TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS



EIGHTH SESSION, 320th

MEETING

Wednesday, 7 February 1951, at 2.30 p.m.

LAKE SUCCESS, NEW YORK

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President: Mr. HENRÍQUEZ UREÑA (Dominican Republic).

Present: The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, France, Iraq, New Zealand, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Membership of the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions (continued)

- 1. Mr. MUÑOZ (Argentina) wished to refer again to the question of the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions. He recalled that the question of the number of members of that Committee had not been discussed at the time of its establishment¹ either by the former Committee on Administrative Unions or in the Council itself.
- 2. The proposal of the former Committee, adopted by the Council at its previous session, had been simply that a standing committee on administrative unions should be established; the number of its members had not been specified. The fact that the Council's membership was limited had very probably influenced the President in making only four nominations to the Committee. Mr. Muñoz felt that the present membership of the Committee was not sufficient to allow it to fulfil its functions satisfactorily it should be pointed out, incidentally, that the General Assembly attached considerable importance to those functions and the Council might appropriately consider whether the membership of the Committee should be enlarged to six.

² Ibid., 30th meeting.

- 3. Argentina was a member of the Committee but, as a non-administering Power, it had had very little experience in regard to the question of administrative unions. The Philippines, on the other hand, had had a long experience in the matter and, for the sake of continuity, might usefully be asked again to serve on the Committee.
- 4. Mr. HAY (Australia) noted that there were two questions involved. The first was whether the membership of the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions should be open to countries not represented on the Trusteeship Council; and the second, whether the membership of the Committee should be enlarged.
- 5. His delegation's view that membership of the Committee on Administrative Unions should be confined to members of the Trusteeship Council had been fully explained at the 319th meeting. Without attending meetings of the Council at which the annual reports of the Trust Territories concerned were considered, Committee members who were not members of the Trusteeship Council would experience considerable difficulty in keeping themselves fully informed on the subject.
- 6. As regards the second question, the Committee had been functioning satisfactorily for a year with a membership of four and no substantial reason had so far been adduced to support an increase.
- 7. He accordingly proposed that the Council should adopt the following draft resolution:

"The Trusteeship Council,

"Having regard to resolution 293 (VII),

"Decides that the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions shall consist of four members nominated by the President from the members of the Trusteeship Council."

¹ See Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Seventh Session, 28th meeting.

- 8. He stressed the fact that he was not raising the general question of membership of committees of the Council. The proposal applied solely to the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions.
- 9. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) asked whether the two additional members suggested by the Argentine representative would be appointed from members of the Trusteeship Council. Until information on that point was forthcoming, it would be difficult to form a definite opinion on the proposal.
- 10. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) favoured the retention of a membership of four, which he considered adequate.
- 11. With regard to the first question, it would be unfair to the Administering Authorities for a State not represented on the Trusteeship Council to be nominated to the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions. The Committee had to study the functioning of administrative unions and report thereon to the Trusteeship Council, a task which presupposed attentive consideration of the annual reports of the Trust Territories concerned. No State not represented on the Trusteeship Council could adequately perform such a function.
- 12. Mr. MUÑOZ (Argentina), replying to the representative of Iraq, said he had thought that one additional member might be appointed to the Committee from among the members of the Council and that the Philippines might be reappointed for another year.
- 13. He proposed that the Australian draft resolution should be amended to read: "... shall consist of six members...".
- 14. In addition, he requested a separate roll-call vote, on the last phrase of the draft resolution, namely, "from members of the Trusteeship Council".
- 15. The PRESIDENT put the Argentine amendment to the Australian draft resolution to the vote.

The amendment was rejected by 7 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.

- 16. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) pointed out that, as a consequence of the rejection of the proposal to enlarge the Committee's membership, the Committee would in fact be composed of members of the Council. Hence, there was no need to take a separate vote on the last phrase of the Australian draft resolution.
- 17. Mr. MUNOZ (Argentina) wondered whether the representative of Australia wished to maintain the phrase. It might be regarded as creating a precedent.
- 18. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) felt it was unnecessary for the Council to tie its hands by adopting such a measure. The normal procedure was for members of committees to be chosen from among members of the Council and it was only in the case of a departure from that practice that special action by the Council would be necessary.
- 19. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) supported that view. He pointed out also that, while he must maintain that the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions should be chosen from the members of the Trusteeship Council, he had no desire to lay down a hard and fast rule to be applied to all future committees.

- 20. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) said that he would vote against any resolution which might be construed as setting the precedent that membership of committees of the Council should be confined to members of the Council.
- 21. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) proposed that Thailand should take the place of the Philippines in the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions.
- 22. Mr. HAY (Australia) withdrew his draft resolution in favour of the United Kingdom proposal.
- 23. Mr. MUÑOZ (Argentina) declared that he had no objection to the United Kingdom proposal. It would appear, however, that the intention was that the other three members of the Committee should be automatically retained, and he regretted that his delegation, which was a member of the Committee, would be unable to continue to serve.
- 24. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) proposed that, in that case, the Dominican Republic should take the place of Argentina on the Committee.
- 25. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) stated that his delegation was already a member of many committees and would be unable to serve. He suggested that the representative of Iraq might serve on the Committee.
- 26. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) regretted that pressure of work would prevent him from serving.
- 27. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) suggested that the Council should request the President, after consulting with delegations, to nominate four members to the Committee.

It was so decided.

Teaching of the purposes and principles, the structure and activities of the United Nations in schools and other educational institutions of Member States (Economic and Social Council resolution 314 (XI))

28. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) proposed that the Council should refer Economic and Social Council resolution 314 (XI) to the Administering Authorities, requesting them to include information on the measures taken for its implementation in their annual reports on the Trust Territories.

It was so decided.

- 29. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) asked whether the representative of UNESCO could give any information on the results of the fellowship programme in connexion with the study of the practical problems of teaching about the United Nations mentioned in subparagraph (d) of the fifth paragraph of the resolution.
- 30. Mr. GAGLIOTTI (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) stated that he would give the information desired at a later meeting of the Council.

Higher education in the Trust Territories in Africa (Economic and Social Council resolution 320 (XI))

31. The PRESIDENT summarized the contents of the resolution adopted by the Trusteeship Council on

19 July 1949 on higher education in the Trust Territories in Africa (resolution 110 (V)). In its resolution adopted on 15 August 1950 (resolution 320 (XI)), the Economic and Social Council had referred to resolution 110 (V) of the Trusteeship Council and, after making various recommendations to the Administering Authorities, had provided for consultations between the Presidents of the two Councils on the subject. He had not yet been in touch with the President of the Economic and Social Council on the matter and, before the consultations took place, he would like to have some information at his disposal. It might therefore be possible to ask the Secretariat to prepare a document showing what further action was contemplated to advance higher education in the Trust Territories in Africa.

- 32. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) pointed out that the Economic and Social Council resolution dealt mainly with technical assistance. He did not think that the Secretariat would find any information on that point in previous annual reports on the Trust Territories, since the technical assistance programme was a relatively new development. At the same time, it was important that the President should have full information on the subject before entering into consultation with the President of the Economic and Social Council. He therefore suggested that the Economic and Social Council resolution should be transmitted to the Administering Authorities concerned with a request that they should submit a full report on the specific issues involved in time for the Trusteeship Council's ninth session.
- 33. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the Iraqi representative's proposal.
- 34. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) pointed out that the Trusteeship Council was the organ responsible for the advancement of higher education in the Trust Territories. The Economic and Social Council had in fact gone somewhat beyond its terms of reference in making recommendations direct to the Administering Authorities. However, since it had made those recommendations, its resolution had naturally been transmitted to the Administering Authorities, and there was therefore no need for the Trusteeship Council to take any action on it.
- 35. Mr. MUÑOZ (Argentina) felt that some action was needed in view of the provision for consultation in the final paragraph of the resolution. He supported the Iraqi representative's proposal and suggested in addition that the Secretariat should prepare a document giving all the information available on the subject.
- 36. Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand) thought that the proposals made by the representatives of Iraq and Argentina should both be adopted. It would be useful for the President to have a document prepared by the Secretariat in case the President of the Economic and Social Council should approach him on the matter before the following session of the Trusteeship Council. At the same time, the Administering Authorities should be asked to submit information on the subject for the ninth session, when it could be discussed together with the annual reports on the African Trust Territories. Naturally, the consultations would

be more profitable if they could be held after the ninth session, but the President should be supplied with material in either case.

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and was resumed at 4.45 p.m.

- 37. Mr. HOO (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Trusteeship) said that he had circulated the second report of the Technical Assistance Board to the Technical Assistance Committee (E/1911) to members of the Council, in response to the request for background material. The document summarized all the requests for technical assistance which had been received at that date. Most of the requests had come from sovereign States, but it could be seen from paragraph 6 of the document that six requests had come from administering Powers on behalf of five Non-Self-Governing Territories. So far there had been very few requests from administering Powers in respect of educational advancement, but such requests might well be made in the future.
- 38. With regard to higher education in the African Trust Territories, resolution 110 (V) represented the Council's most recent action and the Secretariat had no further information on the matter. Progress in implementing that resolution would be mentioned in the annual reports for 1950. In the circumstances, it would be difficult for the Secretariat to attempt, at the present session, to prepare a document combining the information on technical assistance with that on higher education.
- 39. Mr. LAURENTIE (France) pointed out that, in any event, the Trusteeship Council could not take any action on higher education in the African Trust Territories until it had studied the reports on those Territories at its following session. He therefore proposed that the Council should take note of Economic and Social Council resolution 320 (XI) and should defer action on the question until the ninth session.

It was so decided.

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Trusteeship Council resolution 36 (III) on the provision of information concerning the United Nations to the peoples of the Trust Territories (T/824)

40. Mr. LAURENTIE (France) said that the Secretary-General's report seemed to imply that the Administering Authorities had done very little thus far to promote the dissemination of information on the activities and aims of the United Nations in the Trust Territories under their administration. The main problem was how that information could be disseminated at all. One solution would be to ask special representatives for their views on the subject. Another solution, which he favoured, would be to ask the visiting missions to investigate the position on the spot and to ascertain what type of literature and information would be most suitable for the various Territories. The answer would obviously depend on many factors, such as the educational level of the populations. The newlyestablished United Nations Information Centre at Monrovia could play a useful part in that respect.

41. He proposed that the Council should adopt the following draft resolution:

"The Trusteeship Council,

"Resolves to instruct future visiting missions to make the necessary contacts to ensure the distribution of information documents containing information relating to the United Nations and, in addition, to make these missions responsible for ascertaining what would be the most suitable form of such documents so that these may reach the widest possible public in the Trust Territories."

That draft resolution was adopted.

Development of a 20-year programme for achieving peace through the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 494 (V)) (continued)

- 42. The PRESIDENT called upon the Council to resume discussion on General Assembly resolution 494 (V) and on the memorandum of the Secretary-General on that subject (A/1304).
- 43. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) recalled that the resolution, which had been adopted by a very large majority in the General Assembly, requested the appropriate organs of the United Nations to give consideration to those portions of the memorandum of the Secretary-General with which they were particularly concerned, and further requested those organs to inform the General Assembly at its sixth session, through the Secretary-General, of any progress achieved through such consideration.
- 44. In the final analysis peace depended on economic and social factors and it was the duty of the Trusteeship Council to further the cause of peace by promoting the economic and social advancement of the peoples of Trust Territories in conformity with the general purposes and principles of the United Nations, and particularly in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XII of the Charter. In that way, the Trusteeship Council would link its activities with the programme for achieving peace through the United Nations.
- 45. In that spirit his delegation wished to submit the draft resolution contained in document T/L.122. Under that resolution, the Trusteeship Council would offer its

- co-operation for the high purposes set forth in the Secretary-General's memorandum and for the wider dissemination of the principles contained in points 8 and 9 of that memorandum, and would request the Administering Authorities of Trust Territories to furnish the Council with information relating to any progress they might have been able to notice in the Trust Territories in connexion with the purposes of the General Assembly resolution.
- 46. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) emphasized that point 9 of the Secretary-General's memorandum advocated the advancement of dependent, colonial or semicolonial peoples towards a place of equality in the world. That was the field in which old relationships would have to be replaced by new ones of equality and fraternity. Point 9 could hardly apply to Trust Territories, where such new relationships had already been established. Consequently, he was not quite clear as to what information Administering Authorities should furnish to the Council under the draft resolution submitted by the Dominican Republic.
- 47. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) thought that the General Assembly resolution in question did not directly concern Trust Territories and consequently did not concern the Trusteeship Council. Indeed, the Secretary-General's memorandum contained suggestions addressed to sovereign Member States, including the Administering Authorities. As those Administering Authorities were responsible, in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreements, for the foreign policy of the Trust Territories under their jurisdiction, the Trust Territories themselves were thus automatically affected.
- 48. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) pointed out that the Dominican draft resolution had only just been distributed. His delegation needed time to study the proposal and consult its government. He therefore proposed that the discussion on it should be deferred until a later meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.