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Agenda item 4 (b)

CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Report of the Drafting Committee

1. At its 1352nd meeting on 13 June 1969, the Trusteeship Council appointed a Drafting Committee composed of the representatives of France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to propose, on the basis of the discussions which had taken place in the Council, conclusions and recommendations on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and to make recommendations concerning the chapter on conditions in that Territory for inclusion in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council.
2. The Drafting Committee held four 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 recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the revised working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/L.1144 and Add.1 and 2) 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 Security Council.
5. The Committee also recommends that the Trusteeship Council 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

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

A. GENERAL

Population movements

1. The Trusteeship Council welcomes the statement by the Administering Authority that a programme has begun which will result in the complete rehabilitation of Bikini Atoll, and the return and resettlement of its former inhabitants.
2. The Council expresses its hope that, as soon as feasible, similar measures will be taken in respect of the other displaced communities, and welcomes the statement of the Administering Authority that, in respect of the former inhabitants of Eniwetok, it is taking active steps to ensure that any past injustices are corrected and that current conditions are improved.

War damage claims

3. The Trusteeship Council, recalling its previous recommendations on the important question of the settlement of Micronesian claims for compensation of war damage during the Second World War, notes with satisfaction the signature of the agreement on the subject between the Governments of the United States of America and Japan at Tokyo on 18 April 1969, and expresses the hope that the measures necessary for implementation will now be quickly completed and payments rapidly made, after consultation with the Congress of Micronesia and the individuals concerned.
4. The Council once more notes that no settlement of the "post-secure" claims against the United States has yet been made but that the claims office is evaluating the claims filed by the deadline of 15 September 1968. The Council welcomes the statement of the Special Representative that payment will be expedited in conjunction with the settlement of the claims resulting from the agreement with Japan. It again expresses the hope that a definite solution will be reached by its next session, and that payments will be made at the earliest possible date.

Land questions

5. The Trusteeship Council notes that the Administering Authority is greatly speeding up the land title survey and registration project and hopes that the goal of 30 June 1970 set for its completion will be attained. The Council notes with satisfaction the statement that the Administering Authority will not take land for any government purpose without full discussion with all parties involved and that land will not be so taken without full, adequate and prompt compensation to landowners. The Council also notes with satisfaction the relinquishment to Micronesians of some public land and expresses the hope that other land not required for government use will be made available to the people for productive use. The Council expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will have substantial progress in these fields to report on at the next session.

B. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

Congress of Micronesia

6. The Trusteeship Council, recalling its previous recommendations concerning the duration of sessions of the Congress, is glad to note that sessions will be of forty-five days' duration instead of thirty, and that there will be an additional session every two years. The Council also notes with satisfaction that members of the Congress will now be provided with full-time payment for their services.

7. The Trusteeship Council also welcomes the activities of the four interim committees of the Congress on future political status, education, finance and governmental organization, and their increased involvement with the Executive in governmental matters.

8. The Trusteeship Council reaffirms its previous conclusion that, as the effective voice and instrument of Micronesian wishes, the Congress must have full and clearly defined legislative powers and the means to exercise these powers.

9. With regard to finance, the Council takes note of the statement by the Special Representative that the Congress of Micronesia will be involved in a much greater degree in every stage of the planning and budgeting process and that the Special Representative will present specific suggestions to the Congress of Micronesia at its next session. The Council looks forward to progress in this field before its next session.

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10. The Council, conscious of the fact that the Congress of Micronesia at present exercises no effective financial control over the larger part of government activities, reaffirms its hope that steps will soon be taken to enlarge the financial responsibility of the Congress by progressively extending its powers to include appropriation of United States subsidies.

The Executive

11. The Trusteeship Council, bearing in mind the recommendations of the 1967 Visiting Mission, is concerned that there are still no Micronesians in the highest echelons of the central executive, and reiterates its belief that Micronesians should gain early experience in the framing of policy and the exercise of political responsibility at cabinet level.

12. The Council welcomes the activities of the Committee on Government Organization of the Congress of Micronesia, and the intention of the Special Representative to take the conclusions of the Congress on the Committee's report into account before making any change in the structure of the executive branch of the Trust Territory Government.

Public service: training and appointment of indigenous persons for positions of responsibility

13. The Council is concerned that, in spite of the priority attached by the Administering Authority to training Micronesians to enable them to take over positions in the public service, limited progress has been made in this field in the last year, and that no Micronesians have yet reached head of department level.

14. The Council once again urges the Administering Authority to expand its training programme and to increase its efforts in this field.

15. The Council welcomes the statement of the Special Representative that the Administering Authority is ready to prepare a time-phased programme for the equalization of the United States and Micronesian pay scales in the Trust Territory which will be developed in close consultation with the Congress of Micronesia. The Council looks forward to receiving information on implementation of this important step at its next session.

Peace Corps

16. The Trusteeship Council welcomes the significant contribution being made by the Peace Corps, in particular to the educational and social programmes in the Territory, and expresses the hope that reductions in Peace Corps numbers will not be made in such a way as to affect these programmes adversely.

C. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

General economy

17. The Trusteeship Council, convinced that economic development must be achieved along with political progress, recommends that the Administering Authority intensify its efforts to improve the economic prospects of the Territory. Noting that the present infrastructure is not adequate to achieve these ends, the Council urges that greater efforts should be made in this direction. It also expresses concern about the worsening trade balance and hopes that measures can be taken to remedy it by fostering export products and import substitutions. It notes the intention of the Administering Authority to grant duty free status to Micronesian products.

Public finance: development of adequate public revenue

18. The Trusteeship Council takes note with satisfaction of the continuing increase of funds, amounting to \$11 million, planned by the Administering Authority for 1969/1970. It expresses the hope that, even if funds can only be authorized on a year-to-year basis, this can be done in such a way as to permit long-term planning of economic development.

19. The Council attaches importance to the Economic Development Loan Fund. It commends the Administering Authority's intention to seek an increase in funds to a level of \$5 million, and hopes that the lending activity of the fund will be correspondingly expanded. It expresses the hope that Micronesians will be given a greater part in the composition of the board and play an increasing role in its management.

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20. The Council recalls its recommendation that the Congress of Micronesia should consider the adoption of a suitable system of direct taxation applicable to all residents in the Territory. It notes that two tax experts are at present in the Territory and are preparing a report on the question, and that this report is to be submitted to the Congress of Micronesia at its July session. The Council expresses the hope that substantial progress in this connexion can take place before the Council's next session.

Agriculture and livestock

21. Although taking note of the efforts to diversify and increase agricultural production, the Council observes that only limited progress has been made to date and hopes that these efforts will be intensified. The Council, concerned at the report of the closure of the Research Institute at Ponape, takes note of the plans to reopen it on an expanded basis.

Fisheries

22. The Trusteeship Council, reaffirming its earlier recommendations concerning the importance of the fishing industry in the Territory, is glad to note the increase in the catches in Palau District. It welcomes the measures envisaged by the Administering Authority to expand and improve the fishing and related industries and to increase Micronesian interest and participation in them. In this connexion the Trusteeship Council urges that appropriate research should be carried out to improve and expand the fisheries potential of the Trust Territory.

Industries

23. The Trusteeship Council notes the impressive progress made in the field of tourism and hopes that the development of tourism will also help with the development of other industries and in particular of handicrafts. The Council feels that adequate training of handicraft workers will be important in maintaining quality and expanding production.

Transport and communications

24. The Trusteeship Council, noting the vital importance of transport and communications for every aspect of the Territory's life, and the progress made in air and sea transportation and telecommunications during the past year, nevertheless urges the Administering Authority to expand these services and to pay further regard to links between district centres and their outlying islands and to road communications on the islands.

D. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

General social conditions

25. The Trusteeship Council takes note of the statement by the Special Adviser on the need not only to accelerate the pace of development, but also to guide its direction with more sensibility to Micronesian life styles. The Trusteeship Council urges the Administering Authority to give full weight to this consideration in planning for the development of the Territory.

Medical and health services

26. The Trusteeship Council takes note of the steps that have been taken to expand the health services.

27. The Trusteeship Council welcomes the filling of some of the vacancies to which it drew attention last year, but is still concerned about the limited availability of health facilities and medical personnel. In this connexion, it welcomes the beginning of construction of the new Truk hospital and the purchase of equipment for transportation of health teams and patients, but is still concerned that a substantial part of the population lives out of reach of medical facilities.

28. The Council, however, takes note of the statement by the Special Representative, that a study is being carried out of the possibility of providing clinics in, and rapid medical evacuation from, outlying islands.

Housing

29. The Trusteeship Council recalls its recommendation on the urgent need for improvements in low-cost housing assistance. It takes note of the statement of the Special Representative that the Administration attaches priority to the implementation of the master plan in each district, which sets aside definite areas for housing development. The Council hopes to hear at its next session of further progress in this field, including the establishment of the low-cost housing fund suggested at its thirty-fifth session.

E. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

General

30. The Trusteeship Council, bearing in mind the declaration of the Special Adviser on the educational inadequacies in the Territory, notes with satisfaction that the educational sector has the highest priority in the use of the budgetary increase planned for 1969/1970. It hopes that further steps will be taken rapidly in the Territory to improve conditions in this field.

31. The Trusteeship Council takes note of the statement by the Special Adviser that the Education Committee of the Congress of Micronesia will produce recommendations for a system of education responsive to the social and skill needs of Micronesia and looks forward to receiving further information on the results of this study at its next session.

Specific aspects of education

32. The Trusteeship Council welcomes the continued expansion of teacher-training facilities and the forthcoming establishment of the Micronesian Occupational Center.

33. The Council notes the expansion of scholarships and the statement by the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that opportunities for higher education for Micronesians appear to be adequate at the present stage of the educational system.

34. The Trusteeship Council observes, however, that as the number of children attending secondary schools increases, the need may arise for the establishment of a junior college.

Preservation of Micronesian culture

35. The Trusteeship Council welcomes the announcement of the plans to construct a museum in the Marshall Islands and expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will take part in the development of this project. The Trusteeship Council was gratified with the assurances given by the Special Representative that his administration was mindful of its duty to preserve the history and culture of Micronesia and would work with the Historical Commission which has been created to assist in this field.

36. The Council recalls the suggestion of the 1967 Visiting Mission that Micronesian students could themselves play a significant part in recording aspects of island traditions and culture.

F. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERMEDIATE TARGET DATES AND FINAL
TIME-TABLE FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF SELF-DETERMINATION
OR INDEPENDENCE

37. The Trusteeship Council notes the development of democratic expression in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the increasing readiness of the people of Micronesia to assume responsibility for deciding their own future. It urges the Administering Authority to facilitate this evolution in all its aspects and to continue its efforts to increase the understanding of the people of Micronesia of the various possibilities open to them in the process of self-determination.

38. The Council reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Micronesia to self-determination, including the right to independence, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, the Trusteeship Agreement and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960.

39. The Council, taking note of the activities of the Future Political Status Commission of the Congress of Micronesia, welcomes the invitation to the Administering Authority, referred to by the Special Adviser, to meet with Micronesian representatives to decide on the termination of the Trusteeship

Agreement. The Council also welcomes the suggestion by the Administering Authority that the Congress of Micronesia should select a group of members to meet with representatives of the United States Government to devise legislation which would provide for a status consistent with the wishes of the majority of people in the Territory. The Council notes the statement by the representative of the Administering Authority that it will provide the Micronesians with the opportunity to exercise their right of self-determination in the near future. The Council also hopes that the procedures now envisaged will in no way slow down the process of consultation with the Micronesians on the question of their future, or progress towards self-determination in accordance with their wishes.

40. The Council, recalling the objectives of the Trusteeship system set out in Article 76 of the United Nations Charter, reaffirms that the ultimate status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands will have to reflect the desires of the Micronesians. It welcomes the observation by the representative of the Administering Authority that this status will have to be approved by the inhabitants in an act of self-determination, and the statement of the Special Representative that such an act of choice would be held under the surveillance of a committee of observers appointed by the United Nations.

41. The Council urges the Administering Authority to pursue vigorously its efforts, in close co-operation with the Congress of Micronesia, to prepare the people of the Territory to exercise their right to determine their own future.
