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

**AGENDA ITEM 30**

**Question of South West Africa (*continued*):**

**(b) Report of the Committee on South West Africa (A/2913 and Add.1 and 2) (*continued*)**

1. Mr. PIMENTEL BRANDAO (Brazil) considered that the explanations furnished by the Director of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union in his letter of 8 November 1955 (A/C.4/316) were not completely satisfactory. The previous listing of South West Africa as a Mandated Territory was not at variance with the advisory opinion given by the International Court of Justice in 1950.<sup>1</sup> The same could not be said of its new listing as a Territory administered by the Union of South Africa. It was regrettable that the Universal Postal Union should have decided, on a simple request from the Mandatory Power, to list the Territory in a way that was not in keeping with the Court's opinion or with the nomenclature adopted by the United Nations, which was bound by that opinion. If the Universal Postal Union decided at its Congress at Ottawa in 1957 to adopt a new terminology more in keeping with the terminology used in the Charter and the principal organs of the United Nations, it would then be proper to change South West Africa's listing. Until then, however, the Territory should continue to be listed as a Mandated Territory. Any subsequent change must take the Court's opinion into account.

2. He proposed that the letter from the Universal Postal Union should be referred to the Committee on South West Africa for study. The Committee should report thereon to the next session of the General Assembly.

<sup>1</sup> *International status of South-West Africa, Advisory Opinion: I.C.J. Reports, 1950, p. 128* (Transmitted to Members of the General Assembly by the Secretary-General by document A/1362).

3. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) seconded that proposal. South West Africa's status was a grave issue under consideration by the General Assembly. It was unfortunate that the Universal Postal Union should implicitly have sanctioned the Territory's annexation by the Union of South Africa. He was sure that that had not been its intention.

*There being no objections, the Brazilian proposal was adopted.*

**AGENDA ITEM 34**

**Election, if required, to fill vacancies in the membership of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories**

4. The CHAIRMAN announced that, following the General Assembly's decision at its 541st plenary meeting (A/RES/322) to renew the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Fourth Committee had to fill four vacancies among the elected members of the body. As the Fourth Committee would be acting on behalf of the General Assembly in the matter it would be governed by the General Assembly's rules of procedure, and notably rule 94. The Committee on Information was composed of the seven administering Powers who transmitted information under Article 73 e—Australia, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States—and seven members elected for a period of three years. The terms of office of Brazil, China, India and Iraq had expired; those countries were eligible for re-election. Burma, Guatemala and Peru would continue to serve on the Committee on Information. The Fourth Committee was free to elect to the Committee on Information any country other than the seven administering Powers and the three continuing members.

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Rolz Bennett (Guatemala) and Mr. Thorp (New Zealand) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	55
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	None
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	55
<i>Abstentions:</i>	None
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	55
<i>Required majority:</i>	28

*Number of votes obtained:*

India .....	50
Iraq .....	48
Venezuela .....	45
China .....	33
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ..	31
Pakistan .....	4
Liberia .....	2

Mexico .....	1
Norway .....	1
Syria .....	1
Thailand .....	1
Yugoslavia .....	1

*Having obtained the required majority and the most votes, India, Iraq, Venezuela and China were elected members of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 13

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

##### GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

5. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee at its 471st meeting, the Observer of Italy would be invited to participate in the Committee's discussion on the report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2933).

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Casardi, Permanent Observer of Italy to the United Nations, took a seat at the Committee table.*

6. Mr. CASARDI (Permanent Observer of Italy to the United Nations) wished to give the Committee some information about the progress in the field of economic development of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration which had taken place since the preparation of the Trusteeship Council's report.

7. The Italian Government, as evidenced by the Trusteeship Council's report, was fully conscious of its responsibility in laying the economic foundations of a Territory which would, in five years' time, become an independent State. As the Committee already knew, an organic plan of development, prepared on the basis of available resources and covering the years 1954 to 1960, had been drafted by the Trusteeship Administration and was being carried out. Its results could already be seen in the form of road improvements, new centres for agricultural mechanization and for combating plant pests, new wells and irrigation works and experimental stations. In addition, a number of new agricultural and industrial investments had been made by the specially constituted Somali Credit Institute. However, the field of action was very wide and the Italian Government was far from having covered all that it would have wished.

8. The Government had never underestimated the difficulties involved in the economic development of

Somaliland and had taken every opportunity of pointing them out to the competent organs of the United Nations. There were undoubtedly serious organic deficiencies in the economic structure of the Territory, chiefly owing to the extreme exiguity of its natural resources. The Italian Government sincerely hoped that those difficulties would be overcome in the interest of the Somali people, whose intelligence and industry more than qualified them for a better standard of living. To overcome those deficiencies it would be necessary, according to the competent opinion of all who had examined the problem, to extend the planning period beyond the limited time allowed to the Trusteeship Administration. Furthermore, the planning would undoubtedly have to be based on foreign financial investment on a scale far exceeding present investment, which was almost exclusively Italian.

9. The Italian Government had always been favourably disposed to the idea that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which was particularly well qualified to give a competent and independent opinion on the existing possibilities and future prospects for the Trust Territory, should undertake a further examination of the situation for itself. The Committee was aware of the way in which the question had developed and of resolution 1255 (XVI) adopted in July 1955 by the Trusteeship Council. In pursuance of that resolution, the Italian Government had formally requested the Bank to send a mission of experts to Somaliland for the purpose of carrying out a survey. The Bank had now agreed to that request and the correspondence which had been exchanged between the Italian Ambassador in Washington and the representative of the Bank would shortly be circulated to the Committee by the Secretariat. The Italian Government had established contact with the Bank with a view to determining the composition of the mission and the date and programme of its visit to Somaliland. One of the practical points under consideration was the way in which the activities of the Bank's mission could be co-ordinated with those of the Italian economic experts, so that each group could benefit from the experience and studies of the other. It could be expected that within a few months the Government and the Trusteeship Council would have the Bank's estimate of the possibilities of and prospects for economic development in Somaliland.

10. The Italian Government trusted that it would be considered by that action to have given a constructive interpretation to the spirit of General Assembly resolution 855 (IX).

The meeting rose at 12 noon.