



UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

T/L.357/Corr.1
15 July 1953

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twelfth session
Agenda item 4 (c)

CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

CORRIGENDUM

Note: The Drafting Committee on New Guinea has approved the following modifications to document T/L.357. These are based on statements made before the Council by the special representative of the Administering Authority.

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II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

Administrative service

1. On page 5 after the last paragraph insert the following:

"The Administering Authority informed the Council that a recruiting campaign, begun in July 1952, had resulted in 134 new appointments, up to 15 June 1953. These included fifty appointments to the Department of District Services and Native Affairs, twenty to the Department of Health, eight to the Department of Education and eleven to the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries. Since 15 June 1953, a further 121 vacancies were in process of being filled. Forty of these positions were in the Department of Health, twenty-two in the Department of Education, twenty-seven in the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries and seven in the Department of Forests. The recruiting campaign was to be continued. At least 50 per cent of the new appointees, apart from those to be attached to headquarters, would be assigned to the Territory of New Guinea."

Legislative Council

2. On page 8 after the last paragraph insert the following:

"The Administering Authority subsequently informed the Council that arrangements had been made for the indigenous members to confer with indigenous groups and communities in other districts, both before and after meetings of the Council."

Municipal and district government

3. On page 10 after the first paragraph insert the following:

"The Administering Authority subsequently emphasized that despite difficulties facing it, six Councils had been established, including two since 30 June 1952, and that the policy was gradually to replace the direct rule system of village officials by properly constituted

native Councils. Any attempt to accelerate the pace of political development by more or less forcing local government upon the indigenous people before they were ready for it would merely give those people an unenlightened sort of local autonomy and would inevitably result in failure, and probably loss of confidence in the Administration."

III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

General

4. On page 16 insert the following at the end of the second paragraph:
"The Administering Authority subsequently informed the Council that as of 30 April 1953 the registration of fifty societies and three associations had been approved. In order to meet the growing administrative demands of this rapidly expanding movement six European officers had recently been appointed to the Co-operative Section."
5. On page 18 after the second paragraph insert the following:
"The Administering Authority subsequently informed the Council that before any long-range planning for development could be undertaken, the Administering Authority had to build up an administration from the disunited survivors of the prewar administration, which the conditions of war had separated institutionally from the over-all problems of the Territory, and to repair the devastation of war which extended over the whole of the Territory and that it was considered essential that the natural resources of the Territory should be properly known and assessed before soundly based long-range planning for economic development could be undertaken. Reconstruction had gone ahead, with the tempo increasing. Arrangements had been concluded for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization to carry out a survey of the natural resources of the Territory."

"The Administering Authority further stated that while it considered that a resources survey was necessary prior to drawing up a plan for long-range economic development the immediate economic policy was to encourage development on the basis of the experience gained thus far in terms of suitable crops and lands and by constructing new roads. To facilitate the acquisition of land in suitable areas by settlers a Land Development Board had been established and had initiated surveys with a view to the future development of certain areas."

Agriculture and animal husbandry

6. On page 25 after the last paragraph insert the following:

"The Administering Authority subsequently informed the Council that arrangements have been made for a recognized world authority on coconut cultivation and improvement, to visit the Territory to advise on the position generally and, in particular with reference to tree senility and regeneration by underplanting, which had been successfully carried out in Ceylon."

IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

Public health

7. On page 33 after the last paragraph insert the following:

"The Administering Authority subsequently informed the Council that the reason why the hospital construction programme, drawn up in 1951, was not implemented was that it had been decided that the centres concerned did not require the type of hospitals originally planned. A firm decision to build a new hospital at Lae had been made, however, and provision made in the existing grant for 1953-54 and the succeeding year for hospital construction. It was expected that construction of the Lae base hospital would commence before the end of 1953 and that work on the Wan and Wonga hospitals would be started before June 1954."

V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

General

8. On page 38 after the first paragraph insert the following:

"The Administering Authority subsequently informed the Council that since the submission of the annual report an Education Ordinance had been adopted. This Ordinance provided inter alia for:

(a) an Education Advisory Board consisting of the Director of Education as Chairman, four members appointed by the Administrator to represent the Missions and voluntary education agencies of the Territory, and such other members, whose function was to advise the Administrator concerning any matter relating to education in the Territory or arising under the Ordinance;

(b) the establishment of a District Education Committee for each Education District, which might advise the Administrator on any matter relating to education in its district;

(c) the establishment and maintenance of schools, including pre-school, adult education and vocational training institutions;

(d) the Director of Education to determine the language or languages to be used for secular education in a school;

(e) compulsory attendance at such places as were specified;

(f) the registration and recognition of schools, and

(g) no person to be permitted to conduct a school unless it was registered or recognized."

Teachers and teacher training

9. On page 39 after the first paragraph insert the following:

"The Administering Authority informed the Council that it had approved an increase in the staff of the Department of Education and that under this approval thirty European teachers had already been appointed."