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Agenda item 4 (a)

CONDITIONS IN NAURU

Report of the Drafting Committee

1. At its 1317th meeting held on 23 June 1967, the Trusteeship Council appointed a Drafting Committee composed of the representatives of France and the United States to propose, on the basis of the discussions which had taken place in the Council, conclusions and recommendations on conditions in Nauru and to make recommendations concerning the chapter on conditions in that Territory for inclusion in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly.
2. The Drafting Committee held three meetings. It had the benefit of the assistance of a representative of the Administering Authority.
3. In the light of the general discussions in the Council on conditions in the Territory, the Committee drafted a number of conclusions and recommendations which it considered as reflecting the opinions of the majority of the members of the Council and which are set forth in the annex to the present report.
4. The Committee considers that the Trusteeship Council may wish to adopt the revised working paper on conditions in Nauru (T/L.1120 and Add.1) as the basic text for the chapter on conditions in that Territory to be included in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly.
5. The Committee also considers that the Trusteeship Council may wish to adopt the conclusions and recommendations set out in the annex below and include them at the end of each appropriate section or sub-section of the chapter.



ANNEX

I. GENERAL

1. The Council notes that relations between the Administering Authority and the representatives of the Nauruan people continue to be cordial; that economic, social and educational conditions continue to be satisfactory; and that commendable progress has been made in the Territory.

Future of the Nauruans

2. The Council reaffirms that the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Trusteeship Agreement and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)) and General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) are fully applicable to the Trust Territory of Nauru.

3. The Council recalls that Article 76 b of the Charter provides that one of the basic objectives of the International Trusteeship System is to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of each Territory and its peoples, and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned. The Council, noting General Assembly resolution 2111 (XX) and resolution 2226 (XXI), recalls its recommendation that serious consideration be given to the wishes of the Nauruan people, freely expressed through their elected representatives to receive independence not later than 31 January 1968.

4. The Council notes that during the discussions held in Canberra in 1967 between the representatives of the Nauruan people and the Administering Authority, the latter agreed that it was appropriate that basic changes should be made in the Government of Nauru and that the aim should be for these to come into effect upon 31 January 1968. The Council notes that during the discussions in Canberra, the Administering Authority put forward two proposals concerning the future of Nauru: a proposal providing for association with Australia, with the latter being responsible for external affairs and defence of Nauru, while giving Nauru full autonomy in internal affairs and government; and, subsequently, a proposal which

would accord to Nauru full independence, while devolving upon Australia responsibility for defence and external affairs on the basis of a Treaty of Friendship. The Administering Authority proposed that these new arrangements be placed before the Nauruan people by a plebiscite.

5. The representatives of the Nauruan people reiterated their desire to become independent by 31 January 1968 and specifically proposed that the Island should become a republic within the British Commonwealth. The Council notes that the representatives of the Nauruan people, both at the Canberra meetings and during the discussions in the Trusteeship Council, stated that the attainment of independence by Nauru should not be conditional upon agreement in advance with Australia on defence and foreign affairs, and that there is no necessity to conduct a plebiscite. At the same time, the Nauruan delegation at Canberra made it clear that their position did not foreclose entering into treaties or agreements with other countries, nor seeking assistance from another country or countries in the handling of Nauruan foreign affairs.

6. The Council notes with satisfaction that the 1967 Canberra discussions were held in a favourable atmosphere. The Council; however, regrets that the parties were unable to complete their discussions due to lack of time but notes that they undertook to study the various proposals and to resume discussions at an early date. The Council is confident that these discussions will take place in the same spirit of co-operation and expresses earnest hope that agreement will be reached to the satisfaction of both parties. The Council is gratified to note that the Administering Authority has expressed its sympathetic attitude in connexion with the Nauruans' wish to realize their political ambition by 31 January 1968.

7. The Council, recalling its observations adopted at its thirty-third session with regard to the resettlement of the Nauruans, notes the statement of the Head Chief Hammer De Roburt that the Nauruans have abandoned the idea of resettlement and intend to remain on the Island. The Council notes, however, the statement of the Administering Authority that it remains ready to consider any Nauruan proposal concerning future resettlement.

## II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

### Development of representative, executive and legislative organs and the extension of their powers

8. The Council notes with satisfaction the statement of the Nauruans that the proposed Constitution should include, inter alia, provisions dealing with fundamental rights of the people.

## III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

9. The Council, recalling its belief that every effort will be made to adopt a solution to the phosphate question in conformity with the rights and interests of the Nauruan people, notes with satisfaction that an agreement was reached in Canberra in 1967 between the Nauruans and the Administering Authority, whereby the ownership, control and management of the phosphate industry will be transferred to the Nauruans by 1 July 1970. The Council further notes with satisfaction that transitional arrangements provide for a substantial increase in phosphate royalties and for the increased participation of the Nauruans in the operation of the industry.

10. The Council notes that the Administering Authority has distributed the report of the Committee of Experts on the rehabilitation of the worked-out land in accordance with the Council's recommendation at the thirty-third session.

11. The Council also notes that the report of the Committee of Experts concluded, inter alia, that "while it would be technically feasible (within the narrow definition of that expression) to refill the mined phosphate areas of Nauru with suitable soil and/or other materials from external sources, the very many practical considerations involved rule out such an undertaking as impracticable". At the same time the report provides alternative means of treating the mined land. The Council further notes that the Nauruans have voiced strong reservations to this report and, inter alia, stated that the Nauru Local Government Council believes that the land already worked should be restored by the Administering Authority to its original condition. The Council notes further the statement of the Administering Authority that the financial arrangements agreed upon with respect to phosphate

took into consideration all future needs of the Nauruan people, including possible rehabilitation of land already worked.

12. The Council, regretting that differences continue to exist on the question of rehabilitation, expresses earnest hope that it will be possible to find a solution to the satisfaction of both parties.

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