

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH SESSION

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Chairman: Mr. Frederick H. BOLAND (Ireland).

AGENDA ITEM 13

Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/3822, A/C.4/L.547, A/C.4/L.548, A/C.4/L.549/Rev.1) (*continued*)

THE FUTURE OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH ADMINISTRATION AND THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION (*continued*)

1. Mr. AHIDJO (France) said that, in reply to the questions asked at the 795th meeting following the statement he had made at the 794th meeting, he would give the Committee some additional particulars on the most important of the points he had dealt with. He wished to stress in that connexion that as the head of a democratically elected coalition Government, he could not make commitments in relation to matters which were within the competence of the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons under French administration.

2. With regard to the question of an amnesty, he stated that the amnesty law already adopted by the French Parliament permitted the return to the Territory of all those who had left it. No political conditions attached to the application of the amnesty. There was complete freedom to establish political groups or parties provided that such organizations followed democratic principles, obeyed the law and respected the opinions of others. What the Cameroonians did not want to see was the use of democratic practices as a cover for the reconstitution of para-military shock troops in the service of a ruthless ideology. Although the amnesty had not yet been promulgated by the Cameroonian authorities, a *de facto* amnesty was already being applied in the Territory and those in Sanaga-Maritime who had shown that they intended to obey the law were being allowed to go about their affairs unmolested. The cases of those who had committed really serious crimes had been duly referred to the courts. He was sure that when jurisdictional powers were transferred to the Cameroonian Assembly at the beginning of 1959 that body would examine in a conciliatory spirit the question of a broader amnesty.

3. The situation in the Territory was proof of the liberalism and tolerant spirit of the Cameroonian Gov-

ernment. Within the Assembly and throughout the country political parties and organizations whose views were at variance with those of the Government held meetings, made statements, issued manifestos and published newspapers the critical tone of which would lead them to be suppressed in many other countries. Some of the literature put out by those organizations had been sent to the United Nations itself.

4. He had been surprised to hear it suggested that new elections should be held. The present Cameroonian Assembly had been constituted on the basis of universal suffrage in an election in which nearly a million people out of a total of a little over 3 million had participated. The electoral campaign had focused on the question of the evolution and independence of the Cameroons. Thus the will of the people with regard to the status which the Territory was to enjoy after the termination of trusteeship had been clearly established and the Legislative Assembly had unequivocally made that choice known to the Administering Authority in its resolution of 24 October 1958. He could therefore see no reason for another legislative election to be held until such time as the inhabitants of the Cameroons under British administration should vote to be reunited with those of the Cameroons under French administration. In any case the matter of elections was one which it was now for the Cameroonians rather than the Administering Authority to decide.

5. As far as the Cameroons under British administration was concerned, a consultation should be held there before 1 January 1960 to determine whether its inhabitants wished to be reunited with those of the Cameroons under French administration and accede to independence together with them on that date. The United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1958, could ascertain what would be the best procedure for holding such a consultation.

6. In concluding he wished to remind the Committee that after 1 January 1960 his country would be fully independent and the relations which it hoped to enter into at that time with France and with other countries would be established on a footing of full equality and would be of a contractual character, as was the custom in relations between States.

7. He regretted that he would be unable to be present during the general debate on the Cameroons under French administration. As the Cameroonian Assembly was currently deliberating the provisions of the Statute by which the Territory was to be governed in the interval before its accession to independence and as he wished to welcome the Visiting Mission upon its arrival in the Territory, he would be obliged to return to the Cameroons immediately.

8. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) requested that an English translation of Mr. Ahidjo's statement should be circulated.

9. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico) requested that a Spanish translation should likewise be circulated.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, the complete text of the statement made by Mr. Ahidjo would be circulated as a Committee document.

It was so decided.^{1/}

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

11. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, if there were no objections, the Committee should hear the petitioner Mr. John Kale on Monday, 17 November.

It was so decided.

12. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) asked how soon the general debate on the Cameroons would begin.

13. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Committee had decided earlier to conclude its consideration of the draft resolutions submitted in connexion with the report of the Trusteeship Council before proceeding to the general debate on the Cameroons under French administration. It could, however, alter that decision if it wished.

14. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) thought that the Committee should abide by that decision in order to avoid confusion.

15. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) thought that without actually beginning the general debate members of the Committee could now comment on the statement made by Mr. Ahidjo or ask him for further clarifications.

16. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) supported the suggestion of the representative of the United Arab Republic. As the agenda item on the report of the Trusteeship Council covered the subject of the Cameroons under French administration he saw no reason why a rigid distinction should be drawn in the present instance.

17. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) said that she had a few questions which she would like to put to Mr. Ahidjo immediately.

18. Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) supported the United Kingdom representative's suggestion, since in any case Mr. Ahidjo was leaving for the Cameroons that very day.

19. The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee to vote upon whether it would proceed forthwith with its consideration of the draft resolutions.

The Committee decided by 41 votes to 11, with 10 abstentions, to resume its consideration of the draft resolutions on the report of the Trusteeship Council.

20. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) and Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico) explained that they had cast negative votes because they had felt that those who desired to put questions to Mr. Ahidjo while he was present should not be denied the opportunity of doing so.

21. Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) pointed out that the vote just taken did not signify that delegations would be prevented from putting the questions they had in mind to the French delegation when the general debate on the Cameroons under French administration was initiated.

^{1/} See A/C.4/389.

22. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that he had just observed that Mr. Ahidjo had already left the conference room.

23. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) wished it to be recorded that as a result of the procedure adopted her delegation had not been afforded the opportunity of questioning Mr. Ahidjo. She thought it was regrettable that he should have left before the matter had been decided.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/C.4/L.547, A/C.4/L.548, A/C.4/L.549/REV.1) (continued)

24. Mr. TURKSON (Ghana) suggested that in voting on the draft resolutions the Committee should reserve the one concerning the report of the Trusteeship Council covering the work of its twenty-first and twenty-second sessions (A/C.4/L.547) until the last.

It was so decided.

25. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take up first the draft resolution on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories (A/C.4/L.548).

It was so decided.

Draft resolution on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories (A/C.4/L.548)

26. Mr. GEBRE-EGZY (Ethiopia) said that his delegation would support the draft resolution.

27. He informed the Committee that in 1956 the Ethiopian Government had extended four scholarships to students from Tanganyika, two of which had been awarded in 1957 and two in 1958; they were complete scholarships, covering the students' travelling expenses, clothing, pocket money and so forth. Furthermore, the Ethiopian Government had established a special fund for 200 scholarships for African students, to be spread over a period of four years, fifty being awarded each year. Those scholarships did not always include travelling expenses; that depended upon the student's ability to pay. During the first year of operation of the scheme, some thirty-four students had been awarded scholarships, twenty-seven of whom were now in Ethiopia. He understood that some of them came from Trust Territories.

28. The purpose of the Ethiopian Government in awarding those scholarships was firstly to contribute to the progress of the peoples of Africa and secondly to facilitate contacts between them. Those peoples felt a desire to know each other better and thus to enrich their lives. He appealed to the Administering Authorities to help them to do so and, as a contribution to that end, to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

29. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) said that he would naturally support the draft resolution, since Yugoslavia was one of the countries which offered scholarships to students from Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

30. The Belgian representative had expressed the view that the draft resolution was superfluous or at least inapplicable, especially where Ruanda-Urundi was concerned, because there were no students there who were qualified to take advantage of the scholarship offers. Yugoslavia at all events would be glad to welcome any students, from Ruanda-Urundi or any

other Trust Territories, who had completed secondary education.

31. There was a further point he would like to raise. The question of scholarships for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories had been on the agenda for a number of years and it seemed to him it might be advantageous to discuss the questions of scholarships for students from Trust Territories and for students from Non-Self-Governing Territories together. The sponsors of the draft resolution might perhaps agree to the addition of a paragraph 6 to that effect.

32. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico) said that his country had offered a limited number of scholarships to students from Trust Territories, which up to the present, however, had not been utilized. He was unable to understand the resistance to the programme on the part of certain members of the Committee. It was only necessary to look at the figures concerning education in the Trust Territories to realize that the problem could not be dealt with by the Administering Authorities alone. In his view the programme was one of the ways in which non-administering countries could best help the Administering Authorities in their task.

33. His delegation would support the draft resolution.

34. Mr. KANAKARATNE (Ceylon) said that ever since his country had become a Member of the United Nations it had taken a special interest in promoting offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants not only of Trust Territories but also of Non-Self-Governing Territories. It was for that reason that he had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

35. He drew attention to General Assembly resolution 1209 (XII), which recommended that the Administering Authorities should take measures to ensure the greatest possible use by inhabitants of the Trust Territories of the scholarships and training facilities offered by Member States. The Committee would note that the emphasis in the draft resolution was less on the award of scholarships than on their actual utilization. Paragraph 16 of chapter VII of the Trusteeship Council's report (A/3822, vol. I) gave figures regarding offers of scholarships and their utilization. The great gap between the 141 scholarships that had been offered and the thirty-eight that had been actually utilized was a cause of concern to delegations which had at heart the interests of the peoples of the Trust Territories. The educational sphere was one in which under-developed countries like Ceylon had tried to be of assistance to countries that were less developed than themselves. He hoped that the members of the Committee, and especially the Administering Authorities, would accept the draft resolution in the spirit in which it had been submitted.

36. With regard to the suggestion made by the Yugoslav representative, he had not yet had an opportunity to consult with other sponsors on the subject but felt sure they would welcome it as a further step towards the objective of the draft resolution.

37. Mr. MUFTI (United Arab Republic) pointed out that the draft resolution advocated no remedy for the non-utilization, for political reasons, of scholarships offered to inhabitants of Trust Territories. He hoped the Secretary-General would take that fact into consideration and give the assistance requested in the draft resolution.

38. His delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution and would support the suggestion made by the representative of Yugoslavia.

39. Miss ANDERSON (United States of America) suggested the insertion of the following new paragraph between paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft resolution:

"Requests the States offering scholarships to take into account the need to provide travel funds so that prospective students may utilize the scholarships granted."

40. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico) had no objection to the United States suggestion but pointed out that many scholarships which included travelling expenses had not been utilized. He felt that every State should be left free to make such offers as it could. Scholarships which did not include travelling expenses were frequently attractive and valuable for other reasons.

41. Mr. COHEN (Chile) said that he had no objection to the draft resolution.

42. The Ethiopian representative had raised an aspect of the matter to which he felt the Committee should pay attention. There were a number of universities and institutions of higher education in Africa, both in independent States and dependent territories, which as far as he knew had not offered scholarships of the kind under discussion. In view of the observations made in the Fourth Committee and in the Trusteeship Council by representatives of certain Administering Authorities to the effect that students from the Territories under their administration who attended universities in Europe often became unsettled and unwilling to return home, he thought it would be well if more opportunities were offered for African students to study in the numerous institutions of learning in Africa.

43. With regard to the Yugoslav suggestion, he would have no objection to the addition of the proposed paragraph to the draft resolution.

44. Mr. KANAKARATNE (Ceylon), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, said that the United States suggestion was sound and practical. Since, however, there were countries which for financial reasons might find it difficult to enlarge scholarship offers to include travelling expenses, he would ask the United States delegation if it would agree to the insertion of the words "whenever possible" before the words "the need to provide travel funds". If that were done the sponsors would accept the United States amendment.

45. Mr. FELD (United States of America) said that his delegation was willing to consider that suggestion. While fully realizing that it was not always possible for States offering scholarships to include travelling expenses, his delegation felt that the expense entailed was one of the reasons why many of the scholarships offered were not utilized.

46. Mr. KELLY (Australia) said that at the 796th meeting, his delegation had explained the Australian Government's attitude with regard to the implementation of international scholarship schemes. Any reservations it might have with respect to resolutions such as the one now under discussion arose largely from the fact that their language failed to bring out clearly the legal rights of the Administering Authorities under the Trusteeship Agreements or to take into account the

practical considerations which Administering Authorities had to weigh.

47. His delegation might be able to support the draft resolution if the word "all" in paragraph 2 were deleted and the words "whenever possible or practicable" inserted.

48. He would enter an express reservation about any proposals which tended to imply that Non-Self-Governing Territories and Trust Territories were in exactly the same category. For that reason he would be unable to support the Yugoslav suggestion.

49. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) emphasized that he had had no intention of assimilating Non-Self-Governing Territories and Trust Territories in the legal sense. The question of offers of scholarships was a humanitarian one which had heretofore been discussed under two separate agenda items and he considered

that for practical reasons it would be better to combine the two discussions.

50. If the sponsors of the draft resolution were unable to accept the additional paragraph he had suggested, he would not press the matter at the present session.

51. He would gladly support the United States suggestion.

52. Mr. COHEN (Chile) agreed that the Yugoslav suggestion was a practical one. Most of the offers of scholarships were to the best of his belief made for the two types of Territories together. It would therefore appear simpler and more practical for the Committee to consider them together.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.