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**Chairman: Mr. Luciano JOUBLANC RIVAS**  
 (Mexico).

AGENDA ITEM 13

**Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2933,  
 A/C.4/L.389)**

1. Mr. EGUIZABAL (El Salvador) introduced his delegation's draft resolution (A/C.4/L.389) proposing that the Fourth Committee should establish a sub-committee to prepare a report describing the factual situation in the Trust Territories in respect of the attainment by those Territories of the objective of self-government or independence, and submit it to the Fourth Committee not later than 1 November 1955. The draft resolution was purely procedural and of a preparatory nature, intended only to facilitate the Committee's work when it came to discuss the report of the Trusteeship Council.

2. The General Assembly had decided at its sixth session, in resolution 558 (VI), to invite the Administering Authorities to include in their annual reports information concerning measures taken or contemplated towards self-government or independence and, *inter alia*, the estimated period of time required for such measures and for the attainment of that ultimate objective. In resolution 752 (VIII) the General Assembly had requested the Trusteeship Council to include in its next and succeeding reports to the Assembly a separate section dealing with the implementation of resolutions 558 (VI) and 752 (VIII), stating in each case its conclusions and recommendations. The report of the Trusteeship Council to the ninth session of the General Assembly (A/2680) had contained a

special section devoted to information relating to the attainment by the Trust Territories of the objective of self-government or independence. In resolution 858 (IX) the General Assembly had noted the inclusion of that section with satisfaction but at the same time had remarked upon the omission of any conclusions or recommendations by the Council. It had expressed the hope that such conclusions and recommendations would be included in the Council's next and succeeding reports to the General Assembly.

3. The Council had therefore started, at its fifteenth session, to prepare a special section on the lines proposed in resolution 858 (IX). At its 606th meeting the Council had adopted resolution 1085 (XV) requesting the Secretary-General to prepare a draft bringing the factual information already submitted by the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly up to date on all the Trust Territories except Somaliland under Italian administration. The Secretary-General had accordingly submitted a draft report to the sixteenth session of the Council (T/L.579 and Add.1). Like part III of the previous year's report (A/2680), the Secretary-General's draft had given an account of the general situation in each Trust Territory and the progress achieved, together with the most recent developments in matters of suffrage, administrative services, public finance and so on. It contained a great deal of useful and important information not found in other parts of the Council's report. It also contained a summary of the important opinions which had been expressed on the question of fixing a time-limit for the granting of self-government or independence to the East African Trust Territories.

4. Before deciding to include the Secretary-General's draft in its report, however, the Trusteeship Council had decided to set up a committee to consider how the wishes of the General Assembly should be carried out in future. That committee had adopted a draft resolution (T/L.602, annex) proposing, that from the Council's seventeenth session onwards, the drafting committees on the annual reports on the Trust Territories, with the exception of the Committees on Somaliland under Italian administration and on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, should be instructed to prepare appropriate draft conclusions and recommendations in the light of General Assembly resolutions 752 (VIII) and 858 (IX). The new procedure would start in 1956 and would be reflected in the Council's report to the eleventh session of the General Assembly. In the meantime the Trusteeship Council had decided not to adopt the draft report prepared by the Secretary-General for inclusion in a special section of the Council's report to the tenth session of the General Assembly. Therefore, the Council's current report (A/2933) did not include even factual information of the kind already approved by the General Assembly at its ninth session, quite apart from the conclusions and recommendations which the Assembly had asked for.

5. The purpose of the Salvadorian draft resolution was to make available to the Fourth Committee, before the report of the Trusteeship Council to the tenth session was discussed, the factual information already assembled. At the last meeting of the sixteenth session of the Trusteeship Council, the delegation of El Salvador had proposed that some parts of the Secretary-General's draft report should be included in the relevant sections of the report of the Trusteeship Council. The Council had rejected the proposal, and the delegation of El Salvador had consequently abstained from voting when the Council's report had been adopted.

6. He emphasized that his delegation had no ulterior motive. Its only aim was to assist the Fourth Committee in its examination of the Trusteeship Council's report.

7. Mr. MANI (India) proposed that the date for the discussion of the Salvadorian proposal (A/C.4/L.389) should be fixed by the Chairman as soon as copies of the Trusteeship Council's report were available in Russian and Spanish.

*It was so decided.*

#### **Requests for hearings (continued)**

8. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) asked whether the three petitioners from the Cameroons under French administration whose requests for hearings had been granted at the previous meeting had been informed of the Committee's decision, and a date fixed for their arrival. He felt that they ought to be in the Trust Territory when the 1955 United Nations Visiting Mission was there, so that the Mission could interview them and form an idea of the weight of public opinion which they represented. It was desirable that the Mission should be in a position to include its views on that matter in its report to the Trusteeship Council.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that the petitioners had been informed in writing that their requests had been granted and that they would be called upon when the report of the Trusteeship Council was discussed.

10. Mr. EGUIZABAL (El Salvador) said that the petitioners in question represented political organizations. The Visiting Mission would be able to ascertain the views and assess the importance of their organizations despite their absence.

11. Mr. ARENALES (Guatemala) agreed with the representative of El Salvador. He noted, however, that the Committee had been informed by the representative of Haiti that the Visiting Mission would arrive in the Cameroons about 18 October. Since the report of the Trusteeship Council was not to be discussed until after 1 November, the Visiting Mission ought to be able to interview the petitioners before their departure.

12. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) felt that it would be improper for the Committee to invite the petitioners to be present before the Visiting Mission had had an opportunity to interview them. They should be advised to approach the Visiting Mission first.

13. Mr. PIMENTEL BRANDAO (Brazil) agreed with the Belgian representative.

14. Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) did not share the view of the Belgian representative. He presumed that the

Fourth Committee would not wait for the report of the Visiting Mission before it considered that part of the Trusteeship Council's report relating to the Cameroons. It was the tradition in the Fourth Committee that petitioners should be heard when the chapter of the Trusteeship Council's report relating to their Territory was discussed.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary of the Committee would inform the petitioners that the report of the Trusteeship Council would be discussed after 1 November.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS 31 AND 33**

**Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter: reports of the Secretary-General and of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2892 to 2894, A/2895 and Add.1 and 2, A/2896, A/2898, A/2908 and Add.1):**

- (a) Information on social conditions;
- (b) Information on other conditions;
- (c) General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information;
- (d) Offers of study and training facilities under General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954 (A/2937 and Add.1)

**Question of the renewal of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2908 and Add.1)**

#### **GENERAL DEBATE**

16. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand), speaking as Chairman of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, introduced the Committee's report (A/2908 and Add. 1). It showed that the Committee's business had been conducted in a spirit of cordiality, frankness and collaboration. The attitude of understanding and conciliation that had prevailed had resulted in the adoption of realistic, responsible and reasonable proposals which should commend themselves to the members of the Fourth Committee. The Geneva spirit of toleration and understanding could not be effective if it was confined to one particular sphere of international relations. Colonial matters were certainly an area of international relations where its influence would be most beneficial. It must be an ingredient of the debates if the general welfare of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was to be advanced. What was urgently needed in the Fourth Committee was a more wide-spread understanding of the fundamental changes taking place in the colonial territories and among their peoples, a more realistic recognition of the benefits, as opposed to the disadvantages, of the colonial relationship, and less insistence on outworn and prejudiced attitudes belonging to an earlier era.

17. Mr. JAIPAL (India), speaking as Rapporteur of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, endorsed the New Zealand representative's remarks on the harmony and co-operation that had prevailed at the Committee's meetings.

18. The topic for particular study in 1955 had been social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and, after a general debate, the matter had been referred to an eight-member sub-committee which had prepared the report on social conditions appearing as part two of document A/2908. In draft resolution A (A/2908, part one, annex II), the Assembly was invited to approve that report.

19. Although the Committee had been primarily concerned with social conditions, it had not neglected educational and economic conditions. Part one, section VII, contained a brief review of educational conditions and reported the action taken by various Member States to make educational facilities available to persons from Non-Self-Governing Territories. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 333 (IV), 1956 would be a year in which special attention would be paid to educational conditions, and consultations had already been begun between the Secretariat and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the studies to be prepared for the Committee. Another question related to the Committee's future work was the examination of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories on a regional basis, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 847 (IX). That question had been discussed in connexion with draft resolution B (A/2908, part one, annex II), on the Committee's renewal, and a summary of the debate would be found in part one, sections XIII and XIV.

20. There had been a brief but important discussion of technical assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories. It would be seen from part one, section VIII, that the discussion of technical assistance was becoming an increasingly important feature of the Committee's work. As a special report on economic conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/2729, part two) had been approved by the General Assembly at its ninth session, the discussion of economic conditions had been largely confined to questions arising out of that report and technical assistance.

21. Part one, sections XI and XII, and the addendum to the report (A/2908/Add.1) dealt with the cessation of the transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter. That was a separate item on the Fourth Committee's agenda and he would not comment on those sections at that juncture.

22. The members of the Fourth Committee should give close attention to the discussion on the renewal of the Committee on Information recorded in part one, section XIV. The draft resolution eventually adopted appeared as draft resolution B, in part one, annex II. Explanations of the votes cast thereon would be found in paragraphs 118 to 127 of part one.

23. Attention should also be drawn to a certain number of other points which the Committee had discussed. First, as reported in paragraph 23, of part one, the Committee had noted with appreciation the work of non-governmental organizations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Secondly, as reported in section X of the same part, it had stressed the value of the summaries and analyses of information prepared by the Secretary-General. Various members of the Committee had expressed the view that the publication of those summaries and analyses was highly desirable. No opposition to their publication had been voiced, and the Secretary-General's attention had been drawn to the Committee's views. Lastly, in paragraph 25 the

Committee expressed its appreciation for the invaluable co-operation of the specialized agencies. The reports of the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies were increasingly well co-ordinated and provided a most useful basis for discussion.

24. Mr. ARENALES (Guatemala), speaking as Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Social Conditions, introduced part two of the Committee's report. The members of the Sub-Committee on Social Conditions had always shown goodwill and mutual understanding in discussions that had been neither superficial nor easy. It was in that spirit that the report had been adopted, rather than as a document which was in all respects satisfactory to all members of the Sub-Committee. He paid a tribute to the assistance of the expert advisers on the various delegations, particularly the delegations of the Administering Members.

25. In 1954, the Fourth Committee had reproached the Committee on Information for confining itself to sweeping generalizations and not taking into account the actual situation in the various Territories. The Committee's justification had been that it was precluded by its terms of reference from making recommendations on specific Territories. Nevertheless, in the report now before the Fourth Committee reference was made to the administrative policies and programmes of certain Administering Members so as to provide a basis for the Committee's observations and recommendations.

26. In conclusion, he drew attention to part two, paragraph 26, in which the principal aims of social policy in the Non-Self-Governing Territories were enumerated. In enumerating those aims the Committee had been following the precedents it had set in its 1953 and 1954 reports with regard to educational and economic objectives respectively.<sup>1</sup> The aims of social policy had been carefully considered by the Sub-Committee and deserved the particular attention of the Fourth Committee.

27. Mr. CHAMANDI (Yemen) pointed out that once again the United Kingdom Government had seen fit to transmit information about what it called the Aden Colony (A/2894). His delegation was again obliged to place on record its protest against the transmission of that information, which placed the region in the category of Non-Self-Governing Territories despite the fact that it was an integral part of the Kingdom of Yemen. It also wished to protest against the anomalous situation obtaining in that part of the Arabian peninsula and the manner in which the United Kingdom Government disregarded the rights of Yemen by keeping the region under its domination.

28. It was an historical fact that Aden and the surrounding territory had been illegally and forcibly dominated by foreign forces. His Government had never accepted the presence of a foreign authority in that part of its own country. It had always considered, and still considered, that the presence of that authority indicated disregard for international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter.

29. The United Kingdom Government was giving information about a region which it controlled by virtue of vague agreements concluded many years ago in vague circumstances. Those agreements, which could not be internationally valid, had never been recognized

<sup>1</sup> See A/2465, part two, para. 12 and A/2729, part two, para. 17.

by his Government, and it was prepared to place them in the hands of the appropriate international organizations for examination at any time. On the other hand, it would prefer the question of Aden and the surrounding territories occupied by United Kingdom forces to be settled outside the United Nations by peaceful negotiations and through diplomatic channels, in order to avoid burdening the United Nations with additional problems. Unfortunately past negotiations had ended in failure. The occupation of the southern region of the Arabian peninsula by United Kingdom forces had led to regrettable complications and drastic acts of destruction over a wide area.

30. The United Kingdom authorities were seeking to tighten their hold and expand their domination over that part of Yemen by trying to establish a new system which they called the Federation of the Protectorates. Their plan was merely a new method of colonialism aimed at making the Governor of Aden the virtual master of the region by stripping the local sultans of their legal prerogatives and imposing on them British advisers directly responsible to the governor. The underlying purpose was to dominate the entire region, exploit its natural resources, and convert it into a military base, against the wishes of the inhabitants and contrary to the provisions of Article 73 c of the Charter.

31. The tribes which had objected to the building of new military roads and opposed the federation plan had been bombed and shelled. Only a few months previously new punitive measures had been taken against them. His Government repeatedly suggested, but to no avail, that an international fact-finding commission should be sent to make a thorough investigation of the incidents. It still hoped that the problem could be settled on the diplomatic level between the two Governments concerned in such a way as to ensure peace and security and realize the hopes and the freedom of the inhabitants of the area. If its sincere hopes for an amicable settlement were disappointed, it would bring the problem to the United Nations in the confidence that consideration of the issue there would bring about a just and equitable settlement.

32. Mr. CORTINA (Argentina) said that document A/2894 contained information transmitted by the United Kingdom Government about the Islas Malvinas, improperly called the Falkland Islands. He formally reserved his Government's position. The transmission of such information and its inclusion in the document in question in no way affected Argentine sovereignty over the territory in question, which the United Kingdom had occupied by force. That occupation had never been accepted by his Government, which reaffirmed its inalienable rights over the Islas Malvinas, the South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia and the Argentine Antarctic, all of which formed part of Argentine territory. He asked the Secretary-General that the names of the islands should appear in Spanish in all United Nations documents.

33. Mr. HOPKINSON (United Kingdom), replying to the statement by the representative of Yemen — which incidentally, he said, contained a number of groundless assertions relating to the Aden Colony and Protectorate — affirmed that the United Kingdom Government had no doubt as to its sovereignty over the territory of Aden, which it had exercised since 1839. He formally reserved his Government's rights on the question. There was no foundation for Yemen's

claim to the states of the Aden Protectorate; they were under the protection of the United Kingdom Government, which was responsible for their external relations. The Government of Yemen therefore had no claim to act on their behalf. The United Kingdom Government had no intention of abandoning the obligations it had contracted towards the sultans and other rulers of those territories.

34. During the 523rd plenary meeting, on 26 September, the representative of Yemen had referred to what he described as the "southern regions of the Arabian peninsula", by which he presumably meant the Aden Colony and Aden Protectorate. Mr. Hopkinson said that his remarks should also be regarded as a reply to that statement.

35. The Argentine representative had just made a statement with regard to the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) and the Falkland Island Dependencies. He would only say that the United Kingdom Government had no doubt as to its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and the Falkland Island Dependencies, and formally reserved its rights on the question. In so far as the Dependencies were concerned, the United Kingdom Government had declared its readiness to accept the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in the matter; the other Governments concerned, however, had not yet been prepared to do likewise.

36. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) expressly reserved Guatemala's rights over the territory of Belize (British Honduras). Once again Guatemala wished to protest at the continued occupation of that part of its territory by the United Kingdom Government. At the recent conference of Foreign Ministers of Central American States, held in Guatemala from 17 to 24 August 1955, his country had received clear demonstration of support from the other Central American countries, as was borne out by the provisions of article 7 of the Declaration of Antigua Guatemala.

37. The fact that Guatemala was present in the Fourth Committee during the examination of the report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and its participation in the debate on that subject, did not imply any renunciation or diminution of its rights and claims to an integral part of its territory. Guatemala did not agree that the United Kingdom had any rights whatsoever over the territory of Belize.

38. He trusted that the United Kingdom, which had known how to read the signs of the times elsewhere — and those signs clearly pointed away from all forms of colonialism — would contribute to a solution favourable to Guatemala's legitimate rights and would end a situation which offended not only Guatemala but the sovereignty of all States on the American continent.

39. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico) would reiterate the statement his delegation had made on a number of previous occasions, namely that if the status of Belize was changed the interests of Mexico must be taken into account.

40. Mr. LOPEZ VILLAMIL (Honduras) said that once again his country supported Guatemala's legitimate rights to Belize, both for historical reasons and for the sake of the solidarity of the Latin American countries. He emphasized the importance of the Declaration of Antigua Guatemala.

41. Mr. HOPKINSON (United Kingdom) stated that the United Kingdom Government had no doubts

as to its sovereignty over British Honduras (Belize). He formally reserved its rights on that question.

42. In 1946 the United Kingdom Government had declared its willingness to accept the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice on the matter. It had renewed that offer for a period of five years in 1951. That was how the situation still stood.

43. Mr. CHAMANDI (Yemen), in reply to the United Kingdom representative, repeated his assertion that Aden and the surrounding territory were an integral part of the Arabian peninsula. The United Kingdom had referred to treaties; it was well known, however, in what circumstances those treaties had been concluded. Nevertheless the Government of Yemen was ready at any time to negotiate with a view to arriving at a peaceful settlement.

44. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) said that the work of the Fourth Committee would once again be facilitated by a report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories that was short but comprehensive and constructive. His delegation had examined with particular interest part two of the report, relating to social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

45. At the 254th meeting of the Fourth Committee, during the seventh session, the delegation of Haiti had stressed the importance of that question; at the Committee's 410th meeting, during the ninth session, it had urged the Committee to continue to give attention to the question of race relations and had expressed the hope that the question would be on the agenda of the next session of the Committee on Information.

46. He drew attention to General Assembly resolution 644 (VII) concerning racial discrimination, and observed that despite the statement in paragraph 88 of the report on social conditions that progress had been made in many Territories and in many spheres, his delegation was far from satisfied at the rate of progress. Paragraph 94 of that report stated that the "barriers to the advancement of Africans in some employments in Central and East Africa are... still considerable". That statement was in the nature of a euphemism. The exclusion by law of indigenous inhabitants from certain grades of employment, industrial practices and customs might well prevent social or economic progress on the part of the peoples concerned and the development of harmonious collaboration between the various races within the Territories in question.

47. It had often been affirmed that such a state of affairs could not be remedied by legislative or administrative measures. In the opinion of the delegation of Haiti, however, although a law could not abolish racial prejudice, it could control its manifestations. Moreover, such a law would have the merit of publicly dissociating the Administration from individuals who continued to practice racial discrimination. There were many spheres in which direct governmental intervention had been an effective weapon in the struggle against discrimination.

48. Paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 644 (VII) recommended the abolition of discriminatory laws and practices; paragraph 2 recommended that the Administering Members should examine all laws, statutes and ordinances in force in the Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to the abolition of any such discriminatory provisions or practices. It would be useful for the Fourth Committee to have a list of the discriminatory laws in force in certain

Territories, together with information concerning what steps the Administration had taken to eliminate the discriminatory aspects of those laws, while retaining any necessary protective measures in favour of certain groups because of their contribution to the progress of the Territories. At the same time such protective measures should not be allowed to perpetuate economic exploitation or social domination.

49. Paragraph 4 of the resolution, which recommended that all public facilities should be open to all inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories without distinction of race, was of the utmost importance. Whatever arguments were advanced to justify abuses in the sphere of private enterprise, it was incontrovertible that the existence of separate facilities for each racial group was a serious obstacle to the development of harmony and collaboration between members of the community.

50. It could hardly be claimed that sufficient progress had been made in the field of race relations. In parts of East and Central Africa it should be possible to abolish discrimination in government offices, in public transports which were either managed or controlled by the Government, and in hotels and restaurants which needed a government licence. That point was dealt with in paragraph 96 of the Committee's report on social conditions, which, however, was so vague that he hoped the Administering Members concerned would give fuller information on the situation in, for example, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia and the Belgian Congo and on the progress made in those Territories. The vague manner in which the question was treated was possibly due to the restrictive nature of the Committee's terms of reference; if so, those restrictions were of little service either to the Fourth Committee or to the Administering Members themselves.

51. However that might be, the delegation of Haiti would have no objection to the adoption of the report on social conditions. It would in particular support the objectives of social policy set forth in paragraph 25 of the report, and would therefore vote for draft resolution A approving the report (A/2908, part one, annex II).

52. Turning to part one of the report, he said that his delegation attached great importance to the continuation of studies and debates on education during the coming year. He hoped that special attention would be paid to the progress made since the Committee's first reports on education,<sup>2</sup> to the problems of secondary education and to the training of primary and secondary school teachers, which had not been sufficiently dealt with in the previous reports.

53. While paying a tribute to the work of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, he drew attention to the limitations imposed by its membership. It was doubtful, for instance, whether that Committee was the most appropriate organ to perform the delicate and important task of examining the notification by Administering Members that certain Territories had become fully self-governing.

54. Despite the limitations on the Committee's activity, the delegation of Haiti was strongly in favour of its renewal. It would have liked to support the draft resolution presented by the representatives of Burma, India and Iraq (A/2908, part one, para. 88), but in

<sup>2</sup> A/1303/Rev.1, part two, and A/2465, part two.

a spirit of conciliation it would be willing to agree to the less satisfactory draft resolution B in annex II, on condition, however, that the Committee was renewed with the agreement of all the Administering Members.

55. He suggested that, for psychological reasons, the name of the Committee should be changed to "Committee on Progress in Non-Self-Governing Territories". That change would in no way affect the Committee's terms of reference but would serve as a constant reminder of the ultimate objective of Chapter XI of the Charter, which should be the ultimate objective of the Member States responsible for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

56. The world-wide movement of liberation from the colonial yoke had been much discussed. There had been accusations of ill-considered haste, but many countries, including Haiti, felt that the rate of progress towards self-government was insufficiently rapid. It happened too often that reforms, reluctantly agreed to, yielded too little and came too late. Governments granting such belated reforms were frequently obliged by the force of circumstances to accept less favourable

settlements than they would have been able to obtain by goodwill a few years earlier. The question was not whether the colonial Powers would or would not lose their colonies, for they were bound to do so sooner or later. The question was whether they would make friends or enemies of them.

57. It was regrettable both for the United Nations and for the Administering Members themselves that the activities of the Committee, whose purpose was the faithful implementation of Chapter XI of the Charter, had been opposed by certain Administering Members, which would nevertheless be the first to benefit by the peaceful evolution of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards self-government. Time was short, but it was not too late to change. His delegation hoped that in future the Committee would receive the co-operation of all the Administering Members, and that the Administering and non-administering Members would be able to work together with a view to realizing the objectives of Chapter XI of the Charter.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.