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

AGENDA ITEM 13

**Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2933, T/  
L.500, T/L.579 and Add.1, T/L.591, T/L.602,  
T/L.609, T/L.617) (*continued*)**

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. PYMAN (Australia) wished to reply to certain comments which had been made in the general debate on Trust Territories administered by Australia. A subject which had been frequently referred to in the debate was that of administrative unions. At the 513th meeting, the Indian representative had referred to the possibility of the Administering Authority's establishing administrative districts which might lie across the boundary between the Trust Territory and the neighbouring Non-Self-Governing Territory of Papua. The Committee could see from document T/L.592 that the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions had noted that the Administering Authority had no intention of establishing administrative districts which would cut across the boundary of the Trust Territory. Certain minor changes had taken place in the boundaries of two administrative districts in New Guinea, but solely within the Trust Territory.
2. The representative of the USSR had suggested that the Administering Authority in New Guinea was not making any effort to establish organs of local self-government. He had also implied that the Legislative Council consisted only of members appointed by the Administering Authority and that the indigenous inhabitants had no voice in local government. As stated, however, in the report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2933, p. 205), the district advisory councils and town advisory councils, which were non-statutory bodies, gave non-indigenous inhabitants a means of expressing their views on matters directly affecting them within their towns and districts. Those bodies dealt with matters which were predominantly of non-indigenous concern, and the interests of the indigenous inhabitants were adequately protected by the various departments of the Administration, which were represented on all district and town advisory councils. The Council's report also pointed out, on page 206, that at the fourteenth session of the Council, the Australian Government had reiterated its previous assurance that when the conditions were appropriate for the establishment of statutory district organs, it

would give full attention to the desirability of setting them up on a multi-racial basis. The Trusteeship Council had noted the growth of the existing village councils with satisfaction. In regard to the competence and powers of the Legislative Council, the Fourth Committee would recall that three of its members were elected. The Trusteeship Council had investigated the whole question and did not share the critical attitude of the USSR towards the progress that had been made.

3. The representative of Poland had referred to the fact that the ordinances of the Legislative Council could not take effect without the assent of the Administrator or the Governor-General of Australia. The Administration had to ensure that legislation was in accordance with the international obligations of the Administering Authority and with the general lines of policy being pursued, but, as the special representative had said in the Trusteeship Council at the sixteenth session (626th meeting), it was very rare for the assent of the Administrator or of the Governor-General to be refused.

4. The representative of the USSR had also suggested that conditions of mass illiteracy prevailed in the Trust Territory. However, the Trusteeship Council at its sixteenth session had noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in education and the increases in the number of schools, the enrolment of pupils and educational expenditures, and the establishment of a sound basis for the future development of education in the Territory (A/2933, p. 217).

5. The representative of the USSR had also criticized the Administering Authority on the ground that there were no indigenous doctors in the Trust Territory. Pending the establishment of appropriate institutions in the Trust Territory, medical training was available to indigenous persons in Fiji, and six persons from New Guinea were at present taking the assistant medical practitioner and health inspector courses there. Students were also being prepared to enter medical school in Australia and were expected to matriculate by 1960. In 1960 too, the Administration planned to establish a central medical school in New Guinea which would train some twenty assistant medical practitioners a year. The need for increased numbers of trained medical personnel was recognized, but there were many difficulties to be overcome in the training of primitive peoples for such a highly technical profession. In the meantime there had been a considerable increase in the number of doctors from the mainland.

6. The representative of the Byelorussian SSR had complained of the absence of any legislative organ in Nauru. As the special representative of the Administering Authority had said in the Trusteeship Council at the sixteenth session (612th meeting), the Local Government Council was being given every possible encouragement, and it was a matter of some disappointment to the Administering Authority that it had not

made use of all the powers vested in it. The rate of political progress in Nauru was governed, not by any restrictions or regulations imposed by the Administering Authority, but by the failure of the indigenous inhabitants to use the wide measure of freedom accorded to them.

7. The Australian delegation had been gratified by the appreciative references of some representatives to the work of the Administering Authorities. There were vast problems involved in the development of the Trust Territories, but in the case of New Guinea and Nauru the Australian Government regarded those problems as a challenge and would be encouraged in its work by the confidence that had been expressed in its abilities and good faith as Administering Authority.

8. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) said that although it was a matter for regret that such long delays had been experienced in opening negotiations on the question of the frontier between Ethiopia and the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration, great promise lay in the sincere efforts which the Governments concerned were making to agree on a basis for discussion. Both were approaching the problem with vision, with judgement and with the best of intentions. They were to be congratulated on their attitude of mutual respect and their awareness of their responsibility as good neighbours.

9. The Trusteeship Council had recommended in resolution 1257 (XVI) that mediation procedures should be resorted to if the two Governments should fail to reach an agreement by June 1956. He hoped that the Ethiopian and Italian Governments would be able to negotiate a just agreement in the near future so that there would be no need to resort to mediation, and he suggested that it would be in order to allow an adequate period of grace if there seemed to be some prospect for the success of bilateral negotiations. Mediation procedures were often fruitful, but in many cases it proved difficult to find a mediator acceptable to both parties. A solution to the problem was long overdue, and was anxiously awaited by millions of human beings whose lives were affected. He sincerely hoped that some solution would be found before 1960 when the Trust Territory was to become independent.

10. Mr. ESKELEND (Denmark) noted that the representative of the Ukrainian SSR had objected to the small number of Somalis occupying administrative positions in Somaliland under Italian administration. He suggested that an answer to the Ukrainian complaint was to be found on page 116 of the Trusteeship Council's report where the Council noted with satisfaction a large number of Somali administrative appointments and the fact that one administrative region had been entrusted entirely to Somalis.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/C.4/L.419,  
A/C.4/L.420)

*Draft resolution on the attainment by the Trust Territories of the objective of self-government or independence (A/C.4/L.420)*

11. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) said that, except in the case of the Trust Territories of Somaliland under Italian administration and Togoland under British administration, the Administering Authorities claimed that the people of the Trust Territories were not yet

ready to assume full responsibility for their own affairs. That contention was of course untenable. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/L.420 felt that the United Nations should spare no effort to fix a definite time for the attainment of political independence by Trust Territories. A time had been set by the contracting parties in connexion with Somaliland under Italian administration, and the effect had been largely favourable. It would appear only reasonable that after ten years the Administering Authorities for the other Trust Territories should be in a position to estimate a possible date for the termination of the trusteeship agreements and the attainment of political independence by the peoples.

12. With reference to the third paragraph of the preamble, the sponsors thought that conditions in the Trust Territories called for such an evaluation, and that the Trusteeship Council should take measures to implement the General Assembly resolutions referred to. The Council should not fail to include a separate section in its report concerning activities in that connexion, and should make concrete recommendations for the attainment of self-government or independence by the peoples of the Trust Territories. If that were done the Administering Authorities could draw up their plans with a view to meeting the time limits fixed, the peoples' hopes would be raised and they would be given an incentive to make even greater efforts towards co-operation with the Administering Authorities.

13. Miss ROESAD (Indonesia) said that the proposal embodied in the draft resolution was not a new one. It had already been accepted by the General Assembly in resolutions 558 (VI) and 752 (VIII). Since however, the Administering Authorities had not responded to the invitation contained in that second resolution, the General Assembly had thought it wise to instruct the Trusteeship Council to include in its reports a separate section dealing with the wishes expressed by the General Assembly. The Trusteeship Council's report for the period from 22 July 1953 to 16 July 1954 (A/2680) had included a separate section dealing with the attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territories, but that section had not contained any conclusions or recommendations by the Trusteeship Council, as desired by the General Assembly. Moreover, the Trusteeship Council had pointed out in that report that none of the relevant annual reports had contained any specific reference to resolution 558 (VI), or any information related to the terms of that resolution, or in particular concerning the question of estimates of the time needed to complete any of the measures meant to create the pre-conditions for the attainment of self-government or independence. The General Assembly had consequently adopted resolution 858 (IX).

14. She quoted those facts in order to show how consistent the General Assembly had been in pursuing its idea of fulfilling its obligations under the Charter and ensuring that all Trust Territories should be self-governing or independent in the foreseeable future. The General Assembly had made it abundantly clear that it wished to be kept informed on the point, and in resolution 858 (IX) had recommended that the Council should instruct its visiting missions to give special attention to the question. She had been glad to note that the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1954, had given due

consideration to the problem with regard to both Ruanda-Urundi and Tanganyika.

15. The Indonesian delegation had therefore been disappointed to find that the present report of the Trusteeship Council did not include such a special section. The relevant section of the report (A/2933, p. 27-28) stated that the Secretary-General had submitted a draft report (T/L.579 and Add.1) dealing with the question, but that the Council had decided not to adopt it for inclusion in its report. It was further stated that the Council had decided to instruct the drafting committee on the annual report on each Trust Territory, with the exception of Somaliland under Italian administration and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, to prepare appropriate draft conclusions and recommendations concerning the question of the attainment by the Territory of self-government or independence. She hoped that such a procedure would achieve the results desired by the General Assembly, but stressed that the General Assembly attached the greatest importance to the question of the attainment by the Territories of self-government or independence and that it would like to have its previous resolutions implemented. For those reasons her delegation had considered it necessary to co-sponsor the draft resolution now before the Committee.

16. Mr. EGUIZABAL (El Salvador) recalled that at the beginning of the session (472nd meeting) his delegation had presented a draft resolution (A/C.4/L.389) drawing attention to the omission from the Council's report of a separate section concerning the question of the attainment by the Trust Territories of self-government or independence. That draft resolution had been withdrawn at the 500th meeting, and he was now co-sponsoring the draft resolution before the Committee because he was convinced that it was necessary that the General Assembly resolutions on the subject should be put into practice.

17. In his opinion the setting of dates for the achievement of self-government or independence by the Trust Territories would be the best way to attain the objectives of the Trusteeship System. Such an action on the Council's part would be an inspiration to the peoples of the Trust Territories and an affirmation of faith in their future. It would undoubtedly lead to enthusiastic co-operation by the indigenous populations with the Administering Authorities. The example of Somaliland under Italian administration should be followed in other Trust Territories. His delegation did not believe that there was any great difference between the people of Somaliland and those of other Trust Territories. The Indian representative had stated, and the Administering Authority itself had agreed, that the great progress made in Tanganyika during the past eight years was due to the existence of a trusteeship agreement; in other words the people co-operated with enthusiasm when they knew that a better future was awaiting them, and that one day they could hope to escape from the limbo of colonialism.

18. Mr. AZIZ (Afghanistan) said that he would support the joint draft resolution. He would not go into the question in detail, since he had already dealt with it during the general debate (517th meeting), and his views corresponded to those expressed in the draft resolution.

19. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico) said he would vote in favour of the draft resolution. He felt

that the Committee should be grateful to the representative of El Salvador for drawing its attention to the omission from the Trusteeship Council's report.

20. Mr. BELL (United States of America) said that, while appreciating the motives which had prompted the sponsors of the draft resolution, his delegation considered that the Trusteeship Council should work out the most appropriate form for the presentation of information, pursuant to previous General Assembly resolutions, on the attainment of self-government or independence by Trust Territories.

21. In its resolution 1254 (XVI) the Council had adopted a new procedure for the inclusion of such material in its reports. The resolution did not make wholly clear the manner in which the material should be included, but from the discussions in the Council it was apparent that the members felt that all aspects of the development of a Trust Territory were inter-related, and that consequently information, conclusions and recommendations concerning the attainment of self-government or independence should form an integral part of the Council's report on the Territory concerned. He understood it was the Council's intention to prepare reports on each Trust Territory so that the various matters referred to in previous resolutions on the attainment of self-government or independence would appear in a clear and distinct manner that would respond effectively to the General Assembly's resolutions on the matter. To place in a single chapter conclusions and recommendations which were considered to relate specifically to the attainment of self-government or independence in all Trust Territories would be likely to throw out of perspective the Council's conclusions on each Territory. It would be difficult in a single section to include information on the widely differing circumstances in each Trust Territory, or to state clearly the nature of the task facing each Administering Authority, yet failure to do so might lead to unfair comparisons. Nor would it be practicable to indicate in such a consolidated section the progress already made in individual cases, a factor which was frequently overlooked but which it would be only fair to bear in mind.

22. He therefore hoped that the sponsors would not insist on pressing the draft resolution at the current session, and that they would agree to give the Council an opportunity to work out its new procedure in its next report. If that report was not satisfactory to the General Assembly, measures for improving future reports might then be considered. In the view of the United States delegation the draft resolution was unnecessary, since the basic objectives sought by the Trusteeship Council and by the sponsors were essentially the same. If it were pressed in its present form, his delegation would be unable to support it.

23. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) observed that it was impossible to single out the measures taken to bring a Trust Territory to self-government or independence. Every action taken by an Administration to improve the standard of living or promote the well-being of the population was a step in that direction. The annual reports of the Trusteeship Council described the measures taken by Administering Authorities to develop the Trust Territories, and a separate section as proposed could be only a summary of the entire report.

24. The Belgian Government considered it impossible to set a time for the achievement of independence or self-government by the Trust Territory for which it was responsible. The Belgian delegation could not give an estimate, and educated indigenous inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi who had studied the 1954 Visiting Mission's report on the Territory (T/1141) had also been unable to do so. Opinions among them on the subject differed widely. Therefore, as far as Belgium was concerned, it would be quite impossible to comply with the proposed resolution.

25. In view of those facts he would be obliged to vote against the joint draft resolution.

26. Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) said that his delegation had been prepared to vote in favour of the draft resolution previously submitted by El Salvador and regretted that it had not been put to the vote. He therefore welcomed the three-Power draft resolution, which was based on the same considerations and would fill a deplorable gap in the Trusteeship Council's report. He would vote in favour of it.

27. Mr. JAIPAL (India) recalled that in the general debate his delegation had expressed concern at the delay in acting on General Assembly resolutions 558 (VI), 752 (VIII) and 858 (IX). At the same time it had noted the new procedure adopted by the Council and had expressed the hope that the Council would find it possible to comply with the main intention of the General Assembly resolutions. Whether that hope was justified or not would have to be decided in the light of the Council's next report.

28. For the present he had no objection to the draft resolution, which was no more than a reaffirmation of the earlier resolutions. The reasons which had militated in favour of the adoption of the earlier resolutions applied equally cogently to the draft under discussion. The United States representative argued that it would be difficult to compile a separate section on the attainment of the objectives of self-government

or independence. That was a detail which the Council itself should settle. The main point was that the General Assembly should be given the information, conclusions and recommendations it had requested. If it was possible to include that material in the chapter on each Territory, it should be equally possible to consolidate it in a separate section. He intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

*The draft resolution submitted by El Salvador, Indonesia and Liberia (A/C.4/L.420) was adopted by 34 votes to 7, with 5 abstentions.*

29. Mr. GIDDEN (United Kingdom) explained that he had voted against the draft resolution, as he could not support a proposal which requested the Trusteeship Council to comply with other resolutions which his delegation had voted against at previous sessions.

30. Mr. PYMAN (Australia) said that he too had voted against the draft resolution because his delegation had voted against the earlier resolutions to which it referred. Furthermore, the draft resolution did not take into sufficient account the wisdom of the Trusteeship Council's action in adopting a new procedure in the matter.

31. Mr. KAISR (Czechoslovakia) explained that he had voted in favour of the draft resolution because it covered many of the points that he had made in his statement in the general debate (518th meeting).

*Draft resolution on the report of the Trusteeship Council (A/C.4/L.419)*

32. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the draft resolution submitted by Chile (A/C.4/L.419), and said that, in accordance with the usual practice, it would be put to the vote after all other draft resolutions on the agenda item under discussion had been disposed of.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.