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Chairman: Mr. Santiago PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela).

The Ewe and Togoland unification problem: special report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2424, A/C.4/L.308, A/C.4/L.309/Rev.1, A/C.4/L.310/Rev.1, A/C.4/L.312, A/C.4/L.313, A/C.4/L.314, A/C.4/L.316, A/C.4/L.317) (*continued*)

[Item 31]*

1. Mr. ESPINOSA Y PRIETO (Mexico), explaining the votes his delegation had cast at the previous meeting, said that it had voted in favour of the three draft resolution submitted to the Committee (A/C.4/L.308, A/C.4/L.309/Rev.1, A/C.4/L.310/Rev.1). It regretted that it had been unable to vote for the joint Chilean-Chinese amendment (A/C.4/L.312) because the wording of the text implied that under the Trusteeship Agreement the present relationship between the Gold Coast and Togoland under British administration could be converted into a political union.
2. While he had been impressed by the New Zealand representative's explanation in support of his amendment (A/C.4/L.313) and while he considered that the issue was not a major point of substance, his delegation had been unable to vote for the amendment because it feared that the deletion of the words used in the draft resolution might allow of an interpretation unfavourable to the fundamental objective which it supported, namely, the unification of the two Trust Territories.
3. His delegation regretted that it had been compelled to vote for a draft resolution (A/C.4/L.310/Rev.1) which the United Kingdom delegation had openly opposed. His delegation would have been glad if paragraph 3 of the operative part had merely recommended that no revision of the Trusteeship Agreement should prevent the unification of the two Territories, an essential objective recognized by the General Assembly. As the form in which the paragraph had been drafted, however, in no way conflicted with his delegation's principles and beliefs, it had voted for the paragraph.
4. The Mexican delegation regretted that the suggestion made by the Pakistan representative at the 372nd meeting had not been acted upon. Its concern was not so much the internal division which some members had claimed to observe among the Togoland, an artificial and non-existent division, but rather the

* Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

cleavage which had developed among the Members of the United Nations whose task it was to promote the unification of the two Territories. Moreover, what was infinitely regrettable was that, after the First World War, at the very time when the world was beginning to talk of the right of peoples to self-determination, an artificial frontier had been marked out which had destroyed the unity of so fine a people as the Ewes for the sole purpose of dividing an African sphere of influence between two conquering nations.

5. A mistaken decision could cause immeasurable harm. It was quite clear today that external forces were working towards an objective completely contrary to the Ewe people's wish for unification. Those forces were growing stronger and, what was worse, they would begin to seem plausible despite their origin; no great political acumen was needed to realize that each of the Administering Authorities would persist in trying to attract, and to exert its influence over Togoland, for fear that, if it desisted, Togoland would fall under the influence of the other. In the present case, the Administering Authorities should recognize that guaranteed independence, such as had been granted in similar cases in Europe and America, was not a demagogic demand but a logical solution of the problem.

6. Although many facts and the opinion of the Visiting Mission confirmed the Togoland's desire for unification, the request had been made that the hegemony of the Ewes should not be imposed on the tribes in the northern part of Togoland. But if the Committee did not decide on unification, the only thing it could do would be to abandon the two parts of Togoland, which were already separated, to the Gold Coast and the French Union. Thus, under the pretext of defending the integrity of small separate groups, the United Nations would become accomplices in the final dismemberment of the Ewes, the only indigenous population in the region which had heretofore shown itself capable of unifying the country.

7. His delegation did not understand, therefore, why the constructive suggestion made by the Pakistani representative had met with so little support in the Committee. While paying a tribute to the sponsors of the draft resolutions, which had been submitted after consultation with all the parties concerned, his delegation regretted that the General Assembly could not adopt more far-reaching texts, as the forces opposing unification were continuing to operate. The Pakistani suggestion would have provided an effective solution. While a visiting mission might hinder the Administering Authorities during an election, for example, the presence of a statesman, a discreet and capable diplomat of the United Nations, was bound to work to the advantage of all. The presence in Togoland of a man endowed with full powers by the Organization would serve as a guarantee that it would receive accurate information and sound advice to guide it in taking the necessary decisions.

8. His delegation had willingly voted for the draft resolutions which had been adopted at the previous meeting but it thought that further steps must be taken; otherwise it was practically certain that in a few years the cause of the Ewe people would be lost and the General Assembly's resolutions would have been to no avail.

9. Mr. SCHÜRMAN (Netherlands) observed that because of the absence of representatives from the northern part of Togoland the Committee had been unable to form a general opinion of the wishes of the majority of the Togoland people in respect of unification. His delegation therefore wondered whether the statement in General Assembly resolution 652 (VII) that the unification of the two Togolands was the manifest aspiration of the majority of the population of both Trust Territories was completely accurate.

10. Nevertheless, his delegation would have been glad to vote for the draft resolution in document A/C.4/L.308, submitted by Argentina and six other delegations, for it considered that the reconstitution of the Joint Council would provide the best method of ascertaining the views of all the inhabitants of the two Territories. The rejection of the New Zealand amendment, however, the adoption of which would have avoided any prejudgment of the issue, had prevented his delegation from voting for the joint text, and it had therefore abstained.

11. As the representatives of France and of the United Kingdom had stated that the institution of universal suffrage would present no major difficulties, his delegation had had no objections to voting for the draft resolution sponsored by Brazil and five other Member States (A/C.4/L.309/Rev.1), particularly in view of the deletion of the word "immediately" in paragraph 1 of the operative part which had appeared in the original text.

12. With regard to the draft resolution submitted by Brazil and five other delegations (A/C.4/L.310/Rev.1), his delegation had thought that the Chilean-Chinese amendment (A/C.4/L.312) and the United Kingdom amendment (A/C.4/L.317) definitely improved the original text and introduced necessary corrections. Accordingly, after the rejection of those amendments, he had had to abstain from voting on the draft resolution.

13. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the draft resolutions which had been adopted could be applied by the Administering Authorities and the political parties of Togoland in a manner which would make it possible to achieve a harmonious solution of a difficult problem. He also hoped that that solution, regardless of whether it complied with the preferences or prejudices of certain members of the Committee, would rest on the firm foundation of the opinion of the majority of the entire population of Togoland.

14. Mrs. BOLTON (United States of America) said that her delegation had abstained from voting on the last draft resolution (A/C.4/L.310/Rev.1) because paragraph 3 of the operative part of that resolution, which contained an entirely incorrect statement, had been retained.

15. Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) said that the Venezuelan delegation had been unable to vote for the amendment submitted by Chile and China for the same reasons as those just given by the representative of Mexico.

16. With regard to the United Kingdom amendment, he had been fully satisfied by the statement of the United Kingdom representative, who had said that no

measure concerning Togoland under British administration and the Gold Coast would be taken without the consent of the General Assembly and had thus clearly and frankly admitted the undeniable competence of the Assembly in respect of the Trust Territories. He had been unable, however, to vote for that amendment because it was designed to replace paragraph 3 of the six-Power draft resolution which corresponded much more closely with the views of the Venezuelan delegation as stated by him at the 372nd meeting.

17. Mr. PIGNON (France) saw no need, after the comments which he had already made during the debate, to explain the French delegation's vote on the draft resolution appearing in document A/C.4/L.310/Rev.1.

18. He thought, however, that he should explain his delegation's position with regard to the draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.4/L.308/Rev.1 and A/C.4/L.309/Rev.1. That delegation was not in principle opposed to those two draft resolutions; it was even grateful to the sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.4/L.309/Rev.1 for redrafting their original text in order to make it less peremptory. But his delegation had abstained from voting on the two drafts, because its duty was to leave the French Government free to make decisions and to allow for a most important factor, namely the wish of the Togoland people themselves. There was a freely expressed public opinion in Togoland, and there were democratically elected political organizations and representative institutions. In those institutions and in the country there was a majority opinion. It was not in the power of the Administering Authority to force the majority, which had clearly stated its views in the petitions addressed to the Secretary-General and before the Committee itself, to accept the ruling of the minority in such matters as equal representation on the Joint Council for Togoland Affairs.

19. What the Administering Authority could do, and what it must and would do, would be to negotiate and endeavour to conciliate opinion. It would embark on the task with the best of wills and in absolute sincerity. But in face of those difficulties of which the General Assembly was aware, his delegation felt that abstention was a question of loyalty.

20. U ON SEIN (Burma) recalled his statement during the general debate, in the course of which he had said that his delegation would vote for any draft resolution calculated to promote the speedy unification of Togoland. It had accordingly voted for the three draft resolutions appearing in documents A/C.4/L.308/Rev.1, A/C.4/L.309/Rev.1 and A/C.4/L.310/Rev.1, and the amendments which appeared in documents A/C.4/L.312 and A/C.4/L.314.

Question of South West Africa: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on South West Africa (A/2475 and Add.1 and 2) (continued)

[Item 36]*

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/C.4/L.307)

21. Mr. RIFAI (Syria), Rapporteur, explained that the draft report (A/C.4/L.307) was a purely factual document devoted exclusively to recording the decisions

* Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

adopted by the Committee on the various draft resolutions that had been submitted to it.

22. Mr. NAUDE (Union of South Africa) said that in view of the nature of the draft report, his delegation, which had been the only one to vote against the draft resolutions, would not require a detailed record to be made of its attitude.

The draft report (A/C.4/L.307) was adopted.

Report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2427)

[Item 13]*

23. The CHAIRMAN announced that the permanent observer of Italy to the United Nations had requested permission to participate in an advisory capacity in the Committee's debate on the report of the Trusteeship Council (A/2427), which included a chapter on the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Spinelli, alternate observer of Italy to the United Nations, took a place at the Committee table.

24. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand), President of the Trusteeship Council, presented that organ's report (A/2427). The Council had held only one session in 1953, so that the report was shorter than on previous occasions. In the previous year the Council had decided to follow a new schedule for the examination of annual reports, in order to render its work more efficient and allow the members, the Secretariat and the specialized agencies the time needed to study those reports more thoroughly. At its twelfth session, the Council had examined the annual reports concerning the four Trust Territories in the Pacific and the reports of the 1953 United Nations Visiting Mission to those Territories. It had also examined the annual report on Somaliland under Italian administration. Under its new schedule, the Council would have two regular sessions in the following year; in January it would study the reports concerning the Trust Territories in Africa.

25. Generally speaking, the members of the Council had taken the view that the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific, 1953, had prepared excellent reports, which were both detailed and realistic. They showed that the mission had been completely impartial and they provided a clearer picture of conditions in those Territories. The Council had been able to examine those reports together with the annual reports concerning the four Trust Territories in the Pacific not much more than a month from the date of the mission's return to New York.

26. The examination of petitions from Trust Territories was one of the Council's principal functions. The fundamental right to submit requests and complaints direct to the Trusteeship Council, conferred by the Trusteeship System on individuals and groups, was widely though not always advisedly used. During the period to which the report applied, the Standing Committee on Petitions had examined 258 petitions referring to a wide range of questions and had submitted a recommendation on each to the Council. The Standing Committee had held fifty-four meetings in order to carry out its task and had had to prepare thirty-one reports on the results of its debates. The Committee had sat both during the Council's session and at other times; in conformity with the procedure adopted by the Council, it had made a thorough, conscientious and care-

ful study of all questions raised in the petitions. There had inevitably been, amongst the 394 petitions on the agenda of the twelfth session, some referring to insignificant matters, others repeating complaints already made, many others containing identical complaints and some which apparently should have never been sent to the Secretary-General. In order to avoid abuse of the right of petition and to ensure that important petitions should receive the thorough study which they deserved, the Council had adopted some time previously methods intended to safeguard and protect the interests of petitioners and to preserve its active interest in legitimate complaints. No one pretended that the procedure followed was perfect; it was well to recall that it was continually under review by the Council and that improvements would be made every time they became necessary.

27. The Council had continued, through its Standing Committee on Administrative Unions, to study the operation of the administrative unions. Its report included, on pages 85 and 86, the conclusions of that Committee concerning the Trust Territory of New Guinea.

28. He would not dwell long on the special report concerning the Ewe and Togoland unification problem (A/2424), recently examined by the Committee, but would confine himself to pointing out that the Council had given great attention to the special report on the subject (A/1034) prepared by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa, 1952. Although the Council had not examined the annual reports concerning the Trust Territories of West Africa at its twelfth session, it had nevertheless examined the reports submitted by the 1952 Visiting Mission on Togoland under British administration, Togoland under French administration, the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration (T/1040, T/1041, T/1042, T/1043). Chapter IV of the Council's report (A/2427) gave the recommendations made by the mission in those reports and the preliminary observations of the two Administering Authorities.

29. Furthermore, in accordance with the instructions of the General Assembly, the Council had, at its 465th meeting, heard Mr. Issa, who had made a further oral statement in support of his petition to the Assembly concerning Somaliland under Italian administration (A/C.4/228), and had taken into account the suggestions made by Mr. Issa in preparing its conclusions on that territory. The Council had also decided to postpone the examination of questions raised by the petitioners from the Cameroons under French administration until the following January, since it would then be studying the situation in that Territory; the Council would thus be able to examine the problems raised by the petitioners with the assistance of a special representative from the Cameroons under French administration. The Council had established a Committee to prepare a further report on the complex question of the participation of the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories in the work of the Council. Another chapter of the report referred to the fellowships offered by the governments of Member States to the inhabitants of the Trust Territories. The report explained the reasons why it had been difficult to make full use of the facilities generously and spontaneously offered by certain Member States.

30. The report followed the suggestions that had been made in both the General Assembly and the Council; it might be too long, however, and the time might be

ripe to review the method of presentation. Suggestions to that effect had already been made in the Council, which would consider with interest any observation that the Committee members might make. For example, the sections of the report containing the individual observations of the members of the Council might be modified, since, although such observations were valuable, their authors naturally liked to see them reproduced in full, thereby increasing the length of the report. Moreover, in its present form the report repeated information that had already been provided in other documents.

31. Since the signature of the Charter, constant and definite progress—however slow or insignificant it might sometimes appear—had been made in all the Trust Territories. While that progress was rarely spectacular, the peoples of the Trust Territories were undeniably advancing towards the objectives set down in the Charter. There had been a considerable all-round improvement in their conditions and at the proper time, with the help of the United Nations, they would assume responsibility for their own individual and collective destiny. Both the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly had a contribution to make. They should not retard progress by recriminations or quarrels, but should make a common effort to promote progress in a spirit of co-operation, bearing uppermost in mind the interests and welfare of the population of the Trust Territories.

32. He reserved the right to speak again in the general discussion.

33. The CHAIRMAN thanked the President of the Trusteeship Council for his statement.

HEARING OF MR. ABDULLAH ISSA, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOMALI YOUTH LEAGUE

34. The CHAIRMAN recalled that at its 319th meeting the Committee had decided to hear the representative of the Somali Youth League. He invited Mr. Issa, who was accredited by that organization, to take his place at the Committee table. He noted that the other political parties of Somaliland to which the Committee had granted hearings had informed it by telegram that they would not send a representative to the Committee but that they would send a memorandum expressing their satisfaction with the Italian administration.

Mr. Issa, representative of the Somali Youth League, took a place at the Committee table.

35. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) said that fears were felt by his organization regarding the tendency in some quarters, particularly among the Powers administering Trust Territories, to advocate the extension of the period of trusteeship over Italian Somaliland, which was due to expire in 1960. Doubts had been expressed with regard to economic and social conditions there and particularly to the degree of security necessary for the investment of capital. The Administering Authorities appeared to consider that the remaining period of trusteeship was too short to encourage the investment of capital in the Territory and felt that it should be extended for several decades or perhaps indefinitely, as in the case of the other Trust Territories. It was well known that those Powers were strongly opposed to the idea of a time-limit for the freedom of dependent areas. Somaliland was at present the only Trust Territory with such a time-limit and certain of the Administering Authorities were seeking to undermine the General Assembly's decision to grant it inde-

pendence by 1960, lest the success of that trial case—supposing it were successful—might affect conditions in the other Trust Territories under their control. Their views seemed to be shared by certain representatives of States Members of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration, who had given expression to them in the Trusteeship Council, and by the Italian representative, whose views on the time factor were quoted in the Trusteeship Council's report (A/2427). The Somali Youth League hoped that steps would be taken to remove the Somali people's apprehensions and to restore their full confidence in the United Nations and in Italy. It therefore urged that the General Assembly's decision of 21 November 1949 (resolution 289 (IV)) should be reaffirmed at the current session.

36. The Somali Youth League had recently submitted two memoranda to the United Nations, one dealing with the vital problem of the unification of Somaliland and the other describing some aspects of present political, economic, social and educational conditions in the Territory and demonstrating clearly that existing conditions were wholly unsatisfactory.

37. Despite the fact that Somaliland had become a Trust Territory in 1950, it continued to be governed by legislation dating from the former Italian colonial administration or by war-time proclamations issued by the British military administration. Such legislation was entirely incompatible with the status of Somaliland as a United Nations Trust Territory. The notorious and undemocratic "Penal Decree", under which persons were convicted without ever appearing in court, was still in force. The system of collective punishment was also still applied and Somalis under arrest suffered long periods of pre-trial detention, often more than a year, despite the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council and the Advisory Council that such practices should be abolished. A British military proclamation under which the public assembly of more than five persons, public speeches and peaceful demonstrations were punishable offences was still in force. Since 1950, numerous civil and criminal cases had been judged in accordance with decrees and ordinances issued during the past colonial régime. As in the colonial era, judicial functions were widely exercised by administrative officials, despite article 7 of the Declaration of Constitutional Principles annexed to the Trusteeship Agreement, which stated specifically that the Administering Authority should ensure the absolute independence of the judiciary. The members of the Territorial Council and of the Residency and municipal councils continued to be appointed by the Administration, with the result that those bodies opposed the introduction of political, social and economic reforms.

38. The introduction of elections had been postponed year after year, the only reason given by the Administration being that the establishment of a civil register and a census must come first. The United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa, 1951, however, had considered that a simple system for the registration of voters would be quite adequate (T/947 and Corr.1, para. 141). The Administering Authority was determined to conserve its subservient majority in the Territorial Council, even in the future, as could be seen from the plan for 1954 described on page 47 of the Trusteeship Council's report (A/2427). The real strength of the political parties described as active by the Administering Authority

would not be known until free elections were held. The system of universal suffrage had been introduced in certain dependent territories in Africa with largely illiterate populations, but its introduction into Somaliland was not yet in sight. Nor did there seem to be any prospect of setting up duly elected legislative organs. Legislative powers remained entirely in the hands of the Administrator.

39. Despite the repeated demand for the speedier somalization of the Administration, all posts of responsibility continued to be occupied by non-Somalis. It was clear that the Administering Authority intended to preserve the present structure of the Administration, which was almost identical with that under the former colonial régime, the various provinces and districts being administered through appointed regional and district commissioners who represented the Administrator. It would be a great advance if the Somalis were to be invited to elect by direct methods central and municipal legislative organs to replace the commissioners. Tribal affairs continued to be directed by government-paid tribal chiefs and notables. In recent years there had been a revival of tribalism throughout the Territory, deliberately encouraged by officials of the Administration in accordance with the policy of "divide and rule".

40. At its twelfth session, the Trusteeship Council had examined numerous petitions submitted by indigenous inhabitants of Somaliland. Several had concerned serious cases of land alienation which had occurred since the start of United Nations trusteeship. It was to be regretted that the Trusteeship Council had once again failed to give those complaints due consideration. The Trusteeship Council had also failed to approve the General Assembly's recommendation, in its resolution 656 (VII), that a special questionnaire should be drafted for the Trust Territory and that a separate visiting mission should be sent there.

41. Certain Powers which were seeking to delay the independence of Somaliland argued that the Territory's economic position was extremely difficult and that it could not exist without outside financial assistance. It was true that Somaliland's known national resources were at present limited, but that was because nothing had been done so far to develop the Territory's full economic potentialities. The report of the Technical Assistance Mission which had surveyed the Territory in 1951 (ST/TAA/K Somaliland/1) stated that there were great possibilities of improving Somaliland's economy, particularly in agriculture and stock-raising. There were also possibilities of improving and expanding existing light industries and of utilizing sub-soil mineral deposits.

42. The Administering Authority itself recognized the seriousness of the Territory's economic plight, but despite the Trusteeship Council's recommendations it had not yet completed a comprehensive plan of economic development. The absence of such a plan had contributed to the deterioration of the economic situation felt in recent years, as had the unnecessary trade restrictions introduced early in 1950, and the bad state of the roads. Financial and technical assistance was needed to improve the primitive methods used by the Somalis engaged in farming, stock-raising and fishing. It could be seen from page 54 of the Trusteeship Council's report (A/2427) that while production of staple food crops had declined, certain commercial crops, chiefly the banana, had increased considerably. Bananas produced locally were exported to Italy where they enjoyed

a privileged market. A handful of influential Italian farmers who held a monopoly over the lucrative banana export trade were trying hard to prevent the mechanization and improvement of native farming, perhaps because they were afraid of possible competition. They had powers and means of influencing not only the local Administration but also the Bureau of Somaliland Affairs in Rome, and seemed to be the Territory's real authority.

43. The most serious economic problem continued to be the budgetary deficit. Italy claimed to contribute annually about two-thirds of the Territory's total revenue. However, in 1950-1951 about 73.3 per cent of the contribution received from Italy, or some 60 per cent of total expenditure, had gone on military appropriations, while further sums had been spent on police forces and district police units. In the financial year 1951-1952, 57.1 per cent of the Italian contribution, or 37.3 per cent of the total expenditure, had again gone on military expenditure. Separate allocations had again been made to the police. It was clear that the budgetary deficit was in fact caused by the huge military and police expenditure. If the large numbers of Italian officers, troops and *carabinieri* still stationed in the Territory were to be sent back to Italy, the problem of reducing the deficit would be much easier. The replacement of many of the European staff of the Administration by indigenous employees would also reduce expenses.

44. Both the nomadic and settled population of Somaliland suffered from extremely unsatisfactory social conditions. Native quarters throughout the Territory were unhygienic and overcrowded. No sanitation facilities were provided and disease was rife. The standard of living of the Somali people was one of the lowest in the world. Combined appropriations for public health and veterinary services during the current fiscal year amounted to only 9.2 per cent of the total estimated expenditure. Hospitals and dispensaries were consequently inadequate in number and efficiency. The Territory, which covered about half a million square kilometres and had an estimated population of over 1,300,000 was served by only fifty Italian physicians.

45. Unemployment was wide-spread and no solution to the problem was in sight. The meagre appropriations for public works, some 10 per cent of the estimated expenditure, were quite inadequate. The cost of living was higher than it had ever been. Appropriations for public education in 1951-1952, the year under review, had been only 6.3 per cent of the whole. The budgetary estimates, published recently for the first time since the start of the trusteeship administration, provided for only 7.6 per cent of the reduced total expenditure to be spent on education. As a result of the small appropriations, school facilities were completely inadequate. Thousands of Somali children of school age and adults throughout the Territory failed every year to receive any elementary education. The nomadic and semi-nomadic peoples had no State schools at all. No further steps had been taken to combat illiteracy, despite the Administering Authority's pledge to promote the educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory. The Administering Authority should be urged to take positive steps without further delay to improve education in the Territory during the short period of trusteeship remaining.

46. The foregoing summary of political, economic, social and educational conditions in Somaliland clearly showed that they were far from satisfactory. He again

urged the General Assembly to take all necessary steps to ensure the independence of Somaliland by 1960, and gave a list of twenty-four specific requests¹ designed to eliminate the causes of complaint described in his statement and in the memoranda submitted by the Somali Youth League.

47. In conclusion, he noted that his instructions when he had appeared before the twelfth session of the Trusteeship Council had been not to press complaints of ill-treatment and persecution. In a similar effort to improve relations between the Administration and the Somali Youth League, and to contribute further to the slackening of political tensions in the Territory described at that session of the Council, he had purposely refrained from referring to certain acts of political persecution which had been committed against the Somali Youth League since that time.

48. Mr. ALLOUNI (Syria) asked whether the two memoranda that Mr. Issa had mentioned in his statement had appeared as United Nations documents.

49. He requested the Committee to authorize Mr. Issa to attend the meetings at which the Committee would consider the parts of the Trusteeship Council's report dealing with Somaliland under Italian administration.

50. The CHAIRMAN stated that the two memoranda had not appeared as United Nations documents.

51. Ato Katama ABEBE (Ethiopia) saw no objection to having Mr. Issa's statement circulated as a Committee document but pointed out that the Ethiopian Government, which had been invited to study certain problems relating to the Trust Territory, formally objected to the circulation of any document dealing with any part of the territory of the sovereign State of Ethiopia.

52. Mr. DE HOLTE CASTELLO (Colombia) said that the Colombian delegation had been in possession of the two memoranda for a fortnight and that the other Committee members had probably received them also. In those circumstances, and for reasons of economy, it appeared superfluous to have the memoranda circulated as United Nations documents.

53. The CHAIRMAN considered that the Committee might decide to circulate the full text of Mr. Issa's statement to the members of the Committee;² it might decide later whether the two memoranda, copies of which were in the hands of the Committee, the Secretariat and the delegations, would appear as official documents.

It was so decided.

54. Mr. ALLOUNI (Syria) added that that procedure would give the Committee members time to study the two texts in order to determine whether Ethiopian sovereignty was involved.

55. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) noted that there was some disagreement between the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration and the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory with regard to concessions granted for prospecting and exploiting petroleum deposits in the Territory. Since those concessions were for a period of forty years and might have an important effect on the economic future of the Terri-

tory, he believed that the Committee should arrange to have the documents of the Advisory Council relating to that matter transmitted to the Committee, to enable it to arrive at a better informed opinion on the problem as a whole, particularly with regard to the nature and the scope of the rights granted to the concessionaires and the terms on which the concessions had been granted.

56. In reply to an observation by Mr. DE HOLTE CASTELLO (Colombia), Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) stated that he was familiar with document T/1048, but that it provided no information regarding the nature of the concessions and their possible effect on the economic life of the Territory. He therefore requested that the documents of the Advisory Council and all other relevant documents should be circulated as Committee documents.

57. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat would study the question and inform the Committee at its next meeting whether it was possible to comply with the Yugoslav representative's request.

58. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) understood that Mr. Issa and the organization that he represented demanded the systematic repeal of all legislation passed before the date on which Somaliland had been placed under trusteeship. The repeal of a law dating from the colonial period was justified if it was not satisfactory or if its application entailed disadvantages, but he wondered whether certain purely administrative regulations designed to ensure the normal functioning of a country, such as port regulations, should be abolished solely because they had been enacted while Somaliland was still a colony.

59. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) said that the organization for which he spoke demanded the repeal, pure and simple, of all legislation adopted during the colonial régime because the legislation of that period was incompatible with Somaliland's new status as a Trust Territory. When Somaliland had been a colony, all the laws which had applied to Somaliland had been passed by the metropolitan country by royal decrees or governor's decrees. The Somalis wanted their legislation to be laid down by their own legislative bodies, the members of which should be elected by universal suffrage from among the indigenous population.

60. Mr. INGLÉS (Philippines) reserved the right to question the representative of the Somali Youth League after he had carefully studied the text of his statement. However, he wished to inquire forthwith concerning the alienation of indigenous lands in Somaliland under Italian administration. Was that alienation carried out for the benefit of non-indigenous persons or groups, did it entail the arbitrary transfer of title, and, assuming that it was effected by means of a lease, did the duration of the lease exceed that of the trusteeship régime?

61. Mr. ISSA (Somali Youth League) stated that in all cases mentioned in the petitions the persons who had benefited from the alienation of lands since the administration of the Territory had been entrusted to Italy had been Italian companies or individuals. Moreover, the lands had not been leased; the legitimate owners had been stripped of their title.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

¹ See document A/C.4/253.

² Subsequently circulated as document A/C.4/253.