



UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



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Agenda item 4

CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Report of the Drafting Committee

1. At its 1442nd meeting, on 3 June 1975, 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 two 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.1191 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 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 with satisfaction that the people of Bikini have begun to return to their ancestral home after receiving all necessary guarantees concerning the safety of Bikini atoll.
2. The Council takes note of the requests by the people of Eniwetok, Roi Namur, Rongelap and Utirik for the settlement of their claims, as outlined by one of the special advisers, and expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will give appropriate consideration to these requests.

War damage claims

3. The Trusteeship Council takes note of the recent developments concerning war damage claims, in particular that the Congress of the United States of America had appropriated \$20 million for "post-secure" claims. However, the Council takes note of the statement of the Special Representative that the Micronesian Claims Commission has adjudicated 6,598 of the 10,788 claims which had been filed before the October 1974 deadline and that proportionate payments have been made to 1,877 claimants for war damage claims. In view of the fact that these claims arose 30 years ago, the Council recommends that the procedure for payment should be expedited as soon as possible.

B. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

Territorial Government

Legislature

4. The Trusteeship Council takes note that the negotiations between the Personal Representative of the President of the United States and the Marianas Political Status Commission culminated in the mutual signing in Saipan on 15 February 1975 of a Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States. The Council notes that this Covenant will be presented to the people of the Mariana Islands District in a plebiscite on 17 June 1975.

5. The Trusteeship Council reaffirms its strong desire, as expressed at previous sessions, that the unity of the Trust Territory be preserved and expresses the wish that the Constitutional Convention will promote the preservation of the unity of the Marshall and Caroline Islands.

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6. The Council notes the progress which the Administering Authority has made in its continuing efforts to grant self-government to the people of Micronesia, and urges the Administering Authority to intensify those efforts and to do so independently of any future political status negotiations that it may pursue with representatives of the people of Micronesia. In this regard, the Trusteeship Council notes with concern that its previous recommendation that the exercise of the right of veto should be restricted by appropriate legislation has not yet been implemented, and that 10 out of 68 bills passed by the Congress of Micronesia at its sixth session were disapproved by the exercise of the right of veto.

7. The Council reaffirms the recommendation that necessary regulations should be adopted which will distinguish between the special interests of the Territory and the international obligations of the Administering Authority with the ultimate objective of restricting as far as possible the occasions for the exercise of that power.

8. The Council is aware that some of the difficulties associated with the use of the veto power result from the separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches and that these difficulties are further exacerbated because this power is exercised by an appointed rather than an elected Chief Executive. Accordingly, the Council recommends that the current controversy over the exercise of the right of veto be alleviated by providing for the election of the Chief Executive.

9. The Council notes with appreciation the statement by the Special Representative and the special advisers confirming the progress which has been made in developing a process of consultations on budgetary matters, but regrets that the Congress of Micronesia still has only advisory and review functions in the budgetary process. Accordingly, the Council recommends that the elected representatives of Micronesia should be given greater responsibility in assessing the appropriation and allocation of money available for expenditure.

Executive

10. The Council notes with satisfaction that five out of eight major programme departments in the Executive Branch are now headed by Micronesian citizens. The Council urges that this encouraging trend towards localization at the executive level be maintained.

11. The Council considers the increase in the number of Micronesians in senior executive posts to be an encouraging development for preparing the people for self-government. As a means of promoting the preparedness of the people of Micronesia for the exercise of full self-government, the Council recommends that consideration be given to providing for the appointment of a Micronesian to the post of Deputy High Commissioner as an interim measure towards filling the post by election.

Civil service

12. The Trusteeship Council notes with satisfaction the statement of the Special Representative that 21 out of 38 positions which were subject to the advice and consent of the Congress of Micronesia were held by Micronesians. It also takes note that despite a decline of 18.8 per cent among expatriate employees, the number of Micronesian employees has risen by 12.5 per cent. The Council reaffirms its concern that the number of government employees continues to increase, and reiterates its recommendation that measures be considered to avoid too large a number of civil servants since these would place a heavy burden on the budget of Micronesia.

Judiciary

13. The Trusteeship Council, taking into account the inadequate number of locally qualified Micronesians, urges that more opportunities be provided for Micronesians to acquire the necessary legal experience which will enable them to occupy positions on the High Court, and that, in the interim, the Congress of Micronesia should be consulted on the appointment or removal of judges on the High Court.

C. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

General economy

14. The Trusteeship Council is of the opinion that the existence of United States customs tariffs on Micronesian products is a continuing problem in the promotion of exports from the Territory. It expresses the hope that any future measures to encourage Micronesian export trade should be not less generous than those which might be granted to the Mariana Islands.

15. The Council reiterates its wish, previously expressed at its forty-first session, that an increase in the taxation of imports classified as non-essential, would help to reduce the level of those imports. The Council feels that where alternative local resources are available, a serious effort should be made to develop and market local products. The Council welcomes the statement by the Special Representative that the programme to increase food production as a means of reducing equivalent imports has been receiving the highest priority.

16. The Council welcomes the statement by the Administering Authority that a total of \$145 million (expressed in 1975 constant dollars) has been proposed for the period 1975/76-1979/80 to provide a basic infrastructure for the Territory. The Council expresses the hope that this programme will be implemented during the period of transition to self-government.

17. The Council notes that applications for foreign investment are now being considered and also takes note of the efforts by the Administering Authority to canvass applications abroad, especially in neighbouring Pacific countries. It expresses the hope that this effort will be maintained and that the applications

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will continue to be processed in the interests of developing an economy best suited to the needs of the Micronesian people.

Assistance from international institutions

18. The Council notes with satisfaction the recent progress in the Trust Territory's involvement in regional and international organizations, in particular, its active membership in the South Pacific Conference, its associate membership in ESCAP, and its agreement with UNDP for drawing up a country programme for Micronesia. The Council expresses the hope that these new contacts between Micronesia and international developmental institutions will contribute to the growth of a viable Micronesian economy.

19. The Council notes that Micronesian membership in the Asian Development Bank is now contingent on the adoption by the United States Government of the necessary legislation to guarantee amounts advanced by the Bank to the Trust Territory. It expresses the hope that the necessary legislation can be introduced in the United States Congress as soon as possible.

Credit

20. The Council takes note that the Economic Development Loan Fund, the Production Development Loan Fund and the Marine Resources Development Fund provide loans for development purposes, and expresses the hope that these loans will be directed towards Micronesian participation in and ownership of industrial undertakings.

21. The Council welcomes the creation of the Development Bank of Micronesia and the appropriation of \$140,000 by the Congress of Micronesia to cover initial administrative and other expenses. The Council expresses the hope that the Bank will be able to participate in projects prepared by the Territorial Planning Office, especially for the expansion and development of Micronesia's economic resources, in accordance with the priorities agreed upon by the Administration and the Congress of Micronesia.

/The last part of section C, and sections D, E and F will be issued in an addendum./
