory had no legislative competence. The legislative organs responsible for the Cameroons were those of the French Union. It was true that the Territory was represented upon them, but some political parties were protesting against the integration of the Territory in the French Union, whilst others considered that such an integration was advantageous for it.

34. The Lebanese delegation noted with satisfaction the measures taken by the Administering Authorities to mitigate the restrictions resulting from the existence of a frontier between the two Trust Territories of the Cameroons.

35. In the economic field, the Mission had noted that the Cameroons under French administration was undergoing an intensive development and that the Administering Authority was making great efforts to improve production and means of communication. It had received complaints concerning the price of cocoa, the granting of loans and certain restrictions.

36. Like the Visiting Mission, the Lebanese delegation congratulated the Administering Authority on the admirable public-health work that it had accomplished, but thought that much remained to be done in that sphere both in the north and in the south of the Territory.

37. The adoption of a labour code by the Administering Authority was an important event in the history of the Cameroons, but the Mission had heard complaints of inadequacy of wages. The cost of living must be reduced and occupational training developed in order to increase the efficiency of the indigenous workers.

38. While recognizing the endeavours made by the Administering Authority and the religious missions, the Lebanese representative considered that education left much to be desired. There was no higher education at all, and the 140,000 pupils in elementary schools and the 5,000 pupils in secondary schools represented only a very small percentage of the population of school age. Once again, on that score the north was less favourably situated than the south. It would be desirable for the Administering Authority to concern itself especially with developing technical education and increasing the number of scholarships for study in France, whilst taking into account the most urgent needs of the Territory.

39. In Somaliland under Italian administration the task of the United Nations Advisory Council, composed of representatives of Colombia, Egypt and the Philippines was to aid and advise the Administering Authority in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement approved by the General Assembly on 2 December 1950. Article 8 of that Agreement had established close relations between the Italian Administration and the Advisory Council. On any showing the Council had a right to supervise the administration of Somaliland, to proffer opinions, to submit comments and even to make recommendations. The Administering Authority was obliged to consult the Council on all the questions specified in article 8 of the Agreement. Moreover, it was both obligatory and necessary for the Council to sit permanently in the Trust Territory, for the slightest failure, the slightest absence or the slightest omission could make the task of the Administering Authority dif-

ficult and might even harm the interests of the Territory and of the international community. It would perhaps be desirable for the Secretary-General of the United Nations to come to an agreement with the Governments of the three countries which formed the Advisory Council on measures to be taken to enable the Council to be permanently represented in Somaliland and to fulfil its important duties. The Advisory Council had shown a certain anxiety at the decrease in the number of requests from the Administering Authority for its opinion. It had considered that it should have been consulted on a number of questions of which it had merely been informed. Some of those questions were set out on page 41 of the report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2427). The Lebanese delegation noted with satisfaction that measures had been taken to establish closer contact between the Council and the Administration and to maintain a permanent liaison between them.

40. His delegation considered the question of the frontier between the Trust Territory and Ethiopia very urgent, since Somaliland was to become independent in 1960. The Italian and Ethiopian Governments should as soon as possible negotiate a satisfactory agreement.

41. It reminded the Administering Authority of the need for drawing up as soon as possible the development plan which the 1951 Visiting Mission had already recommended. The Administering Authority had had time to study the economy of Somaliland in detail.

42. Fresh measures should perhaps be taken to ensure wider participation of the indigenous population in the work of the legislative, executive and judicial organs of the Territory. The Administering Authority should repeal all regulations which had been issued when Somaliland was a colony and which were incompatible with its present status as a Territory under international trusteeship. It should also abolish all measures taken under the British military administration.

43. The Lebanese delegation congratulated the Administering Authority on contributing two-thirds of the budget of the Territory, but pointed out that to draw up a general economic plan might aid in determining the economic level at which the Territory could be maintained after 1960. It would be wise for the Administering Authority to encourage industries likely to permit the growth of a viable economy and normal trade with neighbouring countries. It should also study the possibilities of increasing exports from the Territory and concluding commercial agreements with neighbouring countries.

44. It was imperative for the Administering Authority to restore to the indigenous population all land alienated before the period of trusteeship had begun, and to prevent any further alienation. The Administering Authority should also improve methods of cultivation and encourage agriculture and cattle rearing.

45. The Administering Authority should redouble its efforts to improve living standards and health services and education. Its allocation of 10 per cent of its expenditure to education was too small. Education in Arabic should be intensified, for it would enable the cultural level of the population to be raised. The Arab countries could be very helpful in that respect. The Lebanese delegation noted with satisfaction that the educational provisions of the five-year plan which the Administration had already partially implemented had been examined and approved by experts from UNES-

CO (T/1061 and Add.1). The Administering Authority had already set up a certain number of schools of various types; those efforts should be pursued, because education was of prime importance in preparing the inhabitants of the Territory for independence.

46. His delegation was glad to note that scholarships had been granted in Egypt and Italy, but the number should be increased to enable young Somalis to study in various foreign countries, particularly in the neighbouring Arab countries.

47. In the political sphere, the municipal councils should be given more extensive powers. The Territorial Council should have the final decision in all matters relating to taxes, the budget and public works. Moreover, it should be transformed as soon as possible into a legislative assembly, which would become the constituent assembly on the expiry of the period of trusteeship.

48. He assured the special representative of the Administering Authority for Somaliland under Italian administration of the friendship of the Lebanese delegation. All the observations which he had just made were aimed solely at accelerating the advancement of Somaliland, so that in 1960 it might attain independence in the best possible circumstances.

49. His delegation reserved the right to speak again on any draft resolution or motion that might be presented in the Fourth Committee.

50. Miss ROESAD (Indonesia) said that in studying the Trusteeship Council's report her delegation had constantly kept in mind Article 76 of the Charter, which laid down the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System. She cited paragraph b of that Article. The United Nations, she said, should ensure that the populations of the Trust Territories attained true self-government and independence within a reasonable time. To that end it was most important that the Administering Authorities should establish sound foundations for self-government and independence.

51. The Indonesian delegation was aware of the heavy task of the Administering Authorities, and appreciated their efforts. It was not easy to govern peoples solely for their own benefit, knowing beforehand that one day the stage of self-government or independence would be reached and the Administering Authority would have to withdraw. History had shown many instances of Administering Authorities being reluctant to admit that a dependent people was mature enough to manage its own affairs. Such instances could be found in the Trusteeship Council's report now before the Committee, to which her delegation would refer later. The reasons generally advanced by the Administering Authorities were, for example, that the economic structure of the dependent territory was not sufficiently developed; or that educational advancement was such that there were not yet enough trained people to take over the governing powers; or that social conditions were so poor that the Administering Authorities still had much to do in that respect.

52. The United Nations could do much for the dependent peoples and to assist the Administering Authorities in discharging their obligations. It should ensure that the gradual advancement of the dependent peoples towards self-government or independence was not jeopardized or delayed. It could determine objectively the extent to which the Administering Authorities had taken the necessary measures towards the achievement

of the ultimate aim, and whether they had duly considered the desire of the peoples to participate in the government of their country. All dependent peoples without exception desired eventually to manage their own affairs. The members of the Fourth Committee had seen, when petitioners from Togoland or from Somaliland under Italian administration had come before the Committee to state their grievances, how impatient the peoples under trusteeship were to obtain self-government.

53. She praised the work of the Administering Authority in Somaliland under Italian administration, but felt bound to voice her delegation's disappointment at the slow rate of progress in the economic, social, political and cultural spheres.

54. The Trusteeship Council's report stated on page 61 that between 22,000 and 23,000 students would be enrolled in the schools of the Territory during the next school year. That figure was hardly impressive compared with the total population of almost 1,300,000. Her delegation attached the greatest importance to educational advancement, because it knew from experience that education was one of the most effective instruments of national development. It also knew that when a government desired to educate its people, it found the means to do so. That was why she urged the Administering Authority to redouble its efforts in education. One of the best means would be to permit the establishment of as many private schools as possible; only four private schools had thus far been established—an absolutely inadequate number.

55. With respect to the political advancement of Somaliland, her delegation regretted that the 1951 Visiting Mission had felt that the political activity there lacked direction and purpose. That was undoubtedly a result of the role given to the existing political parties in the Territorial Council. As the Council was an advisory body without legislative powers, the frustration of the political parties was understandable. They could not effectively express their opinions or take part in the drafting of laws or regulations. Her delegation fully endorsed the Trusteeship Council's recommendations that the Administering Authority should take steps to give legislative powers to the Territorial Council as soon as possible.

56. The participation of the indigenous population in the administrative services was very limited indeed. The Trusteeship Council's report indicated on page 48 that indigenous inhabitants held only lower administrative posts. Her delegation was particularly concerned about that state of affairs because Somaliland was shortly to become independent. By 1960 there would have to be an exclusively Somali civil service capable of taking over the administration. The Administering Authority should be invited to give more consideration to the Somalis' desire for effective participation in the administration of their country.

57. In general, her delegation urged the Administering Authority to draw up development plans in all spheres, taking into account the time that remained, and to execute those plans so that in 1960, when Somaliland had obtained its independence, it would not be handicapped by lack of trained personnel.

58. Turning to the situation in Western Samoa, she noted that both the 1953 Visiting Mission and the Ad-

ministering Authority considered that the Samoan people were not yet ready for full self-government. She asked whether that meant that the Samoan people lacked trained personnel to take over the management of public affairs or that the population was backward in all respects; and to what extent, if the population of Western Samoa were not yet ready for full self-government, the Administering Authority was to blame.

59. In studying the Trusteeship Council's report, the Indonesian delegation had noted that the Administering Authority proposed to convene a constituent assembly in the Territory before the end of 1954 to consider a constitutional plan for the future State of Western Samoa. Her delegation would therefore refrain from further comment, but sincerely hoped that the constitutional plan would be such as to ensure self-government or independence for Western Samoa in a specified period.

60. With respect to the Trust Territory of New Guinea, her delegation noted that it was still impossible to determine whether the Administering Authority had taken steps to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Territory. It could only see from the Trusteeship Council's report that the Administering Authority had outlined the way in which it was going to consolidate its own administrative and governing position in New Guinea. Consequently her delegation awaited with interest and impatience the moment when the Fourth Committee could discuss whether the measures taken by the Administering Authority in conformity with its obligations towards New Guinea under Article 76 of the Charter were sufficient to ensure satisfactory progress.

61. Her delegation noted with regret and concern the information given to the 1953 Visiting Mission with regard to the segregation of indigenous pupils in New Guinea. According to page 107 of the Trusteeship Council's report, the Visiting Mission had been informed that the primary reason for such segregation was that the indigenous children, and some Asian and half-caste children, could not keep pace with the European pupils. Such a reason at the present time was offensive, out of date and certainly not likely to improve relations between the races in New Guinea.

62. General Assembly resolution 558 (VI) invited the Administering Authorities to include in each annual report a rough estimate of the time which it considered, under existing conditions, might be needed to complete one or more of the various measures which were meant to create the pre-conditions for the attainment by the Trust Territory of the objective of self-government or independence. The General Assembly had further invited the Administering Authorities to indicate the period of time in which it was expected that the Trust Territory should attain the objective of self-government or independence. She recalled the statement made by her delegation on that matter in 1952 at the 281st meeting of the Committee, and added that she would support any draft resolution urging Administering Authorities to give effect to resolution 558 (VI), in the knowledge that as soon as a people knew when it would become self-governing or independent, it would do its utmost to prepare itself for that goal.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.