



Trusteeship Council

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ENGLISH

Fifty-sixth session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 1 August 1989, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. BIRCH (United Kingdom)

- Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council (Security Council resolution 70 (1949))
- Closure of the session

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The meeting was called to order at 11.20 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL (Security Council resolution 70 (1949))

The PRESIDENT: As members will recall, the Trusteeship Council, on 1 June this year, decided, in conformity with the procedure adopted at previous sessions of the Council, to suspend its meetings and to meet in resumed session to consider the Council's draft report to the Security Council. This meeting has been called to consider and adopt the draft report which was transmitted to all members of the Council.

As members will note, the draft report consists of the report of the nineteenth special session, held on 16 and 17 March 1989, and the report of the fifty-sixth regular session.

Members will recall that the Council, at its 1660th meeting, held on 17 March 1989, authorized the Secretariat, in consultation with the President and members of the Council, to prepare a report on the work of the nineteenth special session for inclusion in the Council's next annual report to the Security Council on its work at its fifty-sixth session. In completing that report the Secretariat followed the same procedure adopted in previous years and has used the official verbatim records of the Council's meetings during the nineteenth special session.

Part I of the report of the fifty-sixth session is entitled "Organization and activities of the Trusteeship Council". In completing that part, the Secretariat also followed the same procedure adopted in previous years and has used the official verbatim records of the Council's meetings during the current session.

Council members will also note that Part II of the report contains the Council's conclusions and recommendations, which were adopted by the Council at its 1671st meeting, held on 1 June 1989.

Does any member wish to comment on the draft report before us?

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I merely wish to suggest that the Council go quickly through the various parts of the draft report so that members could propose any amendments they deemed appropriate.

I myself would like to request that a phrase be added on page 18 of the draft English text. As amended, the final paragraph of that page would begin:

(spoke in English)

"The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics welcomed the participation of the delegation of the People's Republic of China in the work of the Trusteeship Council and its valuable contribution to the work of the Council. He stated that his delegation ..."

(continued in Russian)

and would continue as it is in the draft text before us. I do not imagine this will cause any difficulties.

It is, of course, impossible for the report to reflect fully all the other statements made by our delegation and other delegations; that is why records of our meetings exist. But since this is the first session in which the delegation of the People's Republic of China has participated I think it is entirely appropriate for the report to reflect our delegation's statement in that part of the report.

The PRESIDENT: I am sure no member of the Council will have any objection to that addition to the draft report. That being the case, I would ask the Secretariat to make that amendment to the draft report.

If no other delegation wishes to speak before the vote, I shall now put to the vote the draft report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council, as orally amended.

The draft report, as orally amended, was adopted by 4 votes to 1.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on those representatives wishing to speak in explanation of vote.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I wish first of all to thank the Secretariat for its work, in accordance with the Council's instructions, in preparing the draft report of the Trusteeship Council on its present session. I think the Secretariat has demonstrated its experience and its knowledge of the subject, and that it has attentively followed and taken note of our debate.

In our view, the report adequately reflects the discussions that took place during the Council's meetings. From that point of view, my delegation has no objection whatsoever to the report.

However, we were obliged to vote against adoption of the report because of the conclusions and recommendations contained in part II of the text. These were adopted by a vote in which the Soviet delegation voted against because of its inability to support them, since, as we have stated from the very outset, the conclusions and recommendations of the Trusteeship Council should be formulated on the basis of consensus, and in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Trusteeship Agreement and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

Since that did not happen, and as we had voiced certain criticisms of the conclusions and recommendations, which I shall not repeat now, we were naturally unable to support those conclusions and recommendations and we had no alternative to voting against adoption of the report as a whole. I hope that by our next session we shall be able to find a way to take fuller account of the opinions expressed by all delegations and do everything possible to ensure that our dialogue is productive and that our decisions are taken on a consensus basis.

The PRESIDENT: With the adoption of the report to the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council has now concluded its work for its fifty-sixth session.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): On behalf of the delegation of the United States of America, I should like to thank you most warmly, Mr. President, for the superb work you have done during your stewardship of the Trusteeship Council. You have been a masterful President - fair, wise and judicious. We are sad to see you leave, but we wish you all success in your next mission.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United States for those very kind words addressed to me. In my turn, I should like to thank the members of the Council for the patience and consideration they have shown me during this session and on their behalf to express our thanks to all the members of the Secretariat - the conference officers, translators and interpreters - for the skilful and dedicated work they have done on our behalf.

Mr. MENAT (France) (interpretation from French): I had not intended to have the last word at this session, Mr. President, but before you officially declare the session closed I wish to associate myself with the congratulations - fully justified - offered you by the representative of the United States and with

(Mr. Menat, France)

her best wishes for your future career. The French delegation much appreciates the outstanding way in which you have conducted the work of this session. Once again, we wish to thank you.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of France for those kind words addressed to me.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT: I declare closed the fifty-sixth session of the Trusteeship Council.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.