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CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Report of the Drafting Committee

1. At its 1417th meeting, on 15 June 1973, the Trusteeship Council appointed a Drafting Committee composed of the representatives of Australia and France 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 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 recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the revised working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/L.1178 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 Security Council.
5. The Committee also recommends that the Trusteeship Council adopt the conclusions and recommendations set out in the annex and include them at the end of each appropriate section or subsection of the chapter.

ANNEX

DRAFT CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. GENERAL

Population movements

1. The Trusteeship Council notes the assurance given by the Administering Authority that Bikini Atoll is safe for human habitation. It notes further that the rehabilitation programme for the former residents of Bikini Atoll is continuing on schedule but urges the Administering Authority to bear in mind that the Bikinians will need to receive economic, social and technical assistance for some time after they have been resettled.
2. The Council also notes that preliminary planning for the return to Eniwetok of the Marshallese now living on Ujelan is in process and that the Administering Authority has undertaken to provide a more specific report on this project to the Council at its next session. The Council emphasizes its concern that the inhabitants of Eniwetok should be repatriated as soon as practicable and welcomes the recent decisions to cancel the Pacific Atoll Cratering Experiment (PACE) as facilitating this.

War damage claims

3. The Council notes with satisfaction that the Micronesian Claims Commission, established under United States Law 92-39, began its work in October 1972 and that Micronesians have been registering their claims with the Commission.
4. The Council notes the statement of the representative of the Administering Authority that every effort is being made to settle these claims as quickly and as fairly as possible and in this connexion notes, in particular, that there is currently an amendment to the Micronesian Claims Act before the United States Congress which would further expedite the early payment of claims.

B. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

Territorial Government

5. The Trusteeship Council notes from the statements of the Administering Authority and the Special Advisers that over the past year the Congress of Micronesia has continued to discharge competently the responsibilities entrusted to it. A great deal of legislation has been enacted and a number of resolutions have been adopted, some of great importance.

6. The number of bills and resolutions presented seems, however, exceptionally high compared with the number actually adopted: an average of only one bill out of 10 was finally passed. Some lack of preparation appears to be the cause of this situation and co-ordination with the executive might probably be improved in this connexion.

7. The Administering Authority has used its right of veto on several occasions. The reason given has been, in several cases, the fact that some texts were contradictory or would result in duplication, or that they would have been contrary to international agreements: the Trusteeship Council considers that these observations emphasize the need for better co-operation with the executive in the preparation of bills, particularly regarding the period of time between the tabling of a bill and the vote on it.

8. The Council recalls its suggestions that the use of the veto should be restricted to areas of direct interest to the United States and notes the assurances given by the representative of the Administering Authority that the subject is being studied.

9. The Council also notes that a study is being made of the possibility of extending the budgetary competence of the Congress and it expresses the hope that the authority of the Congress will from now on be gradually expanded in that area. It considers that such a development would enable the Congress to have a better appreciation of the financial consequences of its decisions. It recalls that at its thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions it already expressed itself in favour of the extension of the budgetary competence of the Congress.

10. The Council welcomes the fact that the Congress was on two occasions able to carry out its plan of holding meetings away from the capital in order to make the population more aware of its institutions.

Executive

11. The Trusteeship Council commends the Administering Authority for its appointments of Micronesians to head several departments in the Territory in recent months. It notes the statements to the effect that that trend will continue.

12. The Council notes with satisfaction the adoption in April 1972 of legislation giving the Congress the power of advice and consent in regard to senior executive appointments. It considers that that process should be extended to new posts and that the procedures for the appointment of the Deputy High Commissioner should be reviewed. It recommends, moreover, that the practice of unofficial consultations before appointments should be followed regularly. It recalls its recommendations at the thirty-ninth session that a prior examination be undertaken of the separation of the functions reserved to the Administering Authority and those of the local executive in order to facilitate the possible introduction of a new political status which would give internal self-government to the Territory.

District government

District administrators

13. The Council notes with satisfaction the statements made by the Special Representative regarding the quality of work done by the districts which are now, without exception, administered by Micronesians.

District legislatures

14. The Council notes that differences of opinion have been revealed between the representatives of the Administering Authority and some petitioners, on the one hand, and the Special Advisers, who are members of the Congress of Micronesia, on the other, regarding the exact nature and role of the district legislatures. It considers that, at least for the future, that question is one which should be studied as soon as possible, in the context of the preparation of a constitution.

Civil service

15. The Council notes with satisfaction the figures given by the Special Representative which indicate that the number of expatriate employees replaced by Micronesians with equal qualifications has continued to increase during the past year. It notes, too, that, out of 35 senior appointments submitted for the approval of Congress, almost two thirds are held by Micronesians. It hopes that this trend will continue during the next year and not be affected by any delays that may occur in the negotiations on the future status of the Territory.

16. It reaffirms, moreover, the opinion which it expressed at previous sessions that there should be a single salary scale for all employees serving in Micronesia.

17. It therefore commends the Congress and the executive for having jointly prepared, and adopted, legislation which will establish a single basic salary schedule for all employees and a system of allowances and premiums for employees from higher paying labour markets. It hopes, however, that the view which it expressed at previous sessions to the effect that the Administering Authority should be directly responsible for paying the allowances and premiums and that civil service salaries should be set at levels compatible with the financial capacity of the Territory and comparable with salary levels in the private sector, should not be overlooked. It expresses the hope that the same concern for a financial balance will prevail in fixing the salaries or allowances of members of the Congress and the district legislatures.

Political education

18. The Council has noted the observations of the 1973 Visiting Mission which, in practically all the localities it visited, heard criticism of the Administering Authority and the elected bodies on this point. Among other things, the population complains of the unsuitability of the information which it receives by radio or in the form of documents; it would, in particular, like to be in more direct contact with the members of the Congress so that the latter could provide explanations on the negotiations concerning the future status of the Territory.

19. The Council has noted that the members of the Congress, according to their colleague whom they appointed as Special Adviser to the delegation of the Administering Authority, are aware of the problem and intend to make a greater effort to keep their constituents informed by increasing the number of their visits.

20. The Council notes with satisfaction, moreover, the statements of the Special Representative of the Administering Authority to the effect that a further effort will be made in that area, in particular through the translation into the vernacular of documents concerning the political situation of the Territory and its future and through the rapid and extensive dissemination of such documents. It notes, in particular, that the report of the 1973 Visiting Mission will be brought to the knowledge of the population. It expresses the hope that information programmes such as that to be launched by the district of Ponape, which will include visits by members of the Congress and of the legislature, will be extended throughout the Territory.

21. The Council recalls the recommendations which it made at its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions regarding the establishment of a joint committee, consisting of members of the Congress and of the executive, in order to develop a political education programme for the whole Territory.

22. It also recommends that civic education programmes in the schools should be intensified and arranged in such a way as to enable them better to reflect Micronesian realities.

Judiciary

23. While recognizing the need to maintain an independent judiciary free from political pressures, the Council takes note of the complaints voiced by the Special Advisers with regard to the judicial conduct of two of the three members of the Micronesian High Court.

24. The Council hopes that the Administering Authority will conduct a full investigation into this complaint and will report its findings to the next session of the Council.

C. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

General economy

25. The Trusteeship Council agrees with the view of the Visiting Mission that there is a need to rethink the ways in which the Micronesian economy should and could be developed, having in mind options for future political status. Accordingly, it endorses the suggestion in the report of the Visiting Mission 1/ that the Administering Authority give consideration to commissioning a new full review of the economy of the Trust Territory.

26. Noting the present role of the Micronesians in the formulation of executive development policy, the Council is of the opinion that the review should be based on priorities for development, formulated by Micronesians themselves, and on assumptions about financial support which would take into account the potentialities for obtaining loans and foreign assistance, as well as the continuation of a subsidy from the Administering Authority. The Council also endorses the recommendation contained in the report of the Visiting Mission 2/ that the Administering Authority consider inviting appropriate international bodies to carry out such an economic survey.

27. The Council notes with approval the increased involvement of the Congress of Micronesia and the district legislatures in the determination of economic policies. Although the powers of the legislatures, particularly those of the districts, are circumscribed by the limited amount of funds over which they have direct and final control, they nevertheless are actively engaged in the determination of economic policies and the formulation of budgets. The Council agrees with the view of the Visiting Mission 3/ that it is the responsibility of the Congress of Micronesia, in co-ordination with the districts, to make decisions about what kind of economic development should take place in Micronesia and to determine priorities. In reaffirming the view expressed at earlier sessions that the system of budgetary aid might be re-examined and the Congress given final authority over the expenditure of a greater percentage of the total budget, the Council notes that a specific proposal has been made by representatives of the Congress of Micronesia to the Interior and Appropriations Committees of the United States Congress, which now have that proposal under consideration.

28. The Council recalls the regret which it expressed last year because Micronesian products entering the United States had not been exempted from United States tariffs and notes, again with regret, that although the subject is still under consideration, the situation remains unchanged.

1/ T/1741, para. 354.

2/ Ibid., para. 355.

3/ Ibid., para. 209.

29. The Council notes that the Visiting Mission found overwhelming support in Micronesia for permitting investment in the Territory from non-United States sources. It endorses the opinion of the Visiting Mission ^{4/} that the Administering Authority should now revise its interpretation of article 8.1 of the Trusteeship Agreement in order to permit investment by other members of the United Nations. The Council also recommends that the Administering Authority review and keep under close scrutiny the operations of the Foreign Investors Act to ensure that all permits issued and all operations conducted under those permits ensure that a reasonable share of the benefits of investment accrue to the Micronesian people.

30. The Council is pleased to note that the Administering Authority's application on behalf of Micronesia for associate membership of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) has been endorsed by the Commission and that consideration is being given to the question of obtaining membership for Micronesia in the Asian Development Bank. The Council also notes the statement of the Representative of the Administering Authority that efforts are being made to conclude as rapidly as possible a basic agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which will provide the necessary framework for a UNDP country programme for Micronesia.

Credit

31. The Council notes the increase in the amount of development loan funds available under several programmes and notes that much of this increase has been authorized by the Congress of Micronesia from revenues under its direct control.

32. The Council shares the view of the Board of Directors created by the Congress of Micronesia to set up the framework for a Bank of Micronesia that the Bank initially should be a development rather than a commercial bank.

Public finance

33. As noted above, the Council reaffirms the recommendation, made at its thirty-ninth session, that the system of budgetary aid be re-examined with a view to giving the Congress of Micronesia final authority over the expenditure of a greater percentage of the total budget.

34. The Council endorses the view of the Visiting Mission that a major financial objective in the Trust Territory should be to increase the rate of growth in local revenue. It notes that the introduction of income and business receipts taxes in 1971 produced considerable additions to revenue and recommends that further measures to increase local revenue be studied. It notes that although bills were

^{4/} Ibid., para. 350.

introduced at a recent session of the Congress of Micronesia aimed, inter alia, at establishing a graduated tax scale and increased rates, they were not enacted. The Council suggests that the Congress of Micronesia give further attention to this matter and also to the possibility of raising import duties on items such as food-stuffs, beverages, cigarettes and tobacco, both for revenue purposes and to encourage import substitution.

Land

35. The Council notes the recommendation of the Visiting Mission 5/ relating to land in the Territory and requests the Administering Authority to give consideration to them.

36. The Council notes the decision in principle of the Administering Authority to return control over public lands to the districts. It hopes that the studies and discussions that will be necessary before this decision can be implemented will be undertaken soon and that control will be handed over at an early date.

Agriculture and livestock

37. The Council considers that the development of agricultural production in the Trust Territory should be regarded as having high priority, and it notes that the Administration shares this view. It is inclined to doubt, however, whether the proportion of budgetary expenditure and of development loans currently going into the agricultural sector is sufficient to encourage an adequate rate of growth. It appreciates the various constraints that affect development in this sector but suggests that the Administration, guided by the views of the Congress of Micronesia, should examine ways and means, including increased expenditures and the further development of agricultural co-operatives, of accelerating agricultural production. The Council notes that livestock production has continued to expand and that more resources than previously are being devoted to forest management. It welcomes both these developments.

Marine resources

38. The Council notes with satisfaction the priority being given by both the Congress of Micronesia and the Administration to the development of marine resources and welcomes recent legislative and administrative measures intended to further this objective. It is firmly of the opinion that the Trust Territory should concentrate

5/ Ibid., para. 222.

a good deal of effort on the exploitation of the wealth of the sea, and it believes, as it does also with regard to agricultural development, that the Administration and the Congress should give further consideration to the proportion of available funds expended on marine resources exploitation.

39. Because of the importance to Micronesia of marine resources, it is important that these resources in areas of Micronesian sovereignty be protected and the Council wishes to emphasize the responsibility which the Administering Authority has for this protection.

40. The Council notes the views expressed by Senator Amaraich, Special Adviser, about the law of the sea and the need for a Micronesian position on that subject to be presented to the forthcoming United Nations Conference particularly if it is different from that of the United States. The Council also notes the position stated by the Representative of the United States that, if Micronesian views on this matter could not be harmonized with those of the United States, ways would be found to ensure that Micronesian views were properly presented to the Conference.

Industry and tourism

41. The Council notes the steady increase in the number of tourists entering the Trust Territory. It notes also that it is the policy of the Congress of Micronesia that the pace and direction of tourist development in each district should be determined at the district level and that district legislatures should play the principal role in formulating tourist policies. It welcomes the fact that tourist commissions have now been established in all districts.

42. The Council agrees with the view of the Visiting Mission that the importance of the tourist industry in an economic sense should not divert Micronesians from the more important task of encouraging viable permanent and balanced growth in the economy as a whole, particularly in the agricultural and fisheries sectors. The Council also wishes to stress the importance of ensuring that a fair proportion of the revenue from tourism remains within Micronesia.

Transport and communications

43. The Council notes with concern that major deficiencies in the system of transport and communications, particularly in regard to sea transportation, continue to exist and to hinder economic development and the performance of general government services. The Council draws the attention of the Administering Authority to the suggestions made by the Visiting Mission in its report 6/ about possible ways of improving the situation in these areas.

44. The Council endorses the view of the Visiting Mission that decisions regarding such questions as the awarding of airline routes into Micronesia should be made only on the basis of what is considered to be the interests of Micronesia as a whole.

6/ Ibid., paras. 279 and 292.

D. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

Medical and health services

45. The Council notes that there has been increased expenditure on health in the Trust Territory and that considerable progress has been made in this field in recent years. The Council also notes that the Visiting Mission found that, despite this progress, medical facilities, except in some of the district centres, are still generally inadequate and there is a marked and obvious contrast between the facilities available in the main population centres and those in the more remote areas. The Council agreed with the suggestion of the Visiting Mission that more attention should be given to bringing the high standard of medical care now available in some of the district centres within the reach of all inhabitants of the Territory.

46. The Council notes with interest the introduction of the MEDEX Program for the training of physicians' assistants and hopes that funds can be found to continue this operation beyond the two years envisaged at present.

47. The Council notes that, under the present hospital rebuilding programme, the subdistrict hospitals at Ebeye and Kusaie should be completed within the next 12 months and that work is also scheduled to start on the long-planned Ponape teaching and referral hospital. The Council notes, however, that the Visiting Mission observed that many of the 154 dispensaries in the Territory were in substandard condition and in need of replacement. The Council considers that the Administering Authority should give high priority to the rebuilding of substandard dispensaries, especially in the outlying areas, and also to the construction of new units in those places where a significant section of the population has no direct access to medical facilities.

Community development

48. The Council notes with interest that the three major organizations in the Territory involved in community development are very active and effective. However, in view of the Visiting Mission's comment that there was duplication of effort and a lack of co-ordination between the three organizations, the Council recommends that the work of these agencies be more efficiently co-ordinated and that a single department or individual be given responsibility for overseeing their work.

49. The Council notes the phenomenon mentioned in paragraph 386 of the report of the Visiting Mission, namely, the growing dependence of people in many communities on external aid for financing community work, and shares the hope expressed by the Visiting Mission that this trend can be halted and eventually reversed. It agrees that one method of achieving this would be for local leaders to insist that participants in community projects genuinely involve themselves as partners and not just as recipients when they engage in community development work for the benefit of their own people.

Housing

50. The Council notes the statement of the Special Representative that the Congress of Micronesia recently enacted a law providing the framework for a low-cost housing programme in all of the Territory's six districts and that this law will be implemented by the newly created Territorial Housing Commission. The Council would appreciate a report from the Administering Authority on the implementation of this programme at its next session.

Public safety

51. The Council notes with concern that there has been an increase in certain categories of major crime and draws the attention of the Administering Authority to the suggestions made by the Visiting Mission in its report. 7/

52. The Council notes the concern expressed by one of the Special Advisers regarding enforcement of the Firē Arms Control Law and would welcome a report from the Administering Authority on the implementation of this law throughout the Trust Territory at its next session.

53. The Council reiterates its concern about the growing problem of juvenile delinquency in the Territory; it notes that there has been considerable research into this problem and that the authorities in the districts and the central government are aware of the difficulties.

54. The Council also notes that a full-time director of juvenile activities has been appointed and hopes he will give serious consideration to the suggestions in the report of the Visiting Mission. 8/

Peace Corps

55. The Council recognizes the useful contribution that Peace Corps volunteers are making in the Trust Territory, particularly in the field of education. The Council expresses the hope that Peace Corps volunteers will continue to be made available to the programme "Teaching English as a Second Language" (TESL).

7/ Ibid., para. 402.

8/ Ibid., para. 399.

E. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

General

56. The Council notes with satisfaction that a Micronesian has been appointed Director of the Department of Education in the Trust Territory and that the members of the Micronesian Board of Education are all Micronesian citizens.

57. The Council notes that the Micronesian Board of Education has been playing an increasingly active role in the determination of educational policy for Micronesia and in this connexion recommends that both the Board and the Administering Authority should give serious consideration to the recommendations of the Visiting Mission set out in the relevant paragraphs of its report.

58. In his statement, the Special Representative outlined progress made in the field of vocational education, particularly the increase in the number of participating students and teachers. In this connexion, the Council endorses the recent recommendation of the Trust Territory Manpower Advisory Council urging the need for a study of manpower requirements in each district of the Territory to determine the job opportunities that will be available in the next five to 10 years. Such a study would enable proper planning of the type of vocational subjects that should be emphasized in schools and in adult education programmes.

59. The Council commends the progress that has been made in developing a curriculum for Micronesian schools especially suited to Micronesian needs. This is particularly evident in the fields of mathematics, social science and history. However, the Council considers that Micronesian students should, in addition to learning about their own districts and about Micronesia, be given more instruction about neighbouring Pacific countries and the varying experience of developing nations, not only in the Pacific but elsewhere.

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

Future status

60. The Council very much regrets the adjournment of the talks between the Joint Committee on Future Status and the United States delegation, following the meeting at Barber's Point (Hawaii) in October 1972, after the five previous rounds of talks had left the impression that agreement was almost complete on the general outline of a status of "free association".

61. Without trying to apportion responsibility for the adjournment, the Council notes with interest that informal talks were held at the beginning of May between the heads of the Micronesian and United States delegations responsible for negotiating the future status, in order to prepare for the resumption of the formal discussions at the end of the summer. Since the question of the return of the public lands to the districts was once again raised during these talks, the Council expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will rapidly make a study of this problem, whose solution is considered by the Micronesian delegation to be a prerequisite for any equitable compact. It recommends that no district should be placed at a disadvantage in the organization of the study and, in particular, that the study should not be accelerated in one of the six districts at the expense of the others.

62. Observing that the question of independence was raised at Barber's Point, the Council notes the remark made by the Special Adviser, Senator Amaraich, in his introductory statement to the Council, to the effect that "Independence was not a new issue; the Micronesian delegation had stated previously that 'we have come here /to Barber's Point/ to discuss independence'". The Council notes, in addition, that the representative of the Administering Authority stated that the United States had never refused to discuss independence as an alternative solution but believed that there were several possible kinds of independence, and that it had been unable to obtain a specific proposal from the Joint Committee on Future Status regarding the type of independence to be discussed. The Council further notes that, also according to the representative of the Administering Authority, the United States will continue to work for an agreement which would take into account its special security interests in the geographic area, the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement and the obligations assumed under it, and the views of the Micronesian people.

63. The Council notes, as did the Visiting Mission and the representatives and Special Advisers of the Administering Authority, that all the points of view existing in Micronesia with regard to the future of the Territory and all the possible solutions (Commonwealth, association or independence) command some support. It notes that the Joint Committee on Future Status had asserted at Barber's Point that, if the Micronesians were questioned about their future through a plebiscite, their choice should not be limited to one solution. It takes note, in addition,

of the statements by the representative of the Administering Authority to the effect that the future political status would ultimately have to be approved by the population, after the form of the act of self-determination had been studied and defined at the talks. It notes, moreover, that the United Nations will be kept informed of developments by the Administering Authority and invited to exercise some kind of observation, whatever the nature - plebiscite or other process - of the act of self-determination.

64. While acknowledging the existence of strong separatist trends in Mariana Islands District, the Council recalls its earlier recommendations concerning the unity of the Territory and regrets that the situation should have developed to a point where Mariana Islands District might have a different political status from that of the rest of the Territory. The Council is also aware, however, of the view expressed by the Congress and by the Joint Committee on Future Status that they would not object to a political union involving Mariana Islands District, if that union reflected the freely expressed wishes of the majority of its inhabitants and if the inhabitants could not accept the future status proposed for the Territory as a whole.

65. The Council notes from the joint communiqué issued on 4 June at the end of the second round of talks between the Marianas Political Status Commission and the United States delegation that both parties agreed that any compact between them would have to be approved by the Legislature of Marianas Island District, by the people of the Marianas through a plebiscite and by the Congress of the United States. The Council interprets the statements of the United States delegation concerning the promise to keep the United Nations informed of the progress towards any act of self-determination and to enable it to exercise some kind of observation as applying to a consultation of the people of the Marianas. It hopes that, if a plebiscite limited to the Marianas were held, it would not take place before the conclusion of the talks conducted by the Committee on Future Status.

66. The Council recalls its previously expressed opinion that separate status negotiations should not be undertaken without the consent, however expressed, of the Congress of Micronesia. It emphasizes that the Congress, which represents the entire population of the Territory, adopted a resolution, during its session in January-February 1973, expressing the view that the Joint Committee on Future Status was the sole organ competent to conduct negotiations with the Administering Authority on behalf of all the districts of the Territory. The Council moreover, expresses the hope that the members of the Marianas delegation who are also members of the Joint Committee will continue to take their places in the Joint Committee when the latter resumes its discussions with the United States delegation, as they have said they are prepared to do. It hopes that the members of the Congress representing the Mariana Islands District will report to the Congress on the progress of the separate negotiations.

67. The Council notes the information given by the Administering Authority on the studies already carried out or still in progress on the practical effects of any separation of the Marianas, particularly with regard to the establishment of a new capital.

68. The Council also takes note of the statements of the United States delegation to the effect that it is still United States policy to maintain the unity of the territories remaining in Micronesia. It expresses the hope that, if the secession of the Marianas cannot be avoided for the moment, the three delegations concerned will endeavour to seek solutions which will enable them to maintain as close links as possible in political, economic and cultural matters, and thus leave open the possibility for the Marianas to rejoin Micronesia without difficulty if the population of the Marianas should in the future manifest a desire for reunification.

69. The Council emphasizes that the Administering Authority has once again affirmed its intention of ending the Trusteeship Agreement simultaneously for all parts of Micronesia, and not for one part separately. In the light of the explanations given by the United States representative, the Council interprets this statement as signifying that if one part of the Territory should be administered separately before the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, it will still be under trusteeship.

70. The Council expresses its disappointment that no substantial progress has been made since the previous year in the process of preparing for self-determination, with regard to the drawing up of a transitional political and economic programme and the convening of a constitutional conference. Convinced that the preparation and adoption of a constitution is one of the major stages along the path to self-determination, the Council takes note of the statements of the Special Representative, who undertook to facilitate material arrangements for the holding of a constitutional conference and recommends that the greatest attention be given to that question so that effective progress may be achieved during the coming months.

71. The Council fervently hopes that the negotiations will resume very shortly between the Joint Committee on Future Status, with the participation of representatives of the Marianas, and the United States delegation, and that they will be conducted in a climate of understanding, realism and clarity which will make mutual concessions possible. It hopes that it is not yet too late, provided that the will to succeed exists, to devise and negotiate a proposal regarding future status acceptable to all six districts which, until it is decided otherwise, form the Trust Territory of Micronesia. It notes the assurances given by the representative of the Administering Authority regarding the latter's intention to keep the Council regularly and speedily informed of the development of the negotiations conducted both with the Joint Committee on Future Status and with the Marianas Political Status Commission.

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