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Fifty-fourth Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 15 May 1987 at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. GAUSSOT (Vice-President) (France)

later: Mr. BIRCH (President) (United Kingdom)

- Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1986: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
(continued)
- Organization of work
- Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General [Trusteeship Council resolution 36 (III) and General Assembly resolution 754 (VIII)]

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Gausso (France), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1986: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): This morning the Council will continue its examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and members will continue with questioning of the representatives of the Administering Authority.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It has been revealed at the current session of the Trusteeship Council that the conditions of the so-called Covenant establishing a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands signed between the United States of America and the Northern Mariana Islands are not in fact in conformity with the understanding reached by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands concerning sovereignty and self-government. The group of petitioners from the Northern Mariana Islands have told the Council that the Administering Authority simply deceived them; that in signing the Covenant the Northern Mariana Islands fell into a trap.

Would the representative of the Administering Authority explain the substance of that difference of opinion between the United States of America and the Northern Mariana Islands?

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): As I said yesterday, we shall, as we have done for many years past, reply to comments, questions and complaints by petitioners in a composite statement that will be delivered somewhat later in this session.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am surprised that the representative of the United States views the representative of the Soviet Union as a petitioner before this Council. The representative of the Soviet Union has put a question to the representative of the Administering Authority. The Administering Authority, of course, has the right to respond to the petitioners when it will, but this is a matter of responding to the delegation of the Soviet Union.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

If the representative of the Administering Authority cannot answer the question that has been asked, she should so state. We are prepared to wait until the representative of the Administering Authority is ready to answer this question we have raised.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I suppose that the representative of the United States said that she would answer the question at a later stage because the question raised was indeed raised by petitioners. However, perhaps the representative of the United States would like to add something to her reply?

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I listened very carefully to the interpretation of the remarks of the representative of the Soviet Union, and so far as I could discern, those remarks were clearly phrased as repeating the criticisms or laments of a petitioner. I did answer it in that fashion.

He now makes clear that he himself is raising the issue. I think, though, that since I am going to answer the question a bit later, I will - even though he now makes clear that it is his own question, which was not clear in the beginning - in any case stick with my answer that I shall answer it at a somewhat later date.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Perhaps the Soviet delegation could wait for an answer at a later state, because it will certainly be answered.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I would like to emphasize once again that we are members of the Trusteeship Council and entitled to avail ourselves of any information that reaches us. It is not important who mentioned a given fact first or which petitioner brought up a given fact; in this case the representative of the Soviet Union has asked a question of the representative of the Administering Authority. It does not

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

matter if that same question was mentioned in a statement by one of the petitioners. I am now ready to discuss the question I have raised with the Administering Authority, not on the basis of the statement of the petitioner but on the basis of the press releases that were issued by the President of the United States and the Special Representative of the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands, a joint statement issued on 26 November 1986. In fact, my question was really based on the information I gathered from that press release.

If the representative of the United States cannot now or is not ready to answer that question, that is another matter. But it must be taken up. It is, however, a question of the Soviet Union to members of the Trusteeship Council and ought not be lumped in with the replies to be given to matters raised by petitioners. If the representative of the United States is not ready to answer the question, I shall raise another.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In the interests of clarity in our debate, it might indeed be preferable to go to other questions.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should now like to refer to page 9 of the annual report of the Administering Authority. On that page, under the heading May 1986, we read:
(spoke in English)

"President Reagan appointed Assistant Secretary of Interior Richard T. Montoya as his personal representative to discussions on non-financial issues of the Covenant. Governor Tenorio appointed Lieutenant Governor Pedro A. Tenorio to head the CNMI negotiating team."

(continued in Russian)

I would ask the representative of the Administering Authority if she could clarify for us exactly what issues were considered at those talks? What sort of talks were they? What was their substance?

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I would ask that Mr. James Berg answer this question. Mr. Berg was, throughout, a member of the negotiating delegation on the United States side, and he will be able to clarify the matters about which the representative of the Soviet Union has asked.

Mr. BERG (Special Adviser): As the Council is well aware, and as we have stated many times in prior sessions of the Council, the central provisions of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Covenant entered into force in 1978 and have been in force for some period of time. The provisions of that Covenant provide for continuing and regular consultations between the Northern Mariana Islands and the Federal Government of the United States on the implementation of that particular agreement.

In addition, there are provisions in the Covenant which bring about a longer-term review of both its financial and non-financial terms, and this review, in fact, was commenced in the context of the statement included in the annual report and read out by the representative of the Soviet Union. Those discussions continue to this day.

(Mr. Berg, Special Adviser)

Assistant Secretary Montoya of the Department of the Interior was appointed by President Reagan to represent the Federal Government in these ongoing discussions with the Northern Mariana Islands.

The issues that were discussed had to do with implementation of the Covenant, matters relating to and ranging from immigration to the status of personnel to the application or non-application of United States law within the context of the Covenant. All issues that either the Federal Government side or the Northern Marianas side have chosen to raise have been and are continuing to be discussed in the context of these discussions, and, as I have said, those discussions have not been completed and are ongoing right now.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to express my thanks for the reply I have received on this paragraph of the report of the Administering Authority.

I should now like to continue on this topic, and to ask a question. In the course of those discussions, as is indicated by the joint press release, they quoted examples of interference in the management of the Territory and in the internal affairs of the Mariana Islands which they stated were a violation of their right to self-government. Lieutenant Governor Tenorio added:

"We do not wish to be hostages simply because we wish to follow the advice of the Federal Government and to embark on the course of privatization. We have the sort of relations existing between us in which we can be forced to do a great deal against our will and in spite of our views since we can be deprived of funds. Self-government has become a mockery. If the Federal Government says 'It is best for you to do this, otherwise we shall deprive you of your rights', then what sort of self-government is this? I do not see it."

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

In connection with what was said by the Lieutenant Governor, and particularly since I see that one of the members of the Administering Authority's delegation who attended those discussions is now present in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, I should like to ask the representatives of the Administering Authority to clarify what - apart from what is said in the quotation we have just read out - in effect was the disagreement between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): Mr. President, would you be so kind as to ask the representative of the Soviet Union if the matter to which he has referred figures in the report of the Administering Authority now under consideration by the Council?

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Yes, there is a reference to this on page 9 - the passage I have already quoted. This is indeed a reference to the discussions to which we are referring, and it is precisely on the grounds of that information provided by the report that I asked my question.

Furthermore, I should like once again to emphasize that since we are considering not only the report of the Administering Authority as such, but in fact the situation prevailing in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the point that has been raised as to the extent to which the question asked by the representative of the Soviet Union deals with the report of the Administering Authority seems to me to be somewhat strange. Nevertheless, I was basing my question to the representative of the United States on the observations I had just made, and if she is prepared to give a reply I should be very pleased to hear it.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I really must say that I find the explanation of the representative of the Soviet Union to be stretching matters rather widely. Certainly what is before this Council is the report of the Administering Authority. It is somewhat difficult to see how he can drag in a matter that has taken place relatively recently, which seems not to be before the Council. Even so, I will say that the Covenant between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States Government provides for continuing consultation on any matter of interest or dispute or simply of discussion - that is, any matter that needs to be talked about between the two entities will be talked about, and consultations do go on. Consultations are still going on about differences and, not even about differences, but about matters of interest between the two entities.

I believe that those matters will be resolved; they always have been resolved in the past. I have every confidence that they will continue to be so resolved.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to thank the representative of the United States for her reply. Although it did not give a very full picture of exactly what is happening, it was, nevertheless, a reply. According to the representative of the United States, the Trusteeship Council is considering the situation prevailing in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and any suggestion that what is going on in parts of the Territory of the Northern Mariana Islands in particular is not directly relevant to the Council's work. To us, that does not seem entirely warranted.

In response to a question we asked yesterday, the representative of the Administering Authority, in that part which related to Palau at any rate, alleged that in principle the United States is paying not only for the plebiscites being held there, but for a number of other things as well. In this connection, I should like to pose the following question to the Administering Authority: On what basis is Palau now being financed? What is the difference or distinction between the funds Palau received last year and is receiving this year?

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): Before answering the question of the representative of the Soviet Union, I would like a bit of clarification; I may not have heard well. Is his question addressed to the overall funds given to Palau last year as against this year, or does it relate to the funds connected with last year's plebiscite as against the funds for the plebiscite which we were informed on Monday would be held on 23 June?

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Could the representative of the Soviet Union clarify his question on that point, please.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): If the representative of the United States would be kind enough to give us information on both of these items, we would be very grateful.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I may have given the representative of the Soviet Union another question to ask, but anyway we will be happy to supply the information. I would respectfully ask you, Mr. President, to request the High Commissioner to give the information on the funding overall for Palau last year as against this year.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I call on the High Commissioner.

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): May I call the attention of the representative of the Soviet Union to the annual report of the Administering Authority, from which he is quoting. On page 23, in statistics table No. 35, I think he will find spelled out quite decisively the funds for 1984, 1985 and 1986 that were received by Palau and where they came from. As can be seen, there are the DOI regular operations. There are some DOI direct grants, some DOI Special O & M Grants - which means operations and maintenance grants. There are some DOI Transition Grants, since we are somewhat in a state of transition. CIP stands for capital improvement projects. There are some CIP grants in there. Federal Grants have to do with the various agencies of the United States Government which distribute federal funds to all of the Governments of Micronesia, and local revenues. That is about it. Now, the expenditures, of course, are below that.

If there is some particular specific thing that the representative of the Soviet Union would like to know, I would be more than happy to respond. My

(Mrs. McCoy, Special Representative)

Director of Finance, Mr. Inos, is with me; he really controls all of the money, so he would be able to answer anything quite specifically.

The PRESIDENT: (interpretation from French): Does the representative of the Soviet Union have any additional questions to ask on this precise point?

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Yes. I must say that we are acquainted with the report of the Administering Authority. We are also acquainted with the numerous tables annexed to the report. What I wanted from the Administering Authority was not a reference to the tables, but, rather, an evaluation of the difference between last year's and this year's financing of Palau.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): Mr. President, again, I would ask that you call upon the High Commissioner to answer the latest question of the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): If one looks at the table on page 23, to which we called attention, one can see the total amount of the Department of Interior Regular Operations grants that have gone to the Republic of Palau. I think it is a well known fact - not only throughout the United States but probably throughout the world - that in 1986 there was some very strong economy thinking in the Federal Government in Washington, and the Gramm-Rudman Bill, which is certainly a familiar topic in America and the United Nations, has had its effect on everyone. The idea that we must cut expenses has been made very clear, and of course it involves everybody. In 1986 the Republic of Palau became subject to that same bill and received a smaller amount of money so far as operation grants were concerned. I am pleased to say that there is an increase in the current 1987 budget and there will also be an increase in the operating funds in the 1988 budget. Therefore, if a comparison is made, I would say things are looking up, at least somewhat.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): As we know, Palau is now in a state of indebtedness of about \$40 million, if I am not mistaken, because of the construction of an electric power station, and a case is now before a New York court about that debt. The construction of that electric power station was endorsed by the Administering Authority. Would the representative of the Administering Authority explain how it is that Palau finds itself in this large amount of debt, in light of the fact that responsibility for the development of the Territory lies with the Administering Authority?

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I believe that question can best be answered by the representative of Palau and I ask the President to call on him.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Adviser): In 1983 the Republic of Palau had 32 project-financing loans for the construction of a power plant in Palau. While there was some support from the Administering Authority, that initiative was taken by the Government of Palau alone as a means of meeting long-term power needs and requirements. The debt was originally \$32 million but has since increased.

Yesterday representatives heard our Chief Ibedul, as a petitioner, make reference to this particular matter. It is an issue which is now before the Federal District Court here in New York and, owing to that fact, I am not at liberty to talk about it any further.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to ask a question as to how the Administering Authority for its part will help promote the settlement of that case?

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): It is customary in the United States not to comment on matters under litigation, that is, matters before a court. This case is before the Court and we could not go into any further detail about it. The United States is not a party to that case, but is of course ready to assist in any way possible. As to the merits and details, we really cannot comment further since it is before the Court at this very time.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I was not at all trying, even unwittingly, to complicate in any way those juridical procedures or to hamper those proceedings that are taking place in the United States. In asking the question I was not interested in the juridical or any other details relating directly to the case itself. I have raised this question on the basis of article 3 of the Trusteeship Agreement, which states:

"The Administering Authority shall have full powers of administration, legislation and jurisdiction over the Territory subject to the provisions of this Agreement ...".

Therefore, why is that part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in debt? Why is it now a respondent in a court of law? Here the question arises, of course, of how the Administering Authority is fulfilling the obligations of the Trusteeship Agreement. It was from that standpoint that I raised my question.

I should turn now to another matter. At its previous sessions and in its sessional reports to the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council has noted many times that the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is seriously dependent economically on the Administering Authority. I should like to ask to what extent that economic dependence has been reduced for this reporting period.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I am grateful for the clarification given by the representative of the Soviet Union as to the purport of his earlier question. I did not at all understand that he was in effect basing his question on article 3 of the Trusteeship Agreement. It is absolutely true - the Trusteeship Agreement does say that the Administering Authority is responsible for the welfare, well-being, basic services and basic everything of the entities of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. That is incontrovertible. The United States respects that and, of course, has appropriated funds for the entities of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(Miss Byrne, United States)

There is also, however, a clear obligation spelled out in the Trusteeship Agreement, and also, of course, in the Charter, to bring Trusteeships, not only this Trusteeship but all the others - there had been 11 and now there is only one - to self-government, a minimum of self-government. The United States respects that also. The United States has worked diligently, as I have said many times in this Council at this session, at special sessions and at the last regular session, to move the Trust Territory to self-government, and we have succeeded. I think it is quite clear that we have succeeded.

Self-government brings with it responsibility. The United States grants money to the entities of the Trust Territory and they then are responsible for how those funds are used. That is the explanation of how one entity - in this case Palau - is in debt for a particular project. Palau is self-governing. Palau decides how it wishes to use the money. Palau is in a court case. We shall see how that comes out. Now, these two statements are not at all mutually exclusive or in conflict. The Administering Authority is there and is responsible. The peoples of the Trust Territory, on the other hand, are also self-governing and they make their decisions. We shall see how this court case comes out. The United States will assist as it can. In any event, it will never abandon its responsibility under the Trusteeship Agreement.

With respect to the question of the "serious dependence" of the Trust Territory on the Administering Authority and how much that has been lessened in the past year, I would say, first, that indeed the Trust Territory has been dependent. Many steps have been taken to make it less dependent. It is less dependent. On the other hand, there are some intrinsic problems.

I would like, at this point, to have the High Commissioner deal with the matter of the lessening of dependence and the strides made in the economic development of the Trust Territory.

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): I think this is extremely important in considering these questions - and I would call the attention of the representative of the Soviet Union to the present state of the various Governments that have been in the Trust Territory. One of the things that we have been charged with, and certainly one of the things that I was charged with when I went out to become High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, was to be sure that these Governments became self-governing and handled their own problems to as great an extent as possible. That was one of the most important things. Before I got out there a couple of them already had their Constitutions in place and the others followed. We have had constitutional governments out there since 1978.

(Mrs. McCoy, Special Representative)

That implies a lot of responsibility, and certainly financial responsibility is one of the most important elements. When we are bringing up children in the United States, there comes a time when we say, "All right, here is your allowance. It had better last, because we want you to learn about money, become fiscally independent and handle your money wisely." I am not sure whether in the Soviet Union they take that same tack with their children or not. Nor am I calling the Governments of the Trust Territory children, in any sense of the word. They are not. They have their constitutional Governments, for which they have voted, and ever since they have been in place it has been their priority to choose how their money is spent. True, we have given them money. That was another one of our charges, to help them get on their feet and become self-governing. That we have done, but for some time now it has been the choice of the individual Governments as to how they use the money. And that is a very important step. It is their priority. We do not tell them how to do it, and since they have become constitutional Governments they have done a very fine job. I think it is another step forward in what we were actually charged to do.

In one of my statements during this session, I think I covered rather thoroughly the fine and impressive amount of economic advancement that has been made throughout the Trust Territory. I did this with a great sense of pride and I would be happy to walk through all of it again. There has been a great deal of economic advancement, and for that we are very proud. Should there be something specific that the representative of the Soviet Union would want answered, I would be perfectly happy to answer it.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): An example was given to us about how parents control their children with money and how children have to learn to spend their money wisely. From this

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

parallel with the family situation, it would appear that one cannot judge whether a child is independent or not on the basis of the way he spends his money. The whole question is: where does he get the money from? He can spend the money, but he may not have the money if it is not given to him. So the question was: how dependent is the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands on the Administering Authority? The question was not how the money is spent in the Trust Territory.

In any case, in answer to the question we raised, it was said that, yes, the Trust Territory is economically and financially dependent on the Administering Authority. That was the answer. In order to obtain greater clarity, I will rephrase my question somewhat and perhaps expand on it. The question is as follows: how can the representative of the Administering Authority describe the present level of Trust Territory self-reliance which the Administering Authority is obliged to promote under the Trusteeship Agreement? In other words, how does the Administering Authority now discharge its obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement and the United Nations Charter?

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): Again I was happy to have the clarification of the representative of the Soviet Union as to what his precise question was, but he did say something to the effect that it did not matter how they spent their money. That was not his question. Actually, there I have to say that, in fact, that aspect was very clearly related to his earlier question as to why Palau was in debt, and he said he did not care how they spent their money. In fact, that was totally relevant.

(Miss Byrne, United States)

The fact is that the Government of the United States, as I said earlier, turns money over to, in this case, Palau, and Palau decides how it will spend it. It is simply not proper to say that was not the question of the representative of the Soviet Union; that was indeed his question. He has a new question now, which we shall now try to answer.

The representative of the Soviet Union wants to know how we would describe the degree of self-reliance of the Trust Territory at the present time, and I think he asked also how the Administering Authority discharged its obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement. I assume he was talking about the obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement relating to the well-being of the Trust Territory and not the entire Trusteeship Agreement. In any case, the United States has consistently tried to fulfil and has succeeded in fulfilling its obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement in whatever category one might point to.

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is not, it is true, financially independent. It is still, to a certain extent, dependent upon the United States, but that is totally consistent with the Trusteeship Agreement: the United States is responsible for the well-being and the economic development of the Trust Territory. Much progress has been made. I discerned in the question of the representative of the Soviet Union some sort of pejorative reaction to the idea that the Trust Territory might need assistance, but there are many States in the world that receive economic aid. Many independent countries, Freely Associated States and dependencies receive assistance from foreign entities. I could of course point even to the question of the assistance the Soviet Union gives to Cuba; I do not think the representative of the Soviet Union would consider that a negative thing, and I do not consider it a negative thing that the United States

(Miss Byrne, United States)

should continue to assist the Trust Territory, first in terms of its well-being - basic services - and then in its economic development and in its progress towards what we hope will one day be economic and financial independence.

The High Commissioner can provide some more specific information concerning the progress made in the economic development of the Trust Territory, and I would be grateful to you, Mr. President, for calling on her.

Mrs. McCoy (Special Representative): I believe several questions were asked, and I shall attempt to continue answering them.

One, I believe, had to do with other revenues in the individual Governments throughout the Trust Territory. I would call attention to table no. 1 in the Statistical Annex to the report of the Administering Authority. The fourth entry under "Annual Revenue" reads "Other (local revenue, taxes, reimbursements, etc.)". Reading across the page, we can see that the estimate by the Republic of the Marshall Islands is \$11.371 million; that by Palau nearly \$7.5 million; and that by the Federated States of Micronesia almost \$10 million.

I state those figures with the comment that those are not our estimates or our suggestions; they are from the constitutional Governments themselves and are based on their knowledge of their financial condition and of how they are running their Governments. Those figures are submitted to us for our report, so that everyone can have an idea of the amount of other revenues.

I should like also to point out to the representative of the Soviet Union - besides talking about problems and keeping our discussion on such a negative plane - a few of the strides we have made out there, which in turn reflect very much on economic development and revenue.

For instance, tremendous strides have been made in tourism throughout the Trust Territory. Transportation is head and shoulders above what it was. We have fine paved airports in every single one of our Governments; in the Federated States

(Mrs. McCoy, Special Representative)

of Micronesia, all four states have fine paved runways. We are starting new air terminals in four of the states in the Federated States of Micronesia. We have a fine airport at Majuro and a fine airport at Saipan. Thus, all our transportation needs are coming to be met, as well as the need for transportation to the outer islands, which is always so important. We have made great strides in health care and education.

As you improve conditions in each of those areas, it means less of a drain on the economy of the country in question. The tremendous strides we have made in those fields have a direct bearing on the financial questions which seem to be so much in the air this morning.

Economic development up to now has been slow, but it has been steady. And now, as we get more and more infrastructure in place, it is increasing rapidly. For instance over \$360 million has been invested in Micronesia since 1976 for capital improvement projects alone. Those were to foster, and are fostering, economic development.

I would say that the Trust Territory is doing very well.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In connection with the most recent statement by the representative of the Administering Authority, I would observe that the figures cited by the High Commissioner, Mrs. McCoy, confirm once again that the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands continues to be seriously dependent upon economic and financial assistance from the Administering Authority.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

Mrs. McCoy referred to various areas of development in the economy, including the development of infrastructure and education. In connection with the question of the degree to which the obligations of the Administering Authority are being carried out under the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement, as well as in response to the statements made by representatives of the Administering Authority today, I should like to draw the Council's attention to the following facts that would seem to cast another light on the actual state of affairs in the Trust Territory and the way in which the Administering Authority uses the economic dependency of the Trust Territory.

I have before me a House Resolution adopted by the Legislature of Palau at its fourteen special session in April of 1987, part of which reads as follows:

(spoke in English)

"Whereas the reason the Compact of Free Association was not ratified is because numerous serious problems exist within the Compact and; whereas those problems include, among others, the elimination of Federal scholarships and other aid to education and will deny to Palauan students the education necessary for the advancement of Palau, because the United States has failed to meet its obligation under the Trusteeship Agreement to promote the economic advancement and self-sufficiency and education advancement of Palau and Palau will therefore be unable to meet its educational needs under the Compact; ...

"Whereas the Compact of Free Association as written gives to the United States without limitation the right to designate land which the Republic must then make available within 60 days for United States military purposes ...".

(continued in Russian)

A second resolution adopted by the Legislature of Palau at its tenth regular session this year states:

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

(spoke in English)

"The House of Delegates of the second Olbiil Era Kelulau hereby requests and urges the President of the United States to see that the obligations of the United States to Palau as a Trust Territory are met, that its funding is not decreased and that Palau receives all Federal funds available to it as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands through the Office of Budget and Management and the Department of the Interior."

(continued in Russian)

For the benefit of the representative of the Administering Authority and others who may wish to refer to it, the second quotation is from House Resolution 2005910, adopted at the tenth regular legislative session, also in April of 1987.

These are two extremely important documents that indicate both the degree of the Trust Territory's dependency on the Administering Authority and its degree of self-sufficiency, as well as the manner in which the Administering Authority is making use of the economic dependency of the peoples of the Trust Territory for its own ends and to oblige the population to give up their constitution and endorse the so-called Compact of Free Association.

I see that it is rather late, and we have a further item on our agenda. I am prepared to interrupt my questioning at this juncture so that the representatives of the Department of Public Information can present their report and continue asking questions of the Administering Authority at another time.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): If I understood correctly what the representative of the Soviet Union just said, there was no question being asked and his statement did not in fact contain any question to the Administering Authority. So we can now break off the discussion on this, unless, of course, the representatives of the Administering Authority wish to reply.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I too did not hear a question in the last statement by the representative of the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, he made some comments which I cannot let pass.

He read from resolutions of the Legislature of Palau. I am not going to go into all of that; we would have to study that further. But I would say the following with regard to his statement that the passages he read from the two resolutions - one from a special session and one from a regular session of the Legislature of Palau, both held in April 1987 - reveal the economic dependency of Palau.

(Miss Byrne, United States)

On that score, we have already stated that it is quite true that the Trust Territory is not yet economically and financially independent, but progress has been made. It is not a negative situation. I have also referred to the fact that Cuba is not financially independent, at this point receiving assistance from an outside Power.

The economic dependency question is really not at issue. That is true. We are simply trying to make them less economically dependent, and they are making great strides. That is happening. But the Soviet representative's suggestion that these documents showing this so-called economic dependency, followed by his claim that the Administering Authority uses that economic dependency to get the Palauans to give up their Constitution and endorse the Compact - that is totally unwarranted, totally baseless, not supported whatsoever by either resolution, and not supported by fact. Nobody is trying to get the Palauans to give up their Constitution. The Government of Palau itself is hoping that the Compact will be endorsed, but, as I said yesterday, that is a totally different question from the Constitution. In any event, the Administering Authority does not use economic dependency for any purpose. Whatever the Palauans do about the Compact or about their Constitution, that is strictly a matter for the Palauans themselves to resolve in any manner they see fit.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The clarifications just given by the representative of the United States once again indicate how indefensible is the position of the Administering Authority on the question of its performance of its obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement.

In endeavouring to give examples on the question of independence, the representative of the United States referred to relations existing between

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

independent countries, which is not a subject for discussion here; we are discussing the question of the situation in the Trust Territory, not relations between independent States.

Those references appear to me to be completely beside the point and completely groundless, and designed to cause additional discussion here. I think that we should give more attention to what is going on in the Trust Territory and actions undertaken by the Administering Authority that conflict with the Charter of the United Nations and are not in accordance with the Administering Authority's obligations in the Trust Territory. That is what we should be concentrating on.

With reference to your comment, Mr. President, that the last statement of the Soviet Union did not contain a question, in that statement I was just commenting on what had been said by the Administering Authority. My delegation has just as much right to comment as the Administering Authority.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should like to make it clear that I was not reproaching the representative of the USSR; I was simply stating a fact.

Mr. GUINHUT (France) (interpretation from French): I should like to ask two minor questions of the Administering Authority, the first concerning the remarkable progress that the statistical tables indicate in the field of health and medicine in the Trust Territory.

I should like to have the Administering Authority's estimate regarding the balance sheet for last year, and I should like to know whether these developments may be affected by the United States budget.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Before I call on the Administering Authority, I should like to make it clear that, as the representative of the Soviet Union recalled a few moments ago, there is another item on our agenda, "Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International

(The President)

Trusteeship System in Trust Territories". Therefore, if the Council agrees, after a reply has been given to the last question, we may interrupt the questioning of the Administering Authority, which could be resumed at our next meeting, on Monday.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): Mr. President, I would respectfully ask that you call upon the High Commissioner to answer the question concerning the internal administration of the Trust Territory.

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): I shall make my remarks brief, and enlarge upon them at the next meeting, if that should be desired.

As far as the advance in our health activities out in the Trust Territory is concerned, we have had a new hospital open in Majuro; it has about 80 beds. It is handling many medical problems that in the past had to be referred out. It has a full dental clinic, full hospital service, full physician service. It is doing a lot more towards the dispensaries out in the outer islands.

We have had a magnificent health centre open up in Saipan, in the Northern Marianas. It is one of the finest medical institutions in all of the Pacific, and it was certainly needed. We are very pleased to have it there because it will service much of the Pacific area.

We have a new hospital under design in Koror, down in Palau. It is coming on line; it will take a while for it to get there, but at least it is in appropriations and under design.

I am proud and pleased to say that we have no new health problems in the Trust Territory at all. I am knocking on wood a bit, if I can use that expression here, but we have done very well.

(Mrs. McCoy, Special Representative)

We have had special-operations and maintenance funds for the renovation of the hospitals in Ponape and in Truk.

I think that from a health standpoint we have made tremendous strides. As I have said, I shall be happy to enlarge upon what I have said for the representative of France on Monday.*

*The President took the Chair.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM IN TRUST TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL [TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESOLUTION 36 (III) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 754 VIII] (T/1912)

The PRESIDENT: I now call on Mr. Masha, a representative of the Department of Public Information in the Secretariat, to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (T/1912). Mr. Masha will outline the activities of the United Nations in disseminating information on the United Nations in the Trust Territory.

Mr. MASHA (Department of Public Information (DPI)): It is with great pleasure that I appear once again before the Council to introduce the Secretary-General's annual report on the "Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands". As in the past, the report (T/1912), is a summary of the activities undertaken by the Department of Public Information, and the other offices of the Secretariat, to maintain an awareness of the people of the Territory about how in the past year the United Nations dealt with this very important subject.

The report before the Council is very brief, listing some of the specific actions which were undertaken. The Department of Public Information continued to send taped radio programmes and other materials to the Territory. In addition, we undertook a number of activities, in other places as well, to inform the other parts of the world about the United Nations activities with respect to the Trusteeship System.

I wish, nevertheless, to draw the Council's attention to paragraph 12 of the report. It will be noted in that paragraph that the Information Officer at the United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo was, for lack of travel funds, unable to

(Mr. Masha)

visit the Territory during the year. Thus, it has not been possible to visit the Territory, for information purposes, since November 1985, as we reported last year in document T/1889.

Also due to lack of funds, the United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo, which is the primary link in our contact with this Territory, was compelled to reduce its mailing of information materials, including those to the Territory. We hope that these constraints are temporary, and that we will be enabled to resume our regular level of activities.

I will be happy to answer any questions or to offer further clarification to the Council.

Before I finish I wish to acknowledge the generosity of the representative of the Soviet Union in curtailing his questions temporarily to allow this item to be taken up, and your agreeing to do so, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT: Does any member of the Council wish to comment on the report of the Secretary-General or ask any questions of Mr. Masha?

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We have read the report of the Secretary-General introduced by the representative of the Department of Public Information, Mr. Masha, and we would like to ask him a question. With respect to information materials mentioned in the annex of the report that were sent to these centres, are all such materials included in the list, or are there some omissions? Have some documents not been mentioned here, or is it a thorough list of the documents sent to the Trust Territory?

Mr. MASHA (Department of Public Information (DPI)): The list in the annex reflects, as honestly as we know on the basis of our records, the materials which we in the United Nations have sent to the Trust Territory during the year.

(Mr. Masha)

The question was, is this list exhausted? As far as we know, it is. But there are other ways by which some United Nations materials can reach the Territory; if we have not included them it was because we were not aware of them. However, as far as we are concerned, this is the exhaustive list, so to say, on the basis of our records.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The second question that I wish to ask is the following. Could Mr. Masha tell us whether the distribution of information materials in the Trust Territory is being carried out only through the Information Centre in Tokyo, or are there some other channels being used?

Mr. MASHA (Department of Public Information (DPI)): In answer to the question, as will be noted in paragraph 3, the Information Centre in Tokyo is not the only one that distributes materials to the Territory. Some of the material is sent directly from Headquarters. It is air mailed directly from the Department of Public Information or from the Department of Conference Services. May I add that some specialized agencies send materials to the Trust Territories as well, and they do not necessarily inform us as to what materials they send.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I asked those questions for a good reason, and from Mr. Masha's answers it seems clear that there are other channels being used to send materials to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands of which the Secretary-General has not informed us. Since this is a report of the Secretary-General, it would appear that some United Nations Departments are not being informed of what materials are being distributed and through which channels.

I do not know how we should act here in the Trusteeship Council to obtain full information about who should be the centre for collecting such information and get a full picture of this. I think that someone from the appropriate Department in the United Nations Secretariat should clarify that before submitting this information to a session of the Trusteeship Council. I believe that throughout the year there is enough time to undertake such action. I think we would have to consult with the Department of Public Information and the secretariat of the Trusteeship Council to sort out this matter. I recall that this question was raised at previous sessions, but I do not think there has been any movement on it, as is clear.

Moreover, I do not see in the list of information material distributed in the Trust Territory any basic United Nations documents that have a direct relationship to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. For example, we do not know whether the people of the Trust Territory have basic documents such as the United Nations Charter, the Security Council resolutions containing the Trusteeship Agreement, or that the text of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was sent to the Territory.

I have another comment. I feel that, given the fact that right now there is only one Trust Territory in the world, the question of saving money in sending out information material to that Territory should be resolved in a rather special way.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

This blanket approach to the question of sending information to the Trust Territory should not be used.

I do not know whether the representative of the Department of Public Information could shed light on the extent to which funds that would have been used for distributing information have been reduced. Really, I do not believe that with a proper, serious attitude towards this matter we could not resolve this question so that the people in the Trust Territory should not suffer from any lack of information owing to the financial steps being taken by the United Nations. I think a special approach should be adopted here and that all the factors should be borne in mind.

With reference to the work done by the Department of Public Information with regard to its distribution of information to other colonial Territories, I think we could find some sort of "best way" to resolve this problem.

The PRESIDENT: I wonder whether Mr. Masha would care to tell us how the selection of information is in fact made, on what basis. How does the Department of Public Information decide what information shall be sent to the Territory?

Mr. MASHA (Department of Public Information (DPI)): When I acknowledged the generosity of the representative of the Soviet Union I assumed he foresaw no questions on our report and hoped it would be just a first meeting.

The questions he raises are very specific and, if I may be allowed a minute or two, I shall also be specific in my answers. He suggested that some Departments were not informed or implied that the report as it appears is inadequate. This is not a report of the Department of Public Information; this is a report of the Secretary-General and covers work done at the United Nations either by the Department of Public Information, the secretariat of the Council or the Department of Conference Services. As I tried to say earlier, we have listed all the materials put out by the United Nations Secretariat as a whole, with the exception

(Mr. Masha)

of materials which for brevity we could not list separately; these are the titles of the press releases we indicated in paragraph 4, or the titles of the radio programmes we indicated in paragraph 6, and some other films which were distributed in the area; but they are all reflected in the report.

I therefore suggest that the report is indeed complete and comprehensive. The only information we do not have is on materials sent from the specialized agencies. We have no control over that, but if the representative of the Soviet Union wants such information we can promise him that when we have it we will do so. If one looks at our previous reports, it will be seen that indeed we have occasionally reflected such material whenever we had such information.

The representative of the Soviet Union has also pointed out that some basic documents might not have been sent to the Territory. One of them, among many others, to which he referred was the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Looking at the annex to our report for last year, in document T/1889, I see that indeed we reported having sent 80 copies of that.

(Mr. Masha)

As one looks back at previous reports, we have indicated several other basic documents which we have sent to the Territory. Now, of course, we can send these basic documents every year to these same people. We are not sure that that is appropriate. If we have sent some of these materials several times before we do not believe that we should repeat sending them to the same mailing list. Therefore, this year we did not consider it appropriate to send those people these basic documents again. But if it is the wish of the Council that we should do so, we shall have no objection. However, we do not think it is appropriate. We will be overloading our information to the same people that already have it. If there is a specific audience which the Soviet representative considers that we might have overlooked, we will be glad to send those materials if he will let us know.

The President asked the question as to how we make our selection of the materials we send. Most of the documents which have to do with the Trusteeship Council, either reports of the Trusteeship Council, petitions and such other materials, are automatically sent to the area through our conference services. In other words, any relevant material to the subject is automatically sent. When we do some specific public information material or programmes, then it is an information decision, which in a way is judgemental. None the less, we consider what is appropriate for those people. We already have a mailing list. We know exactly what kind of audiences we are trying to reach or work through, so our decisions are based on that kind of knowledge. Until 1985, we did send an information officer to that area once a year to ascertain the utility of this material and on the basis of the report we received we were able to send the materials that were relevant and specifically targeted. As I indicated, we hope that the financial constraints will not continue to hamper us in assisting the usefulness of the materials and in assessing whether we are reaching the audiences that we want to reach. In short, this is how we try to select the materials that we send.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I wish only to say that the Administering Authority very much appreciates the work of the Department of Public Information. The Administering Authority appreciates the mailings of the Department of Public Information. We have gone through the report of the Secretary-General on the matter and we find it to be a very fine report.

Mr. McPhetres, the head of Archives and Relations with International Organizations, which, of course, certainly includes this body, would like to speak briefly on the use of the materials in the Trust Territory.

Mr. MCPHETRES (Special Adviser): During the period under review, it was the responsibility of my office to receive and redistribute much of the material which has been sent from the Department of Public Information to the Trust Territory. I would like to confirm the receipt and redistribution of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to the various Governments of the Trust Territory as well as a great many other documents that we received. We are extremely grateful for the close co-operation that we have received from the office in Tokyo and the office in New York.

I would like to point out in expansion of some of the remarks made by the representative of the Department of Information that we received United Nations documentation from a vast number of United Nations related organizations, not the least of which includes the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and many, many others. Many of these programmes have a direct use within the Trust Territory. The radio programmes can be heard in every area of the islands. The radio stations pick these up and rebroadcast them quite frequently. Many of the materials are used in the schools as curriculum materials. I can say that they are not lost on the shelves in most cases. We look forward to continuing

(Mr. McPhetres, Special Adviser)

co-operation and I can say that the Governments of the Trust Territory were very grateful for what they received during the reporting year and we look forward to future co-operation.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): The representative of the Department of Public Information referred to the fact that it had not been possible in 1986 to send an Information Officer from Tokyo to the Territory. I wonder if he could tell us whether there are plans to send such an officer during the coming year.

Mr. MASHA (Department of Public Information (DPI)): I appreciate the implied suggestion in the question of the representative of the United Kingdom that these visits are useful, which, indeed, we believe they are. Unfortunately, at the moment I cannot give a categorical statement as to whether we will be able in the current year to send an Information Officer there. The financial situation, as reported in other forums, is such that we cannot be certain that we will be able to do it.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Since the hour is late, perhaps we could continue our consideration of this matter at a future meeting. But before we conclude our work for today, I should like to address a request to Mr. Masha. Could Mr. Masha furnish us with, let us say, two of the materials listed in the annex. For example, there is the press release - it is difficult to say whose press release it is - entitled "Four Pacific Islands apply for ESCAP membership". The second item is entitled "Pepito's speech at the United Nations". Could we receive those two publications?

We have some questions with respect to this agenda item and we would be prepared to discuss them with the representative of the Department of Public Information at a time deemed appropriate by the President for the discussion of this item.

The PRESIDENT: It is indeed my intention, if it is the wish of the members of the Council, for us to have a further opportunity to discuss the report and put further questions to the representatives of the Department of Public Information. But perhaps Mr. Masha would like to respond to the specific request that has just been made to him. I call on Mr. Masha.

Mr. MASHA (Department of Public Information (DPI)): In answer to the request of the representative of the Soviet Union, we will be glad to distribute copies of the press releases. I do not have copies with me here but we will get them and distribute them to members of the Council.

As for Pepito's Speech, it is this little booklet I am holding in my hand that is intended for young readers. It is a characterization of the atmosphere of peace developed in the form of a story about a young boy called Pepito who wants to make a speech at the United Nations. If I were to tell the Council more about it, I would deny members the pleasure of reading it for themselves. I consider it to be extremely interesting for young readers. It is a little booklet that we produced with the help of some well-known authors. I would recommend it to all members. I will see if I can get a sufficient number of copies, but I cannot guarantee that. It is a sales item that has been going very fast. If I cannot get enough copies for members, I would recommend they go to the United Nations bookshop and buy it at very minimal cost. But I will see if I can get a few copies for members of the Council.

The PRESIDENT: I am glad to hear it gives guidance about how to make speeches at the United Nations. I am sure it will be of value to us all.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): Before we adjourn I should like to take just a half a minute to note with pleasure the presence among us today of a member of the United States Congress, Congressman Ron De Lugo. He has been a true friend of the Trust Territory, and I am very happy that he has been able to attend today's session.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: According to our timetable, the Council will hold one meeting on Monday, 18 May, in the morning, when we shall continue questioning the representatives of the Administering Authority. I propose that we then take up consideration of written communications and petitions. In this connection, I understand that the Secretariat has distributed to members all the communications and petitions that we have received. Some of these are still only xeroxed in photocopy form. However, by Monday morning they will all have been published.

If there is time on Monday morning, I propose also that we continue consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on "Dissemination of Information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in the Trust Territories", and I should be grateful if representatives of the Department of Public Information could be present on Monday morning.

If I hear no further comments, I shall adjourn the meeting until 10.30 on Monday morning, 18 May.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.