



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL
Thirty-third Session
OFFICIAL RECORDS

Thursday, 30 June 1966,
 at 10.50 a.m.

NEW YORK

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Agenda items 4, 5 and 6:

Examination of annual reports of the Administering Authorities on the administration of Trust Territories for the year ended 30 June 1965:

(c) Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)

Report of the World Health Organization on its investigation of the complaints contained in a petition concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)

Examination of petitions listed in the annex to the agenda (continued)

General debate. 31

President: Mr. Francis D. W. BROWN
(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, China, France, Liberia, New Zealand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

AGENDA ITEMS 4, 5 AND 6

Examination of annual reports of the Administering Authorities on the administration of Trust Territories for the year ended 30 June 1965:

(c) Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued) (T/1652, T/L.1110)

Report of the World Health Organization on its investigation of the complaints contained in a petition concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued) (T/1647)

Examination of petitions listed in the annex to the agenda (continued) (T/PET.10/L.10, T/PET.10/L.11)

GENERAL DEBATE

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Norwood, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, took a place at the Council table.

1. Mrs. ANDERSON (United States of America) introduced to the members of the Council Mr. Roy Taylor

and Mr. Phil Burton, who were both members of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives. The Committee dealt with the affairs of the Trust Territory.

2. The PRESIDENT welcomed the two members of Congress, who would take part in the Council's debates as observers.

3. Mr. BASDEVANT (France) noted with satisfaction that the Territory was developing at an ever-increasing pace and that the Micronesian people could look forward to further political, economic and social progress.

4. The inauguration of the Congress of Micronesia was a highly important milestone. Through that body the people of Micronesia would be able to express their views and progressively take over responsibility for managing their own affairs. So far the Congress had been in session for only one month, but, judging by the legislation and resolutions it had adopted, it had made a good start. Its resolutions in particular were evidence of its desire to concern itself with the problems of the Territory as a whole.

5. The experiment thus begun would, however, be fruitful only if the Administration of the Territory co-operated closely with the Congress of Micronesia and if the latter's powers were expanded. Thus, it would be desirable if the Congress held more frequent sessions and if one such session were devoted to a consideration of the budget estimates to be submitted to the United States Congress. The Congress of Micronesia should also be able to express its views on the Territory's development plans; then it should be given more extensive legislative powers and the right to adopt the budget, until such time as the Congress itself drafted the Territory's Constitution.

6. The Micronesians must begin forthwith to prepare themselves for that development and take stock of the responsibilities that would devolve upon them. For that purpose, political activity in the Territory should also be encouraged at the district and local levels. Efforts should be made not only to train but also to maintain a Micronesian élite to occupy responsible posts in the Administration.

7. He welcomed the assignment of some 400 to 500 Peace Corps volunteers. It was to be hoped that, if the experiment was successful, that number might be increased and that it would thereby be possible to extend the influence of the Administering Authority even to the most deprived areas of the Territory.

8. His delegation also noted with satisfaction that the United States Government had not only increased its budgetary assistance to the Territory but also intended to allocate substantial amounts to the economic and social development of the Islands.

9. With regard to economic development, his delegation had taken note of the efforts made in some vital areas, for example, the establishment of experimental farms, crop diversification, the improvement of the quality of agricultural products, the existence of a Copra Stabilization Fund and the founding of co-operatives and credit organizations. There also seemed to be good prospects for the development of a handicrafts industry. Lastly, the Administering Authority's efforts to promote the fisheries industry should foster its development and perhaps lead to the establishment of canneries. It was not enough, however, for the Territory to produce more and, consequently, export more; markets must also be open to it. In that connexion, it was regrettable that United States customs duties discouraged some exports to the United States.

10. The Administering Authority had drawn attention to Micronesia's potential tourist industry, which should be able to make a substantial contribution to the economy if transport problems were solved. While the infrastructure had already been greatly

improved, the effort along those lines should be continued, particularly by modernizing harbour facilities and building all-weather roads and concrete runways.

11. As regards the social sector, his delegation was pleased to note the progress made in education; nevertheless, it had to express concern over the conclusions of the report of the World Health Organization (T/1647) on the health services of the Territory, although it noted that the Administering Authority had expressed its intention of remedying the shortcomings pointed out in the report.

12. In conclusion, his delegation noted with satisfaction that, in fulfilment of its obligations, the Administering Authority intended to ensure that the Territory made further progress, and was convinced that it would continue its efforts to enable the population to decide its political future in due course.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.