

UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

50 WEST 57TH STREET  
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.  
CIRCLE 6-4400

Washington, D.C.  
May 5, 1947

My dear Mr. President:

May I hand to you this very brief and personal report of the work of the first session of the United Nations Trusteeship Council, in which you signally honored me by appointing me the United States representative. The Council held its first session at the seat of the United Nations from March 26 to April 28, 1947. All the ten States members were present except the Soviet Union, which sent no reply to the Secretariat's letter of notification of the meeting and which was absent throughout. No official reason was given for its absence.

The following persons represented their respective Governments:

Australia - The Honorable Norman J. O. Makin  
Belgium - M. Pierre Ryckmans  
China - Dr. Liu Chieh  
France - H.E. M. Roger Garreau  
Iraq - H.E. Ali Jawdat  
Mexico - H.E. Dr. Luis Padilla Nervo  
New Zealand - Sir Carl Berendsen  
United Kingdom - Mr. Ivor Thomas  
United States - Mr. Francis B. Sayre

The representatives in the Council proved to be men of exceptional ability, experience and devotion to the high objectives of the Trusteeship System. The session was marked by unusual unity of purpose, by the absence of political or sectional intrigue and of cleavages. There was no marked separation of the members into two camps, - the administering and the non-administering powers.

At

The President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

At the first meeting the United States was honored by the election of myself as President of the Council. Sir Carl Berendsen of New Zealand was elected Vice-President. In order to perform my duties as an impartial President, I asked Mr. Benjamin Gerig, whom you had appointed as my deputy, to present the positions of the United States in the Council meetings. He and I consulted each morning on all questions likely to arise in the Council and therefore, in presenting the United States' position, reflected in full my own views and decisions.

This first session of the Council was largely organizational in character and devoted the major part of its time to drawing up its Rules of Procedure. It also formulated a comprehensive Questionnaire to be sent to each of the administering powers as a basis for the preparation of their annual reports relating to the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of these territories, as required under Article 88 of the Charter.

In addition to its organizational work, the Trusteeship Council examined a number of petitions which were of special significance as shaping the course of future hearings and fixing new precedents. Among the petitions heard were one from the leaders and representatives of Western Samoa requesting that Samoa be granted self-government under the protection of New Zealand, and others from various German and Italian residents or former residents of Tanganyika, protesting against their threatened deportation or exclusion from Tanganyika and their repatriation to Germany.

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With respect to Samoa, the Council decided, upon the suggestion of the New Zealand Government, to send a visiting mission to Western Samoa in order to investigate the petition, to ascertain all the relevant facts, and to report back to the Trusteeship Council. Upon the insistence of the Trusteeship Council and in accordance with the favorable attitude of the Department of State to my going, I agreed to undertake the headship of this mission and to visit Western Samoa during the coming months of July and August. M. Pierre Ryckmans, a member of the Trusteeship Council representing Belgium, who as Governor of the Belgian Congo for many years gained exceptional experience in colonial administration, was also designated, and an effort is being made to secure a representative of a non-administering

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state as a third member of the mission. We expect to meet in Wellington, New Zealand, on or about June 25th, and proceed directly from there to Western Samoa.

I feel that this first session of the Trusteeship Council fully succeeded in its task. I hope and believe that it will inaugurate a new chapter in international cooperative effort for the improvement of the life and standards of non-governing peoples, not only in trust territories, but everywhere in the world. The Council should contribute measurably to the building of solid foundations for stable peace. I look forward to the future work of the Trusteeship Council with great hope.



Very sincerely yours,

*Francis B. Sayre*

Francis B. Sayre  
Representative of the United States  
in the Trusteeship Council