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| 9 | 11 | 12 |
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Seventh session
Item 4(d) of the agenda

EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS:

WESTERN SAMOA YEAR ENDING 1949

Report of the Drafting Committee on Annual Reports:

Chairman: Mr. Rodolfo Muñoz (Argentina)

The Drafting Committee on Western Samoa recommends to the Council the adoption of the following passage for inclusion in the report of the Council to the General Assembly covering its sixth and seventh sessions:

INTRODUCTION

The annual report of the Government of New Zealand on the administration of Western Samoa for the year ending 31 March 1949 was received by the Secretary-General on 6 October 1949 and, having been transmitted* to members of the Council on 24 October 1949 was placed on the agenda for the seventh session of the Council.

During the 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings the representative and special representative, Mr. F.J.H. Grattan, of the Administering Authority answered oral questions concerning the report and the administration of the Territory put by members of the Council. The special representative also submitted written answers to written questions addressed to him by members of the Council.**

At the 5th meeting the Council held a general discussion with a view to formulating conclusions and recommendations relating to conditions in the Territory.

* T/417

** T/L.82

At the 5th meeting the Council set up a drafting committee composed of the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Dominican Republic and France to undertake the preparation of a report in accordance with rules 100 and 101 of its rules of procedure for inclusion in the annual report of the Council to the General Assembly.

The drafting committee met on 12 and 14 June 1950. The representative of Argentina, Mr. Rodolfo Munoz, was elected Chairman. The representative of the Administering Authority participated in the work of the drafting committee.

The draft prepared by the drafting committee was considered by the Council at the meeting(s) on 1950.

PART I

OUTLINE OF GENERAL CONDITIONS AS STATED IN THE REPORT OF THE
ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY 1948-49

I. General

Area, topography and climate

Western Samoa is situated between 13° and 15° south of the equator and between 171° and 173° west longitude. It consists of two large islands, Upolu and Savai'i, and seven small islands and islets, with a total area of 1,133 square miles. The capital and chief port of the territory is Apia.

The islands have a tropical climate, heavy rainfall and occasional severe storms. They are of volcanic formation and have a rugged, mountainous terrain which rises in one peak to a height of 6,094 feet. Much of their surface is heavily forested; soils in most places are thin and rocky, and some districts are covered with lava flows from recent volcanic eruptions.

Population

On 31 March 1949, the total population was estimated at 75,381, an increase of 2,455 over the previous year. Of this total 69,426 were Samoans, 5,406 were part-Samoan possessing European status, 297 were full Europeans, 180 Chinese and 72 Melanesians.

II. Political advancement

General

Western Samoa is a Trust Territory administered by New Zealand in accordance with the terms of a Trusteeship Agreement approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 13 December 1946. New Zealand acquired jurisdiction over the Territory in 1919 when a mandate was conferred upon it for the administration of the former Germany colony.

A civil government and system of law for the Trust Territory was established by the New Zealand Parliament with the passage of Samoa Act No. 16 of 1921. This act and its amendments, of which the most important is the Samoa Amendment Act of 1947, remain the foundations upon which the territory's legal and political structure are built. Both the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly provided for in the Samoa Amendment Act of 1947, began functioning fully during the year under review.

Executive authority

The administration of the executive government is entrusted to a High Commissioner, who is appointed by the Governor-General and is responsible to the Minister of Island Territories. The work of the executive is carried on, under the High Commissioner, by a number of Departments whose officers and heads are appointed by the New Zealand Public Service Commission. The general work of co-ordination is carried out by the Secretariat, associated in certain matters with the Department of Samoan Affairs. The latter department is the principal channel of communication between the Government and the people of the villages in political and general administrative matters.

A Council of State, consisting of the High Commissioner and holders of the office of Fautua (highest chiefs), acts as an advisory body to the High Commissioner on all proposed legislation and questions involving Samoan customs.

When one of the Fautua, Mata'afa, died in March 1948 the Samoan people indicated that they did not at that time desire the appointment of a third Fautua. There are accordingly only two Fautua in the Council of State at present.

The Council of State evolved a system of regular meetings which by the end of the year were taking place ordinarily once a week.

The Legislative Assembly

Legislative power, except in respect of a limited range of subjects, is conferred upon the Legislative Assembly of Western Samoa, which is composed of fourteen Samoans (the Fautuas and twelve indirectly elected members), five elected Europeans and six unofficial members. The reserved subjects are set out in section 9 of the Samoa Amendment Act, 1947, or listed in the Samoa Reserved Enactment Regulations, 1948, and generally concern defence, external affairs, Crown Land and all matters affecting the Constitution of Western Samoa. The New Zealand Parliament still retains its inherent legislative power with respect to Western Samoa; and the Governor-General in Council has the power to make regulations "for the peace, order and good government" of the Territory. These powers are intended, however, as a safeguard for New Zealand's position as trustee, and not as the normal means of legislation.

To preserve the Samoan representation in the Legislative Assembly at fourteen, the Samoans requested that a twelfth Samoan member be elected by the Fono of Faipule. In accordance with this request the Administering Authority in the Samoa Amendment Act of 1949 altered the composition of the Legislative Assembly by increasing the number of elected Samoan members of the Legislative Assembly from eleven to twelve. In electing the new member of the Legislation Council, the Fono of Faipule for the first time employed a secret ballot.

The Legislative Assembly held its first meeting in June 1948. Between that date and March 1949, the Legislative Assembly held five sessions sitting on a total of twenty-five days. In addition to participating in the meetings of the Assembly, members have served in the Assembly's four standing committees, Finance, Health, Public Work and Education, which began functioning during the year. Eight ordinances, including the budget, were passed by the Legislative Assembly during the year under review and since the completion of that period several other ordinances have been passed. No occasion has arisen for employment of the High Commissioner's veto power. As of its more recent meetings, the proceedings of the Assembly are now being broadcast directly from the Assembly building throughout the Trust Territory.

Fono of Faipule

In addition to the Legislative Assembly, the Samoan people are represented by the Fono of Faipule, which consists of forty-one members from constituencies based on traditional Samoan districts and sub-districts. The Fono

/ordinarily

ordinarily meets twice a year, and its members have the statutory right to "consider such matters relative to the welfare of the Samoan people as of their own initiative they think proper or as may be submitted to them by the High Commissioner and to express their opinions, and to make their recommendations to the High Commissioner". In practice, proposed ordinances affecting the Samoan people are submitted, among other matters, to the Fono for their views.

Consideration has been given to the recommendation of the fourth session of the Trusteeship Council that universal suffrage be introduced in the election of members of the Fono of Faipule. The franchise, however, has still been confined to the matai (heads of families) because it is felt that the introduction of universal suffrage at this stage would be incompatible with Samoan culture. However, it is felt that economic and social changes now taking place will inevitably lead to the franchise becoming more general. The Administering Authority has indicated that it will not be antagonistic to such change if and when the people express a wish for it.

Local government

A recommendation by the Legislative Assembly has led to the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry by the High Commissioner to take evidence and report on the question of local government in villages and districts. The Commission which is now at work is headed by the Trusteeship Officer and includes six Samoan Commissioners.

Administration

Provision for the establishment of a Samoan Public Service Commission, comprising a Commissioner and two Assistant Commissioners one of whom is to be a Samoan, was included in the Samoa Amendment Act of 1949. The new Commission is assuming in Samoa the functions previously exercised by the New Zealand Public Service Commission with regard to recruitment, appointment and administration of public service officers. In addition it is charged with responsibility of working out methods of advancing locally recruited officers to more responsible positions.

Status of inhabitants

The people of the Territory enjoy the same guarantees as regards the protection of their persons and property within New Zealand and its dependencies as New Zealand citizens. No distinction is made between the rights of men and women.

/With respect

With respect to certain parts of municipal law, inhabitants of Western Samoa are divided into the two categories of "Samoa" and "European". These categories confer differing legal consequences, principally on the matter of trade debts, incorporation and partnership, elections, land rights and acquisition of Samoan titles.

The national status of the great majority of Samoans is that of British protected persons. Following the recent reorganization of the nationality laws of the British Commonwealth, it is intended to change this status to New Zealand-protected persons in accordance with the wishes of Samoan representatives. As the Administering Authority considers the situation with regard to status complex and unsatisfactory, this question is under constant examination with a view to amend and consolidate legislation on the matter.

Judicial organization

There are a Chief Judge, four Commissioners of the High Court, three Samoan Associate Judges, and fourteen Samoan Judges in charge of District Courts.

The Samoan Associate Judges sit on the bench at Apia in an associate capacity with one of the Commissioners or the Chief Judge. In cases where the defendant is a Samoan they take an active part in examining witnesses and helping to frame a just verdict. If the defendant is a European they may be present, but they take no part in the decision.

A useful first step towards giving Associate Judges a fuller share in the work of the Court has been taken. In civil disputes the whole case has been handed over to an Associate Judge, who has conducted the hearing and reported his findings to the Chief Judge who has generally been able to enter judgment in accordance with his Samoan colleague's conclusions. The further development of increased responsibility for Associate Judges will be assisted if the Judges are given more precise legal standing in the Court and if the Fono of Faipule is willing more often to permit a Judge to hold office for more than one term at a time.

Offences against Samoan custom which are not offences against written law are handled in village councils presided over by village title holders. This divergence of custom from official written law is, in general, allowed to continue without official interference. Since increasing numbers of Samoans are tending to resist matai authority, appeals frequently are made by dissatisfied parties to the Department of Samoan Affairs and to the Courts,

/including

including the Land and Titles Court.

The Native Land and Titles Court is a special judicial body composed of the Chief Judge assisted by two European assessors and at least two of the Samoan Associate Judges. In the settling of disputes over the control of native land and the right to hold traditional Samoan titles, Samoan usage has its fullest expression and sanction by law.

The right of rehearing is allowed from decisions of the Samoan Judges to the Commissioners and on to the Chief Judge, and, under certain conditions, to the Supreme Court of New Zealand.

The official language of the courts is English, but Samoan is used where necessary.

III. Economic advancement

General

The economy of the Territory is almost entirely agricultural. The main forms of production are of foodstuffs for local consumption and of agricultural crops for export. Fishing is carried on to satisfy domestic needs but commercial fishing is negligible. The processing of export crops is confined almost entirely to the cutting and drying of copra and the fermentation and drying of cocoa. The one successful enterprise so far built up for the secondary processing of Samoan raw materials on a relatively large scale is that of the New Zealand Reparation Estates' dedicated-coconut factory.

Government policy which hitherto has called for relatively restricted activity on its part in relation to the economic life of the Territory is undergoing a reorientation due to the necessity of economic controls, the growing practice of bulk purchases of raw materials by overseas governments, the growth of population, the increased participation of the people in the money economy and the need for increased productivity to support a rising standard of life. Thus the Government has stimulated the opening-up of new land as a result of increased road construction. The Government is also stimulating increased and improved agricultural production through the development of parasitic methods of control for which project £5,000 per annum has been allocated for a five year period. The Government has maintained machinery for exchange control, import and export control, and price control which were introduced during the war.

Agriculture

The main commercial products of the Territory are cocoa, bananas and copra. The most important plantation enterprise in the Territory is the New Zealand Reparation Estates which cultivate 11,150 acres of land, representing a substantial increase in the area worked in recent years. It employs some 2,200 Samoans, together with approximately 250 part-Samoan office and skilled workers. About 400,000 acres, or 53 per cent of the total area, is wasteland comprising steep mountains, lava beds, etc. Cultivation is limited almost entirely to the coastal area and to the adjacent lower slopes.

After a lapse of over twenty years, the Department of Agriculture was re-established. The activities of the Department, which are initially to be concerned with directing the work of the Samoan Plantation Inspectors, operating

the Banana Scheme, assisting in measures for the control of insect pests, will be extended as trained technical personnel can be recruited.

Production of dried bananas has ceased as the disappearance of the war-mitigated market in New Zealand has precipitated a great decline in the quantity exported. Expansion of fresh banana-growing is hindered by the lack of adequate shipping facilities to the New Zealand market, which is the only one open to Samoan bananas. There was also a decline in the export of bananas due to storm damage during the earlier part of the year.

Allocations by the International Emergency Food Council, in accordance with which Samoan cocoa has been sold on the world market have ceased since 31 March 1949. Towards the end of the year there was a sharp fall in the price of cocoa and a decline in the export of the crop due partly to the fact that a substantial portion of the crop remained unshipped.

The Copra Board, established by the Copra Board Ordinance of 1948 to replace the New Zealand Government in the negotiation of contracts for the marketing of Samoan copra and to establish a stabilization fund to provide some measures of protection for merchants and producers against price fluctuations, was in full operation during the past year. A nine-year contract with the British Ministry of Food for the sale and purchase of copra was signed in December 1949. As of 31 March 1950 there was a sum of £47,157 to the credit of the Stabilization Fund. The new Copra Ordinance also laid down a revised code for the inspection and passing of copra for export, fumigation, stores etc.

The work undertaken in Samoa as a result of the participation of the New Zealand Government in the FAO's world agricultural census is expected to provide information to be used in assessing the economic resources and potentialities of the Territory.

The fall in the world price of rubber has made production in the Territory uneconomic at the present. However, the plantations are kept in such a condition as to allow tapping to commence with a price rise.

The New Zealand Reparation Estates Organization is conducting research in control of cocoa disease, rubber growing, animal husbandry and the elimination of tuberculosis, the only serious diseases among cattle in Samoa. It is also developing a dairy-farm, and is considering the possibility of meat canning, both of which are expected to contribute to the diversification of Samoan industry.

Public finance and taxation

Receipts of public revenue reached the total of £500,338 and payments totalled £464,520, leaving a surplus of £35,818. The Territory has no public debt. The total accumulated cash surplus at the end of the year was £642,973, of which £554,050 was invested in New Zealand inscribed stock. The public revenue of the Territory is derived from a combination of direct and indirect taxes. The indirect taxes are import and export duties while the direct taxes include store, salary, building, and amusement taxes, water rates and stamp duties. Following a report on the taxation system of the Territory by an officer of the Land and Income Tax Department of New Zealand consideration is being given to the replacement of the store tax by income-tax.

Foreign exchange; trade and commerce

The alteration in the exchange rate between the Samoan and dollar currencies consequent upon depreciation of sterling has prompted the adoption of stricter exchange control measures designed to keep the Territory's dollar imports within its dollar earnings. In 1949 trade figures show a small net dollar surplus.

The year under review was one of continuing prosperity for the trade of the Territory, although there were clear signs that the post-war boom had passed its peak, as indicated by the fall in the price of cocoa and the sharp decline in the demand for dried-bananas. Import figures did not respond immediately to the decline in the value of exports. Imports for the calendar year 1948, at £962,028, were £38,355 above those for 1947, whereas exports, at £1,102,858, were down by £242,912.

With no manufacturing industries, the Territory has no protective tariffs. Customs duties and other taxes are for revenue purposes only.

There is no special tariff relationship between the Territory and the New Zealand Government. Preference treatment (instituted in 1920) is given to imports of British goods. Regarding export trade, no preferential treatment is given to any country.

Land tenure

Approximately four-fifths of the land area is still held by the Samoans on titles based on their own customs and usages. All families possess enough land to supply them with their material wants. Under the Samoa Act 1921, it is unlawful to alienate "Native Land" other than to the Crown, although provision is made whereby the Administration may approve of leases up to forty years.

/Forests,

Forests, fisheries and mines

Limited but useful forest resources exist. A small sawmill is operated on each of the two main islands, one privately and the other by the New Zealand Reparation Estates. Their output is absorbed almost entirely by the local market.

Marine products form an important part of Samoan subsistence economy, but commercial fishing is negligible.

No mineral resources of commercial value have been found.

Industry

There are no manufacturing industries. The development by the Reparation Estates of desiccated-coconut and dried-banana industries occurred in 1942 and 1946 respectively. As noted above, production of dried bananas has ceased. The desiccated-coconut industry is expanding with the replacement of old machinery and the erection of a new plant. Production is expected to increase from 650 tons to 950 tons annually, for which there is an assured market.

Native handicrafts are sold around Apia, but no overseas outlets have been organized.

Monopolies

No monopolies of any kind exist in the Territory.

Livestock

The livestock industries are of local importance. Pigs and poultry are significant in Samoan economy, and horses and cattle are numerous. The New Zealand Reparation Estates have 9,000 head of cattle, of which 1,200 are killed annually for meat. Recent importations of bulls from stock with a high resistance to tuberculosis have been made to develop and spread a higher resistance to tuberculosis amongst the present herds.

Public works

During the year twenty-four miles of roads suitable for motor traffic have been added, giving the Territory a total of 228 miles of such roads.

The operation of the newly installed 300 kilowatt hydro-electric plants has been held up by inability to obtain necessary pipe delivery.

A scheme for the improvement of Apia Harbour is under consideration.

Communications

A major difficulty facing the Territory in relation to every aspect of its plans for social and economic advancement is that of poor overseas communications resulting from the fact that Western Samoa lies well away from the main

/trans-Pacific

trans-Pacific sea and air routes. Inadequate shipping facilities, as previously noted, hinder the expansion of export trade in bananas, and similarly there is often difficulty in obtaining passages at the desired time for persons travelling.

IV. Social Advancement

Social conditions

The Samoan family is composed of a biological unit which may be living together in one village and also includes every other person in any other village who has blood relationship to that family group; and it may include people who are not related by blood. The matai, as the chosen head of the family, has the responsibility to direct its affairs in such a way that its best possible interests will be served. The family has its representation in the village Council, through the head of the family. The matai, whether he be chief or orator, is entitled to sit in the Village Council and give the opinion of his family on village matters.

Human rights

Article 9 of the Trusteeship Agreement is fully observed; there is complete freedom of conscience.

Persons may be arrested without warrant only if suspected of serious offences against the person and crimes involving violence. All elements of the population are subject to the same laws as regards the safety of their persons and their property, and there have been no instances of the imposition of restrictions on the personal freedoms of the inhabitants. Neither have there been any restrictions on the writing, transmission or publication of information. There is a free right of petition. However, the Territory has no newspapers. Overseas news is disseminated by means of news-sheets issued daily by the Administration and a broadcasting service operated by the Administration carries reports of official bodies, addresses on health, cultural matters, general education, and current affairs.

Population pressure

The total increase in population between the census of 1921 and that of 1945 represents an average growth of 2.5 per cent annually, one of the highest rates recorded during the last few decades for any part of the world. Figures for the past year indicate that the rapid increase is continuing, the net increase of 2,445 representing a growth of 3.35 per cent. Recognition of the demographic situation lies behind all the plans of the Government for economic and social advancement as it will be necessary to expand production and services in order to make possible a steady rise in standards of life and to take care of the increase in population.

Labour conditions

Owing to the social structure of the Trust Territory only three per cent of the Samoan people (1945 census) were working regularly for wages.

During the current year the Government has been concerned with the wage-rates and hours of work of casual labour and has appointed a Commission to inquire into the matter. As a consequence of the Commission's work, the Government announced a new wage scale for casual labour which it itself would pay. It was expected that the Government's important position as an employer would suffice to make the new rates applicable to those paid generally by private employers. No labour legislation exists in the Territory.

Public health

An outbreak of influenza, affecting a large portion of the population was the only serious epidemic during the year. The few deaths which occurred were among the aged and the very young.

The reorganization of the Department of Health, in progress for several years, was continued during the year with the planning of new out-station hospitals and the analysis of long-term staff requirements. The new plan for the development of health services requires a substantial increase in personnel, both European and Samoan. This creates a serious problem for the Administering Authority as the New Zealand Government has found great difficulty during recent years to find officers willing to accept appointment in its Islands Service and has had to offer prospective applicants special inducements by way of a bonus. Somewhat similar problems are anticipated with regard to the building-up of the increased Samoan staff. The addition of the seven students presently training at the Central Medical School will not bring the present number of Samoan medical practitioners to full strength. It is hoped that the importance of the work and the prestige it carries together with satisfactory conditions and salaries will ensure an adequate flow of recruits to the profession.

The work of rebuilding Apia Hospital which has been in progress for several years was continued during the year. Work on the construction of district hospitals, the cost of which is shared equally by the Samoan Government and the district, is also under way. The first of a fleet of mobile clinics, enabling Samoan medical and dental practitioners and their assistants to visit villages as a health team, was put in operation during the year. The activities of this team have had a marked effect on the health of the villages visited.

/Prisons and

Prisons and crimes

During the year proceedings were instituted against 1,628 persons, and 1,323 were convicted.

Prisoners at the beginning of the year numbered 118. With 174 admitted and 175 discharged, those in custody at the end of the year numbered 117.

Juvenile delinquency

Juveniles are not imprisoned. There are no special laws and courts to deal with them. On conviction, a juvenile is sent to an approved family for care and discipline, and during his stay is treated as one of the family.

V. Educational advancement

Long-term development

In the year 1948-49 the main effort of the Government in the educational field has been the advancement of a long-term plan of development and the discussion of it with the Samoan people. The plan proposed that the raising of the general level of education of the people in the villages was to be achieved by more intensive teacher training, better staffing and equipment of village schools, and the printing of school text-books. The ablest Samoan students from these village schools will be placed in an accelerated school and from them the student nucleus of the projected Samoa College is expected to be formed. Those showing particular aptitudes would be sent abroad for suitable specialized training, while those of outstanding general intellectual ability would enter the New Zealand University, to qualify as doctors, lawyers, teachers etc.

Government expenditures on education

Expenditures for the Education Department totalled £57,292 for the year 1948-49. Of this, £46,855 came from the public revenue and £10,447 from the grants made from the profits of the New Zealand Reparation Estates. During the year £2,000 was granted for the erection of the Aleisa School which serves the Aleisa European settlement. A sum of £2,980 was voted for the purpose of equipping the schools with blackboards, desks, tables, cupboards, maps etc.

The salaries of Samoan teachers, including cost-of-living allowance, range from £51 to £215 per annum. Uncertified European teachers receive annual salaries, including cost-of-living allowance, ranging from £65 to £480.

Number of schools

There are 109 Administration schools, comprising 101 primary (Samoan village) schools, three middle schools, two schools for children who are European by birth or status, one post-primary school, one teacher's training school, and one adult night school. Denominational schools, numbering 391, consist of 357 pastor's schools (mission schools on primary level) and thirty-four other schools classed as preparatory schools and denominational colleges.

School children

There were 13,236 students (excluding teacher trainees) in the Administration schools and 21,417 in mission schools. In these figures there is considerable duplication, since many children attend both types of schools. Education is not compulsory and until there are sufficient trained teachers and administration

schools to cater to the increasing population, it is considered impracticable to introduce a system of compulsory education.

Curriculum

Instruction in Administration primary schools is in the vernacular, but English is taught. In middle schools all instruction is in English. In the pastor's schools instruction is in Samoan. In denominational schools on a higher level than pastor's schools English is taught and instruction proceeds in both Samoan and English. The mission schools are not subject, as regards their organization, staffing or curricula, to Government control.

Government schools

A total of 12,246 pupils are enrolled in the 101 Samoan village schools, which are staffed entirely by Samoans and in which all instruction with the exception of English is given in the vernacular. During the past year children have been enrolled in these schools at a younger age, the attendance of pupils has been better and many villages have expressed desires to have Government schools opened. There are definite signs that the standard of work is improving. For an hour in each of four mornings of the week educational broadcasts are made to the village schools. The broadcasts in conjunction with a publication, The Teacher's Monthly Guide, have stimulated the teaching in the schools.

Teacher training

Several changes have taken place in the training of primary school teachers in order to meet the greater need of the rapidly increasing population. The number of trainees has been increased from 92 to 123; the course of training has been increased from two to three years; the training college staff has been increased to three New Zealand teachers by the addition of an infant specialist; a model school has been attached to the training college as a practicing school for students; and student allowances have been increased. It is hoped that ultimately the training college will have a roll of 150 student teachers, which will then allow for fifty teacher graduates each year.

Scholarships

Since the program was instituted in 1945, the number of students who have been awarded scholarships in New Zealand totals sixty-one. Of the ten students selected to be sent to New Zealand during the year under review, eight were Samoan and two Europeans.

Adult education

A night school for adults was opened at Leififi during the year. Students pay fees at the rate of one guinea a subject per year. Courses of study have been drawn up in English, social studies, bookkeeping, mathematics, and arithmetic and 150 students have been enrolled.

The New Zealand Reparation Estates Organization is also training young men as engineers, electricians, machinists, fitters, carpenters, boat-builders, plumbers, painters, and in other fields.

PART II

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY
THE COUNCIL

I. General

The Trusteeship Council commends the Administering Authority for the progress made in the Territory and for fulfilling all its obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement during the year under review, and congratulates the Administering Authority on the form of the annual report as an improvement over the report of the previous year.

The South Pacific Commission

The Council notes with satisfaction the co-operation between the Government of Western Samoa and the South Pacific Commission, which co-operation may be expected to affect beneficially the development of the Territory.

II. Political advancement

Legislative Assembly

The Council notes with satisfaction the election by secret ballot of the additional Samoan member of the Legislative Assembly and expresses the hope that further reforms will be introduced with a view to bringing about, in due course, a system of universal suffrage in the election of the Fono of Faipule.

Status of the inhabitants

The Council takes note of the differentiation in status and in legal and social rights between Samoans and Europeans and the possible undesirable tensions which may result therefrom, and recommends to the Administering Authority to intensify its efforts to solve this problem.

Judicial organization

The Council wishes to be informed as to the results of the various inquiries on the question of the status and jurisdiction of Samoan judges, particularly with respect to permanence of tenure.

Local government

The Council expresses the hope that the work of the Commission of Inquiry, established to study local government in villages and districts will contribute to the adoption of procedures, furthering opportunities for the people of Samoa to acquire the political experience necessary for self-government.

Administration

The Council commends the Administering Authority on the statement that the policy of the Samoan Public Service Commission will be to provide increasing responsibility for Samoans in the public services and expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will make progressive use of Samoans in the higher posts of the administration.

III. Economic advancement

General

The Council notes with satisfaction the favorable economic and financial conditions in the Territory, and congratulates the Administering Authority on the re-establishment of the Department of Agriculture, the attention given to the problem of the diversification of the economy, and the formation of the Copra Board for the purpose of establishing a stabilization fund for the protection of the copra industry.

Taxation

The Council notes with interest the study which is being made with respect to the question of income tax in Western Samoa and wishes to be informed of any taxation reforms that may result therefrom.

The New Zealand Reparation Estates

The Council recommends that the Administering Authority consider the possibility of giving statutory form to the practice of using all surpluses of the New Zealand Reparation Estates for the benefit of the people of Western Samoa.

Cost of living

The Council requests the Administering Authority to prepare as soon as possible a study concerning the cost of living in the Territory and to include this information in subsequent reports.

Preferential treatment of British goods

The Council makes note that a Select Committee has been created by the Legislative Assembly to investigate the preferential treatment of 11 per cent accorded to British goods imported into the Territory. It wishes to be advised on the conclusions and recommendations which may be reached as a result of this Committee's report and of the investigations by the new Minister of External Affairs and Island Territories.

IV. Social advancement

Population

The Council calls the attention of the Administering Authority to the considerable increase in population which, if continued, would probably provide a unique example of a population increasing fivefold in fifty years, and invites the Administering Authority to take into consideration the consequences of this situation in its over-all plans of economic and social development concerning the Territory.

Health

The Council commends the Administering Authority for the progress made in the field of public health, particularly the establishment of a mobile clinic. The Council notes, however, the relatively high incidence of tuberculosis and urges the Administering Authority to intensify the measures that have already been initiated for the control of this disease. The Council also recommends that the Administering Authority intensify its efforts to recruit doctors and other medical personnel.

Social and Labour legislation

The Council recommends that the Administering Authority, taking into account local conditions, should as soon as possible introduce elementary social legislation, including labour legislation.

Status of women

The Council, commending the Administering Authority on its efforts towards the elimination of differentiation between the rights of men and women, recommends that it continue to take all measures to insure that the women of Somoa shall have ample opportunities to participate in the political life of the Territory.

Radio and Press

The Council commends the development in the use of radio for the information and education of the population and also for civic information and training. It expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will continue to give the Council the benefit of its experience in this field.

V. Educational advancement

Educational statistics

The Council requests the Administering Authority to give more complete statistics regarding both the Administration and other schools in the Territory in its future reports.

Mission schools

The Council notes the commendable progress made in the field of education and recommends that steps be taken to bring about closer co-ordination between government and mission schools with regard to organization, staffing and curricula.

PART III

OBSERVATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL REPRESENTING THEIR INDIVIDUAL OPINIONS ONLY

Note: In accordance with the decision of the Drafting Committee, part III will be issued as an addendum to this report as soon as the members of the Council have indicated to the Secretariat the statements they wish to be included.
