

Tanganyika

No. 61/14 Report of the Trusteeship Council

Statement by Mr. Martial Asselin, Canadian Representative on the 4th Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, October 10, 1961.

Madame Chairman:

At the outset may I be permitted to extend to you the sincere congratulations and good wishes of the Canadian delegation on your election as chairman of the 4th Committee. We are confident that you will preside over our deliberations with grace, tact and impartiality, those same qualities which you have so often displayed in the past. It is a matter of particular satisfaction and pleasure that you are not only the first woman to preside over this Committee but also the first African to do so. I wish to assure you, Madame Chairman, of the full cooperation of the Canadian delegation in tackling the work that lies before us.

May I also associate my delegation with the good wishes that have been extended to our vice-chairman, Mr. Lulo, and to our rapporteur, Mr. Houaiss. I am especially happy that my friend, Mr. Houaiss, who has made such an outstanding contribution to the work of this Committee, has been honoured by election to the post of rapporteur. We wish him well and we extend to all members of the Bureau our best wishes for a stimulating, productive and untroubled session.

On this occasion we would wish, through you, to extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family of Heinrich Wieschhoff who died in Africa on a mission of peace in the company of his friend, Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld.

Mr. Wieschhoff was a devoted servant of the United Nations, a scholar of wide learning and a friend of colonial peoples everywhere. The individual contribution which he made to fulfilment of the aims of the trusteeship system is deserving of the highest praise and will never be forgotten. He will be sorely missed.

The past year has seen further progress towards the goal of the United Nations trusteeship system - its self-liquidation. Of the original eleven trust territories, four had attained independence by the end of 1960. In less than two months' time we will welcome the accession to independence of Tanganyika, to be followed shortly afterwards by the termination of trusteeship in Western Samoa.

My delegation has already had occasion to express its gratification at the end of trusteeship administration in the Cameroons. The successful establishment, on October 1, of the Federal Republic of Cameroun in an atmosphere of amity, friendship and co-operation marks the emergence of a new federal state on the West African scene. It is a bilingual state with a federal