

552 (VI). Examination of petitions

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 435 (V) of 2 December 1950 it expressed the opinion that the careful study of petitions is one of the fundamental responsibilities of the Trusteeship Council and that it is essential, in the interests of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories, to improve in every possible way the procedure for the examination of petitions,

Recalling that in the same resolution it recommended that the Trusteeship Council consider a number of possible means of improving its procedure in respect of the examination of petitions, among them the constitution of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Petitions as a standing committee and the desirability of the Administering Authorities submitting special information concerning action taken on the recommendations of the Council in respect of petitions examined;

Considering that the Trusteeship Council, while revising to a limited extent in the course of its eighth and ninth sessions² its procedure in respect of the examination of petitions, has not yet devised a procedure which accords fully with the importance of this function and with the interests of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories, and considering that the Council requested its members to give further study to means of perfecting a procedure for the examination of petitions,

Considering that the number of petitions received has been increasing from year to year,

1. *Recommends* that the Trusteeship Council:

(a) Constitute a standing committee for the examination of petitions which shall meet as soon as possible whenever necessary between sessions of the Council as well as during sessions of the Council;

(b) Devise a procedure by which the standing committee will examine each petition in a preliminary way, within a prescribed period of time after the receipt of the petition by the Administering Authority concerned, and in conjunction with such observations as may be submitted thereon by the Administering Authority on its own initiative or at the request of the standing committee, or as may be obtained by the standing committee from any other official or responsible source which it deems useful, and will prepare, on the basis of this preliminary examination, proposals for action to be taken on each petition by the Council;

2. *Requests* the Administering Authorities to submit to the Trusteeship Council each year special information concerning action taken on the recommendations of the Council in respect of all petitions examined, except in those cases where the Council does not deem it necessary.

*361st plenary meeting,
18 January 1952.*

553 (VI). Organization and methods of functioning of visiting missions

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 434 (V) of 2 December 1950 it recommended that the Trusteeship Council review the organization and functioning of visiting mis-

sions to the Trust Territories, taking into account in particular the advisability of reducing the number of Trust Territories to be visited by a single visiting mission and of extending the duration of visits without diminishing their frequency,

1. *Notes* that in organizing its Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa in 1951 the Trusteeship Council decided, in its resolution 344 (X) of 5 July 1951, that the Mission should visit three Trust Territories as compared with two visited by the previous Mission to that area in 1948;

2. *Notes* that, by fixing in the same resolution an interval of time between the dispatch of the 1951 Visiting Mission and the submission of its report only slightly in excess of the corresponding period of time taken by the 1948 Visiting Mission, the Trusteeship Council precluded any possibility of the 1951 Visiting Mission spending an appreciably longer time in the Trust Territories concerned;

3. *Notes further* that, in its resolution 343 (IX) of 6 June 1951, the Trusteeship Council also decided that, in making arrangements for future visiting missions, it would take into account the observations and suggestions of a committee of the Council which considered, *inter alia*, that, while two separate missions should be sent, if possible, to the four Trust Territories in the Pacific area every three years, one mission only was sufficient to cover the four West African Trust Territories and one the three East African Trust Territories;

4. *Recommends* that the Trusteeship Council again review its procedures in respect of the organization and functioning of visiting missions, bearing in mind the financial implications, with a view to:

(a) Increasing the duration of each visit to each Trust Territory;

(b) Reducing the number of Trust Territories to be visited by a single visiting mission; and

(c) Achieving these ends without diminishing the frequency of visits to the Trust Territories;

5. *Reaffirms* the desirability of each visiting mission being constituted as much as possible from among representatives who sit on the Trusteeship Council;

6. *Recommends*, however, that, whenever it is necessary for practical reasons to appoint members other than representatives who sit on the Trusteeship Council, the Council consider inviting Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Trusteeship Council to nominate suitably qualified persons.

*361st plenary meeting,
18 January 1952.*

554 (VI). Participation of the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories in the work of the Trusteeship Council

The General Assembly,

Considering that point 9 of the Secretary-General's "Memorandum³ of points for consideration in the development of a twenty-year programme for achieving peace through the United Nations" advocates the use of the United Nations to promote by peaceful means

² See Trusteeship Council resolution 347 (IX).

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 60.

the progress of dependent, colonial or semi-colonial peoples to a position of equality with Member States of the United Nations,

Considering that resolution 494 (V) adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1950 requests the appropriate organs of the United Nations to consider those portions of the Secretary-General's memorandum with which they are particularly concerned,

Considering that, under Article 76 b of the Charter, the basic objectives of the International Trusteeship System are to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories, and their progressive development towards self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of each Territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, and as may be provided by the terms of each trusteeship agreement,

Considering that the General Assembly on 18 January 1952 adopted⁴ a resolution on the participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories,⁵

Considering that the direct association of the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories in the work of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies is an effective measure of promoting the progress of the indigenous inhabitants of those territories towards a position of equality with Member States of the United Nations,

1. *Notes* that special provisions exist in the constitutions of some of the specialized agencies and of the regional commissions of the United Nations permitting, on the proposal of the Administering Member concerned, the admission to those agencies and commissions of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories as "associate members";

2. *Commends* the practice referred to in the preceding paragraph;

3. *Invites* the Trusteeship Council to examine the possibility of associating the inhabitants of the Trust Territories more closely in its work and to report the results of its examination of this problem to the General Assembly at its seventh regular session.

361st plenary meeting,
18 January 1952.

555 (VI). The Ewe and Togoland unification problem

The General Assembly,

Noting that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 441 (V) of 2 December 1950, the Trusteeship Council has devoted a special chapter⁶ of its annual report to setting forth the steps undertaken in

connexion with the Ewe and Togoland unification question,

Noting in particular the endorsement⁷ by the Trusteeship Council of the decision of the Administering Authorities concerned to terminate the activities of the Standing Consultative Commission and to establish a Joint Council for Togoland Affairs to advise them on matters of common concern to the two Trust Territories, and to assist in harmonizing development in these Territories,

Noting that the Trusteeship Council also recommended⁸ that the two Administering Authorities ensure that the scope of responsibilities of the proposed joint council be sufficiently broad to enable it to exercise its functions with respect to all questions of common concern to the people of the two Trust Territories, including questions of political, economic, social, educational and cultural development,

Noting that the Trusteeship Council further recommended⁹ that the method of determining the composition and selecting the members of the joint council be such as to ensure, if possible, the participation of the major groups in the two Trust Territories,

Having examined the arrangements made by the two Administering Authorities concerned for the establishment and operation of the joint council as set out in document A/C.4/198,

Having considered the oral representation¹⁰ made in regard to these arrangements by the representatives of the All-Ewe Conference, the Joint Togoland Congress and the *Comité de l'unité togolaise*,

1. *Notes* the objections raised by those representatives against the proposed arrangements in respect of, firstly, their inadequacy as a means of solving the Ewe and Togoland unification problem and, secondly, their failure to ensure equitable and democratic representation of all sections of the population;

2. *Notes with concern*, from the statements made by those representatives in amplification of petitions received from the Trust Territories, the atmosphere of tension which appears to exist in the Territories as a result of the delay in arriving at an adequate solution, and notes also the statements¹¹ in a different sense made by the representatives of the *Parti togolais du progrès* and the *Union des Chefs et des populations du nord du Togo sous administration française*;

3. *Notes further* the comments¹² of the two Administering Authorities concerned on the observations of the petitioners;

4. *Urges* the two Administering Authorities concerned and the peoples involved to exert every effort to achieve a prompt, constructive and equitable settlement of the problem, taking fully into account the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned;

5. *Recommends* to this end that the Administering Authorities consult fully with the various parties and groups concerned before constituting the proposed joint

⁴ See resolution 566 (VI), p. 60.

⁵ The General Assembly decided, by resolution 569 (VI), p. 63, that the Special Committee on Information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter should henceforth be known as the "Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories".

⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Supplement No. 4*, part I, chapter IV.

⁷ See Trusteeship Council resolution 345 (IX).

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Fourth Committee*, 226th, 228th, 229th, and 234th meetings.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 233rd meeting.

¹² *Ibid.*, 229th and 233rd meetings.