

TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



PROVISIONAL  
T/PV.711  
21 June 1956  
ENGLISH

Eighteenth Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Thursday, 21 June 1956, at 2 p.m.

President:

Mr. ASHA

(Syria)

1. Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly [18] (continued)
2. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands [4d]

UN LIBRARY

JUN 22 1956

UN/SA COLLECTION

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.711. Delegations may submit corrections to the summary record for incorporation in the final version which will appear in a printed volume.

56-16811

(64 p.)

## EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/L.685):

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (T/1244, T/1254)/[Agenda item 4 (d
- (b) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO TRUST TERRITORIES IN THE PACIFIC, 1956 (T/1255)/[Agenda item 7] (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. D.H. Nucker, special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, took a place at the Council table.

Political advancement (continued)

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I have a few questions regarding the political aspect of our debate. Of course the questions are not new because our work is not new; we are not starting anything afresh. But I would like to get some opinions from the special representative at this juncture of our debate on the questions that I will put to him. As I have already said, these questions will not be new ones, but we might obtain new answers to them or fresh explanations.

The first question results from the report of the Visiting Mission and deals with the uniform aspects of the representation in the regional councils. In looking through the material on the Pacific Islands an impression is gathered that notwithstanding certain distinctions, the Administering Authority, in exercising its authority and rights, could have more accurately, and with a set purpose in mind, established some uniform qualities in the electoral rights dealing with the functioning of the regional councils. It is in this general form that my question is therefore couched. Would the special representative tell me whether at this juncture the problem is being tackled, making it as an aim to establish some uniformity in the functioning of these councils?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The evolution of Micronesia into democratic forms of government will develop along certain uniform lines if for no other reason than that the individuals in Micronesia who make up the congresses and councils are elected by the people of Micronesia who are constantly dealing with the United States employees in that area.

(Mr. Nucker, Special  
representative)

There is a uniformity of approach with respect to the election of magistrates, treasurers and secretaries, as deemed needed by the various municipalities. There is also a uniformity of approach in the election of individuals to serve as council or congress members. There are differences between the districts with respect to the form of the congress or the council. Some of the congresses are bicameral; some are unicameral.

We in the administering staff have so far not attempted to cause the districts to follow a uniform pattern in this respect. We are working with them and honouring their desires. With respect to the resolutions adopted by these congresses, there are certain evidences of uniformity taking place in that the congresses are thinking in terms of their local problems which, while each slightly different from another district, essentially are the same: matters of budget, sanitation, health, commerce etc. I think that within a short period of time we will notice a much higher degree of uniformity developing than has been noticed in the past number of years, because the Micronesians now have more cognizance, of more knowledge about and a greater desire to develop into a democratic type government consonant with the type of government the American citizens in the area know about.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My next question relates to the establishment of an all-territorial political institution. I know the difficulties mentioned in the reports of the Administering Authority and in the statements of the special representative at preceding sessions as well as at this session of the Council. But we feel, that if the Pacific Islands are considered as a single Trust Territory, as it is envisaged in the Trusteeship Agreement, then this single Trust Territory, in the final analysis, should have some single all-territorial political institution, or institutions comprising indigenous inhabitants. I would like to have a reply from the special representative as to what the Administering Authority intends to do to further the establishment of all-territorial political institutions. Is there any intention of doing this at this juncture?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I should like to have an all-territorial body of representatives at this time, on the basis, however, of its being able truly to present the problems of the Trust Territory at their meetings. I can say, in reply to the representative of the Soviet Union, that we are working towards a common congress. However, the physical separation of districts, the separation of islands within districts, plus the fact that there are at least eight different languages and cultures, mean considerable difficulty in the process of achieving a common denominator or legislative body. I believe that this will come to pass in the foreseeable future, and I, for one, will welcome it when the time is right.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My next question deals with the establishment of a capital in the Trust Territory, an administrative centre, not a centre outside, as is the position at the present time. This point is mentioned in the report of the Visiting Mission. The report describes the obstacles and difficulties in this connexion; it is said for example, that additional expenditure of some \$2 million would be required. My question is a simple one. Is the main obstacle the inability of the Administering Authority to set aside \$2 million for the establishment of such a capital, or are there other difficulties? I have no information with regard to such other difficulties.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The fact that it would cost approximately \$2 million to establish a capital within the Trust Territory is not in my opinion, necessarily the controlling factor in this situation. The Administering Authority could afford that money for such a purpose if it could visualize at this time the benefits which would be derived from the expenditure of that amount at this stage of the Territory's development. In order to establish a capital within the Trust Territory, one must assume that there would be adequate transportation and communication with the outside world. One must recognize first that, in establishing a capital within the Trust Territory, where there are, as mentioned, eight different languages and as many different cultures, it would be impossible to choose a site which would be representative of the whole area involved.



(Mr. Nucker,  
Special representative)

Until the entire Trust Territory acquires the consciousness of being an entity, a capital would not serve the same purpose as it would in a country with a united approach to the problem. The expenditure of \$2 million is part of the problem, but, because of the lack of legislative facilities, communication and transportation within the Trust Territory, and realizing that a capital would be one in name only, it has not been thought advisable, at this time, to establish a capital within the Trust Territory.

Mr. CRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In our view, the existence of a capital, or centre of administration, would have a certain moral influence on the population, who would develop a sense of belonging, a sense of living within a single unit. I understand that it might not be desirable to include all the outlying areas of the Territory, but a centre might be established to serve a part of the Territory, and that would certainly be of advantage.

I should like to have some minor clarification with regard to some of the documents. For example, I have noted that, in the majority of cases, the municipalities have elected magistrates and heads of the municipalities. There are, however, some appointed magistrates, although these are in the minority. Would the special representative comment on that fact? Does the Administration intend to retain for some time this small group of appointed magistrates? Does this depend on the central Administration? It might depend on the local organs, for example, their inability to effectuate legislation. How long will it take to reorganize the municipalities?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): That is an interesting question. If my memory is right, we now have ninety-five elected magistrates out of 102, by reason of the number of municipalities in the Territory, leaving seven who are selected, rather than acquiring office by an elective process. We are hopeful of having, within the next three or four years, all elected magistrates; we are cautiously and slowly working towards that end. We have not as yet

(Mr. Nucker,  
Special representative)

attempted unduly to persuade any particular community to change as far as its desire is concerned to have its magistrates according to the selective process or by reason of their being chiefs. We talk and work with the people in this connexion, and they are slowly beginning to accept the idea of the elective process. I can only repeat that I hope, within about three years, to be able to report to this Council that all the officials at municipal levels are elected.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): This is my last question. We are aware of the position taken by the representative of the United States on the question of the time span which will be required before the achievement of independence. This has been repeatedly discussed in the Council. But I did not quite understand what the special representative said on this subject. I thought he meant that in a number of years a rapid development of political institutions in these islands might be expected. Perhaps I am wrong in my understanding. Would this mean that the Administering Authority had in mind a definite period of time in which to develop institutions at such a rate in order that the Trust Territory might achieve independence or self-government? Can the special representative give us an idea of what is meant? Or is there not any such target date in the plan for the development of institutions until the achievement of self-government or independence?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I wish to make one point clear. I did not intend to create the impression that at some time in the future there would be a quick political change by reason of some drastic action by the Administering Authority. The impression I desired to create was that by reason of constant, slow progressive changes through the years there would come a time when the Micronesians could take over. The taking over, of course, would be sudden, but the reason for it would be the slow process of working towards that point.

So far as a definite time when the Administering Authority thinks the Micronesians will be self-governing, I will not want to hazard a guess at this time. It must be recognized that in this Territory there are only 60,000 to 65,000 people who are scattered over an area as large as the United States, over 3 million square miles. It is a little difficult for me, having been in the Territory only about two years, to state a time when these people, in this wide, sparsely populated area, with their various cultures, will be able to be completely self-governing. I assure the representative of the Soviet Union that it is the Administering Authority's desire to have these people become self-governing as soon as it is feasible.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): I should like to say to the representative of the Soviet Union that it is impossible at this time to give a final time limit after which the Territory will be independent or self-governing. However, we propose continuously to set up intermediate target dates when we think we can achieve a certain amount of advance. As we proceed, of course we get nearer to the final date. Then it may be possible for us to give a final date.

The High Commissioner, in his opening statement, gave four instances of intermediate target dates. We propose to continue doing that from year to year.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I have a few questions to put to the special representative. Before I do so, I wish to tell him how happy I am to see him in our midst today, together with Commander Findley and our friend the Superintendent of Education in the Trust Territory. I welcome them, and I hope that with their co-operation we will do very constructive work in considering this report of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The following is stated in the report of the Administering Authority:

"All persons in the Trust Territory are subject to the same laws whether they be citizens, resident non-citizens, or visitors. In unusual circumstances" -- and I draw your attention to this -- "the High Commissioner may grant non-Micronesian immigrants permanent residence status." (Page 7)

What are these unusual circumstances? Has there been an instance in which an immigrant was granted permanent residence status in any part of the Territory?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Thinking back, I can recall two or three nationals of other countries who have been granted residence in the Trust Territory. This action was taken prior to my presence in the Trust Territory. The first names which come to mind are the Etscheit families in Ponape, who have been in the Trust Territory for years and years. There are possibly one or two other individuals who have acquired residence status by reason of their long stay in the Trust Territory. To the best of my knowledge, no such action has taken place in the past several years.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I take this opportunity, which was afforded to me by the special representative when he mentioned the Etscheit families, to ask a question in this regard. I have met these families, and I know that they had some claims against the Administration. Can you tell me what has happened to their claims? Has any progress been made in that respect?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I expected that question to be asked, and I further expected that it would be asked by the representative of Belgium. However, it is a pleasure for me to answer the representative of Syria.

During the past year, we have had numerous consultations with the Etscheit families. We did make one offer to them for a settlement of their claims. That offer as yet has not been accepted. They made a counter-offer, and it is only fair to say that that offer has not been accepted. I believe we are approaching a satisfactory solution to this problem, which I personally find to be quite involved. I hope to resolve it to the satisfaction of the Etscheits and the Administering Authority. Each of us recognizes the difficulties and the problems of the other, and I think that before long, now that we are in active negotiation, this problem will be solved.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): If possible, I wish to know the criterion which the Administering Authority follows in deciding on the number of municipalities in each district. Since that number does not appear to be proportionate to the population of the districts or to their area, I wonder how it is decided upon. For example, does the Administering Authority establish a municipality whenever it is requested to do so by the people or by a certain group of people? Or are the municipalities established by reason of the fact that certain islands are separated from the main group of islands? What is the criterion that is used?



Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The municipalities are established as the result of years of living in communities, and a municipality represents the group which has lived in a particular area for a long time. It may comprise one island or, perhaps, two or three small islands which are reasonably close together, and there are instances in the larger islands where the grouping of people may lead to the existence of two or three municipalities on one island. The municipality is a natural boundary for a group of individuals who have lived in a particular area over a long period of time, and it expresses their desires, not ours.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I asked the question because I felt that the increase in the number of these municipalities might, in one way or another work against the territorial consciousness because, in a sense, it seemed to encourage the insular, local or parochial feeling of certain groups. I wonder whether that does not seem to pose a problem to the Administering Authority?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): On the contrary, we have examples now of different small communities, reasonably close together, expressing a desire to merge and discussing the benefits of so doing. For instance, in Palau we now have several municipalities thinking in terms of merging and forming one municipality. Our work in the Trust Territory is beginning to take effect in that people are beginning to realize, more and more, the benefits of having better representation. I think, then, that the correct answer is that in the past we have accepted municipalities on the basis of the desires of the people, and that now, as the result of working with the people, those municipalities are beginning to merge together, and I think that we shall have fewer in the future than we have at present.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I am very happy to note that the Administering Authority has granted new charters in the Territory, to the Palauan Congress for example. I was wondering whether, with the granting of these new charters and the legislative powers that go with them, the representatives in these bodies are taking the initiative of presenting draft laws. Am I correct in assuming that this is so, or is every kind of ordinance or draft law presented in these assemblies still presented by or on the suggestion of the Administering Authority?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The representative of Syria is absolutely correct in assuming that the congresses and councils are now more than ever presenting resolutions which stem from their own people and from within their own organizations. It is an interesting commentary to note that in these early stages of the newly formed congresses the Administering Authority, from time to time, is faced with the problem of discussing with them the types of action they should take because they are covering the whole field and are not limiting themselves to certain types of action.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I read in paragraph 93 of the Visiting Mission's report (T/1255):

"The Truk District is divided into thirty-nine municipalities, each headed by an island magistrate or chief. Five of these chiefs, in the Western Islands, hold hereditary titles, while the remaining thirty-four are elected bi-annually by secret ballot."

I should like to know why it was decided to hold these elections bi-annually instead of annually as in the case of other Districts. Was it because the people themselves asked for elections on a bi-annual basis, or because it was felt to be better under the circumstances?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The reason is that the Administering Authority is acceding to the wishes of the magistrates themselves -- the people themselves -- in the communities concerned. This may sound a little strange -- that people should ask to have bi-annual elections, thus limiting their term of office to an absolute minimum -- but I believe that the explanation is to be found in the fact that to the Micronesians elective posts are new. Both the people and the individual elected have sufficient doubts whether the person concerned will be able to perform adequately to make each desire a renewal of faith and the ability to change officers. I think that as time goes on the bi-annual elections will become annual, and that eventually there will be further changes in that direction.

Mr. GRILLO (Italy): In reading the documents which have been circulated I have been really amazed by the amount of work which the Administering authority has undertaken in order to lead the people of the Trust Territory towards a way of life more in keeping with modern civilized trends. I am prompted to make this preliminary remark by the fact that the Administering Authority is dealing with populations which, in some of the islands, are still predominantly pagan.

In view of this, my questions will be designed purely for the purpose of obtaining information. My first question might appear not to be related to the political part of the report but to the chapter on education. However, I think it has in fact a political aspect. Given the variety of languages spoken in the Pacific islands, none of which is now a common medium of understanding for the whole area, does the special representative believe that one native language, or a foreign language, is likely to become a sort of official language whose adoption might further the development of a feeling of unity among the inhabitants? I understand that the lack of such a common medium is now one of the major handicaps on the road towards self-government.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The language difficulty is a very real difficulty in the administration of the Trust Territory. However, English is becoming more and more the common language. Students are going away to school, and when they return home, having learned the English language well, they provide us with an easier approach to a larger number of Micronesians. In our school system we begin to teach English in the fourth grade and, all in all, I believe that it is safe to say that satisfactory progress is being made in the English language to the point that -- I would hazard a guess -- within another five or ten years we should have very little language difficulty in the Trust Territory.

Mr. GRILLO (Italy): I notice, from page 36 of the report, that there are as yet no political parties in the Territory, but that there are a number of organized groups, such as social clubs, which from time to time exert political influence. May I ask the special representative whether these clubs have shown a tendency to develop in number and importance and to take a more active part in political life? I am certainly not referring to target dates; I am only asking for some information about the trend toward Territorial consciousness.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I do not believe that the various clubs that are now being formed are at this time exerting any true influence with respect to the political growth of the various sections of the Trust Territory in which the clubs are in existence. As time goes on, certain of these club members will exert more and more influence, because the tendency to club membership, as it were, is with the younger Micronesians. Those who have had schooling and who have a broader knowledge of the outside world are getting together for social and discussion purposes, and in several years they may be a factor. At this time, I do not think they are.

Mr. GRILLO (Italy): I understand that the district court and community court judges are appointed for specified terms which vary between one and four years. I understand that there is no set rule as to the duration of the tenure of a particular judge. May I ask the special representative what criteria decide whether a judge holds office for a shorter or a longer term?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Again, the determination of the length of the term of office has arisen from the desires of the Micronesians in the area involved.

Mr. GRILLO (Italy): I read in the report that none of the community court judges is as yet a man with legal education, and that the Administering Authority is endeavouring to develop in the courts an ability to handle matters in "as nearly a professional manner as possible". Would the special representative be kind enough to let me know something about the ways in which the Administering Authority seeks to attain this goal?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): As the basic law and order unit in the community, we have constabulary men. These men are trained by an American Director of Public Safety. During these past three or four months, we held a school in Truk to which constabulary men from all over the district went for a period of approximately two months. Also, in each district, we have a public defender who is a Micronesian and who is also under the training of an American public defender, a qualified lawyer. We have public prosecutors, sheriffs, who perform that service at times in the municipalities. These men are subject to training and teaching by our American Public Prosecutor, who is also a lawyer. The judges themselves are constantly being talked to, and attempts made to train them and work with them, by our two American judges, the Chief Justice and the Associate Justice.

The manner of holding court has been prescribed, and the judges have been trained in this. The right to have witnesses and place one's case before the judge, the manner in which it is so placed, the right to have representation, and so on -- all has been built into this system of community and district court judges. I think that is what we mean by stating that we are constantly trying to better our court system.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I have a general question to ask the special representative. I believe that the representative of the Soviet Union touched upon this question but, since he looked at it from another point of view, I shall go ahead and ask my question. It concerns a part of the statement made the other day by the special representative. He told us that the Administering Authority was aware of its responsibility for the political development of the people, that it did not intend to introduce any brusque changes which might upset the feeling of security and stability there, and that therefore the Administering Authority thought that a law which would reflect the needs of the Micronesians might be promulgated in 1960. It is that date which struck me, following upon the comments made by the special representative. I should now like to ask him what indeed is the scope of the law envisaged for 1960. Why was that date mentioned? Could the special representative throw some light on this matter? If so, I think he will be clearing up a certain part of his statement made the other day.



Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): At the present time, the Trust Territory has, as its essential body of laws which govern our administration, a code of the Trust Territory which embodies rules, regulations, procedures, and the format of administering the Trust Territory. This code of the Trust Territory was created by the Administering Authority for the purpose of providing guide lines to the individuals responsible for the administration of the Territory and for the purpose of permitting Micronesians to understand their position -- the right to do certain things but not to do other things.

When I spoke of a law the other day, I had in mind an organic act which would spell out the laws of the Trust Territory and would be built upon discussions with Micronesians and upon knowledge gained by Administering Authority personnel as to the proper laws for governing the area, the needed rules and regulations. This organic act would represent the need of the specific territory of Micronesia known as the Trust Territory and would be subject to submission to our United States Congress for approval. It would then, in effect, become the true law of the land -- a local organic act governing the administration of the Trust Territory.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): I now see more clearly what was in the mind of the special representative. However, could he comment further upon the second question? Since it is going to be an organic act, will it in one of its parts deal with political institutions? Will it speak of some reorganization of political institutions so as to allow us to see what progress is anticipated by the Administering Authority towards self-government which is the final objective of the system?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): It is my opinion that an organic act would provide a definite means for establishing a rate of progress in terms of what happens from year to year as set forth by the organic act to be within the requirements of the Trust Territory. In other words, the organic act would no doubt contain sections concerning legislative bodies, their powers, municipalities and districts, and would run the full gamut of the laws which govern a country. Those laws however, would slant towards and be made applicable to Micronesia so that anyone reviewing the administration of Micronesia and studying the organic act could easily determine how closely what was actually done was to what should have been done. It would give a guide-post.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): The special representative, therefore, confirms the belief that this act could not be effectively promulgated until 1960.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I do confirm that opinion. It is my personal opinion that 1960 is an optimistic date, but I hope to reach it. However, the consultations, discussions and additional information and knowledge needed, the process of drawing it up, submitting it and getting it approved by Congress, after having it cleared by the Department of Interior, could not, in my opinion, be accomplished before 1960.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): I have one final question on this subject. Will the representatives of the natives be consulted in the formulation of this organic act and will they be associated in the work leading up to it?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The answer is definitely in the affirmative.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): I come now to a question related to paragraph 62 of the report of the Visiting Mission, which speaks of the claims of inhabitants of the Palau District resulting from damage caused to their land and properties as the result of Japanese military operations. The paragraph states that it is the position of the Administration that a final determination of the problem can only be made between the Government of the United States and the Government of Japan. Could we obtain some clarification of these remarks which appear in the report of the Visiting Mission?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Paragraph 62 of the report of the Visiting Mission relates to land which was damaged by Japanese military operations in the area. Damages and claims arising from these Japanese operations are not within the purview of the Acting High Commissioner. We must await the outcome of the negotiations between the United States Government and the Japanese Government with respect to how Japan will eventually react to these claims. This is part of a major problem which is currently under discussion between the United States State Department and the Japanese Government. I have no information with which to answer the representative of Haiti in detail on this problem.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): Has any action been taken on the observation of the Visiting Mission that traces of the war were to be observed almost everywhere in the various districts? Is the clearing of the land awaiting a settlement between the Administration and the Japanese Government or has this not been done simply because no attention has been paid to it?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): First I should like to remark that there is evidence of the war in numerous areas of the Trust Territory. However, I would differ from the opinion that such evidence is everywhere and that it is bad everywhere.

In reply to the question whether or not a clean-up programme is taking place of ships, tanks, airplanes, jeeps, and other evidence of war, I am pleased to say that for the past six years, to the best of my knowledge, scrap has been collected from various parts of the Trust Territory and the land is being cleared. Certain areas have not as yet been touched. The Visiting Mission visited one of those areas, and I think it visited the worst one. I understand the comment made by the Visiting Mission, but I am certain that the Mission did not see the same condition in all other areas. We are clearing up the debris of war in the Trust Territory. It is a slow and arduous process, but we are making progress. I believe that within a few years, the truly vicious aspects of war, so far as the eye is concerned, will be cleaned up in the major areas of the Trust Territory where they now exist.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I should like to put a question concerning the inhabitants of Kili Island. According to the Visiting Mission's report, the inhabitants of this Island are not satisfied with their lot. Could the special representative comment on this observation?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Kili Island is the island on which the former residents of Bikini now live. The Bikinians on Kili are not satisfied in total with Kili. Kili is not as large as Bikini, Kili does not have a lagoon. Life therefore is different. Kili is what we term a high island, Bikini is a low island, an atoll. However, adjustment to Kili is taking place, I think, reasonably satisfactorily. I am pleased to be able to state that within the past two months the Administering Authority made a boat available to the Kilians, a boat which is approximately fifty feet long, which will carry seventeen tons of copra and can hold ten or fifteen people. I have forgotten the precise statistics. This boat is equipped to fish in deep waters; it is Diesel-powered and can remain in the water for quite some period of time. This boat will provide for access of the Kilians to fish which abound just off shore, but which the Kilians have been unable to acquire by reason of the fact that the waters are too rough for the small local craft. Also this powered vessel will provide good access to the people of Kili to Jabwot in the Jaluit Atoll, which is thirty or forty miles away. This is an atoll-type island to which they can take their copra, from which they can get their trade goods by reason of this boat I have been discussing. I think that this will go a long way towards satisfying some of the existing complaints of the Kili people.

In addition, I am personally looking forward to meeting with the Kili people and negotiating a settlement of their land claims for Bikini, the island where they originally lived. I believe that, with the settlement of the land claims, with the use of the boat, with the availability of fish and with the ability to go back and forth to Jabwot, the complaints will in large measure be taken care of.



(Mr. Nucker,  
Special representative)

Kili itself is a fertile island. It is a good agricultural island and life on Kili will not be too bad once the people have had their claims satisfied for the land in Bikini. Now they know that they have a good seaworthy boat to ensure fresh fish, vegetables, trade goods generally and an outlet for their copra.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I think I am coming to my last question now, the civil service. We know that the Administering Authority, with regard to the American personnel, is in the process of changing their status. However, there is a comment or observation in the Visiting Mission's report which says that Micronesian personnel will not be affected by the new provisions taken by the United States Government. I should like to know whether the Act under which the Micronesian personnel are recruited provides or guarantees for stability, retirement, pension benefits and so forth.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The regulation under which the Micronesians are employed does provide for benefits for the Micronesians such as vacations, care, sick leave, annual leave, etc.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I have no further questions. I should like to thank the special representative.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation is very pleased on this occasion to greet the special representative for the Administering Authority, especially because a representative of our country was a member of the Visiting Mission which has just returned from that Territory. We are very happy to greet him and also the members of the administrative personnel of that Territory who are present here as well as our friends of the Micronesian population who have accompanied them.

The questions of our delegation have as their objective to clarify certain aspects which are not completely contained or which do not figure sufficiently clearly and explicitly in the annual report of the Administering Authority or in the report of the Visiting Mission. Our questions will refer to facts which arose after those two documents were drawn up.

In reply to previous questions the special representative alluded to the plan to bring prominent Micronesians to Guam, so as to let them know about the work of the Territorial Government and the various problems awaiting solution. However, it seems to us that there are still certain aspects which need to be cleared up with regard to this plan. My delegation feels that it would be a good idea to know the general outline of that plan and certain special features as follows: how will the Micronesian citizens be chosen, those that will be invited to come to Guam? Will they all be brought to Guam at one time or will they go in groups or will they go individually to Guam? What number of Micronesian citizens will be invited? What will the working programme be at Guam for these Micronesians and how long will they stay at Guam? Finally, I should like to know whether the plan refers especially to administrative training or does it provide for more extensive political training?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I appreciate the remarks of the representative of Guatemala concerning his pleasure at seeing us here. I want to return in kind the feeling that I am pleased to be here and particularly to answer further questions asked by a member of the Visiting Mission. Frankly, I can only say that I thought no questions were left to be asked. This particular question gives the Trusteeship Council some idea of what we attempted to answer in the field and indicates, I think quite clearly, the adequacy of the intent of the Visiting Mission to get all the facts concerning any given problem.

The first question refers to how they will be chosen. Prior to my leaving Guam, probably a month ago, we sent a letter to each district administrator telling that administrator what our intentions were with regard to this meeting and asking him to submit suggestions to my office, so that the information will be there when I return from this Council meeting, those suggestions to cover points as to how the representatives from the districts should be elected, amongst other requests.

It is my thought that the leaders will no doubt be leading men in the local congress or council. I could be mistaken because other thoughts may come forward which would indicate the wisdom of another choice. However, we will abide by the recommendations, in large measure, submitted by the district administrators. We hope to get individuals who truly represent their district -- and this is going to be the trouble -- regardless of their ability to speak the English language. We want the true leaders of Micronesia in this meeting. They will be brought in on our regular air flights, which will mean that six or nine of them will come from the eastern portion, on the one flight, and four or six will come from the western portion, all arriving on Thursday and Saturday of one week, with the meeting starting on Monday of the following week. We contemplate having two representatives from each district plus, where necessary, an interpreter from that district.

The programme as we envisage it will be a working programme in that I propose for the first part of the session to have each of our directors of the various segments of our operation explain to the visitors that director's

(Mr. Nucker,  
Special representative)

responsibility within the scope of the Administration's total work, that director's ability to meet the responsibility by an explanation of his organization and the tools he has to work with and the extent of his authority to accomplish those responsibilities. That director will tell these representatives what he has been able to accomplish so far, what he currently is trying to accomplish and what he proposes to accomplish during the next year. This then will be done by each director, the Director of Health, the Director of Education, our finance man, our chief counsellor, our Director of Commerce and our Programme Director.

So that by the end of the three to four-day session which I contemplate this will take, each of the visiting representatives will have, I hope, a thorough knowledge of what we are trying to do, what we have to work with to accomplish that, what we have done, what we are doing and what we hope to do. I then propose to have these representatives discuss for a day or two what they have heard. I shall wait until I am talking with them to let them decide how long they will need. Then I want the representatives from the districts to tell us what they think we should do, how well they think we have done what we have tried to do and in general advise us of their desires and of their thinking with respect to their territory. We will urge upon them to aid us in developing politically, economically, educationally and in each of our spheres of operation.

To sum up, I hope, by a free and open exchange of information between Micronesians and the American staff, to leave nothing undone with respect to those items of information which would lead to understanding between us. The plan does not refer specifically to administration any more than it will refer to political growth or any fields of discussion the Micronesians desire to get into.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): The plan which has just been referred to in detail by the special representative is important in connexion with a future inter-district conference such as that which took place in Truk in 1953. However, I have a few doubts which I should like to have dissipated, namely, whether this visit to Guam on the part of prominent

(Mr. Rolz Bennett,  
Guatemala)

Micronesian citizens is considered as a prerequisite for the holding of a new inter-district conference, and if so, what continuity will there be between those attending the Guam plan, so to speak, and the representatives of the political bodies which will be the ones to choose those who are to attend an inter-district conference?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): When this plan was originally thought of, there was no thought at that time of this meeting just described being a prerequisite to an inter-district meeting of the political leaders. However, it has been suggested -- and I think wisely so -- that such a meeting could well be an initial step towards another inter-district meeting of the leading men of Micronesia. I have no precise plan or programme for an inter-district meeting at this moment. However, I believe that it would be a logical step and I do plan on giving the matter considerable thought and I believe that we may have such a meeting next year within the Trust Territory.

To answer the question as to the continuity of this meeting into the next meeting, I think it would be very important to have those individuals attending this meeting participate in the second meeting. That is why I mentioned that I have the belief that the people coming into Guam this year would be leading men from the local congress or local council, which would more or less ensure that those men also would participate in a second meeting.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): In the reply which the special representative gave to my first question, he stated that he would very much bear in mind the recommendations of the district officers who would recommend to him who the prominent citizens should be to go to Guam. I should like to ask whether in addition to the recommendations of the administrator it would not be a good idea to consult the congresses of the various districts and where there are no congresses, to consult the councils so as to assure a certain continuity between one conference and another?



Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The suggestion is well taken, and I am satisfied that the District Administrators will talk with the individuals mentioned. However, I shall make certain that the ideas of the local representatives of the Congress or the Council are taken into consideration before selecting the individuals to go to Guam.

Mr. ROIZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): The Congresses of the various districts where there are congresses meet at irregular intervals, due to many circumstances which I shall not deal with at the moment. In 1955 the Marshall Islands Congress did not meet; its last session was in August 1954 and lasted for seven days. The Palau Congress held a meeting which lasted for five days. On Truk there is no congress. There is a Council for Truk and magistrates on the outer islands of the district. The members of the Truk Council and the magistrates of the outer islands constitute the so-called Conference of Magistrates, which met for a few weeks during 1955. There are no congresses on Yap and Rota, only Advisory Councils. On Saipan, which is perhaps one of the most developed districts, the Congress meets in twelve regular sessions and twenty-four special sessions every year. We should be grateful if the special representative would supplement this information by telling us the number of meetings held in 1955 by the Ponape Congress, which was recently given its constitution. Possibly it has not yet held a meeting, but the annual report gives no information in this regard. We should also like to know what meetings were held by the Tinian Congress, which has recently received its constitution. If they have held meetings, how long did they last?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): In 1955 the Ponape Congress held one special meeting which lasted one day. In Tinian one meeting was held in 1955.

Mr. ROIZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): Is it correct to assume that the information given by the territorial authorities to the Visiting Mission, and reported on page 93, paragraph 265 of the Mission's report, relating to the granting of a charter to the Tinian Congress towards the end of 1955, should replace the information appearing on page 28 of the annual report, which refers to

(Mr. Rolz Bennett, Guatemala)

the Tinian Council? On page 28 mention is also made of the participation of the Council -- not the Congress -- in the Saipan Congress. Probably the more recent information would substitute for that appearing in the annual report.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Before the Tinian Congress was set up there was one meeting of the Council during the year. That was before the Tinian group came to Saipan.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): I should like to ask the special representative whether there is any prospect of the Marshall Islands Congress holding the meeting which it plans for August of this year; the meeting having been postponed for some time.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The Marshall Islands Congress will convene in August. I make this statement based on letters sent in asking for particular information in terms of this meeting. The plans for holding the meeting have been affirmed.

For the purpose of clarification, I might inform the Trusteeship Council that the Marshall Islands Congress did not meet last year because of a request of its leaders not to hold a meeting. They suggested that the hold-over committee, then in Majuro, would suffice for clearance of those matters which were to be taken up with the Administration.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): The Saipan Congress is empowered to pass legislation "which affects the interests and welfare of the population of Saipan", as we read in the Constitution. Since the Civil Administrator of Saipan must approve any legislation passed by the Congress before it comes into effect, I should like to know whether there are any objective criteria for the interpretation of this sentence, or whether it is left entirely in the hands of the Civil Administrator of Saipan to decide when the law of the Congress of the Island affects the interests and welfare of the population.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): It is my understanding that there is no set directive covering what laws the Saipan Congress may discuss or pass resolutions on, as far as the phrase "for the benefit of the Saipanese" is concerned. The determination would be, I believe, for the District Administrator, who would need to confer, on any doubtful question, with the superior officer. This also includes the northern islands.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): On various occasions during the past few days we have heard that the municipalities are of the greatest importance in developing the political consciousness of the Territory. The Administering Authority has told us that the municipalities rest upon native institutions, that is, upon Micronesian institutions. Naturally some communities are more advanced than others. The special representative, in reply to questions put to him this afternoon, has already mentioned certain measures taken by the Administering Authority to accelerate the progress of these municipalities. Because of the great importance of these municipalities, is the Administering Authority thinking of giving constitutions to certain municipalities so as to give them broader local legislative powers and complete power to enact local taxes? I know that a reply has been given with regard to Ponape. But my question is addressed more particularly to local powers, especially full power with respect to local taxation.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): We do plan and are currently discussing the giving of formal charters to the municipalities in order to define more uniformly their responsibility and authority, particularly with respect to the functions of the local administration in the field of taxes, etc. The charters contemplated will be essentially in a standard form with changes here and there for particular reasons. It is my thought that within two or three years from now we will be able to charter most of the municipalities within the Trust Territory. There is a true need for this so far as the Micronesians are concerned. I believe that at this time they desire to spell out their responsibilities and authority.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to thank the special representative for the very complete manner in which he has replied to the questions which I have so far put to him. I appeal to his patience, as I have a few questions to put with regard to the administration of the Territory.

Because of the fact that the special representative has his headquarters at Guam could he tell us whether there is any initial movement of public opinion on the Mariana Islands or on Guam concerning the advisability of uniting these two because of economic reasons, transportation advantages, etc.? When I say initial movement of opinion, I mean some general statement of opinion and not any official expression.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I have had no expressions made to me by Saipanese or Rotanese with respect to their desire to merge with or become a part of the Guam influence. The Rotanese did present to the Mission a paper suggesting that they would favour unity within the Marianas.

In direct answer to the question, I can say that I do not know of any particular movement official or unofficial to bring about a union of the Marianas and Guam.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): As it has often been said, the transportation problem is one of the most important problems, if not the most important, in the Territory. It has repercussions in all fields of activity, for example in the administrative field. Recently, the Naval Administration of the Saipan District set up a committee to study the maritime transportation problem in the Marianas. I may come back to this question later, but I have two questions now with regard to administrative problems in this field. First, was a representative of the High Commissioner a member of this committee, or was the committee composed only of members of the Naval Administration? Secondly, did this committee take up the problems of maritime transportation in the Marianas, including Rota, or did they consider only Tinian, Saipan and other dependent islands in that district?

I have a third question: Are the conclusions of the report of the committee known? If they are, can the special representative give us some information about them?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): A member of my staff held daily discussions and at times sat with members of this committee which was studying the transportation problem between Saipan, Rota and Guam in particular. At this point, I want fully to concur with the comments of the representative on the importance of this problem to the people involved. The study has not been completed in that the report has not reached my office. I have a note here that it has not reached the CINCPAC Fleet Headquarters in Honolulu as yet in final form. Rota was a subject of discussion during the committee's deliberations.



Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): Proceeding to the civil service and with special reference to the Micronesian personnel working with the Administration, upon what basis is the study being carried out to level off the salaries of the Micronesian personnel? Has this study been completed? If not, when will it be completed?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The study is underway. Individuals from our Personnel Department have gone into the districts and are gathering information. The study is not completed. It should be completed within the next sixty days.

Mr. ROLL BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): The representative of Haiti referred a few moments ago to the situation of the inhabitants of Bikini who are now on Kili island, and he mentioned certain of the difficulties facing them in their attempt to adjust themselves to the conditions in this new island. The special representative told us today, just as the Visiting Mission indicated to us, that among the measures taken to alleviate the conditions of the inhabitants of Bikini there was a plan to take them by sea, in rotation, from Kili island to Jaluit island, and in particular to Jabwar where they could use the lagoon since Kili island has no lagoon in which to fish. However, we do not fully understand what is meant by this plan of rotation between Kili and Jaluit. We had occasion to inspect certain of the installations which had been built and in which, provisionally, the inhabitants from Kili will spend a few days fishing, returning thereafter to Kili. We do not understand whether they will go to Jaluit to fish for their own consumption on the spot or in order to take the catch back to Kili. How is this plan going to be carried out? As I say, we have not a firm grasp of it, and this might be a good occasion on which to clear up the matter.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Originally it was envisaged that the four or five houses built at Jabwar would be used by the people from Kili who would go there to live and work for a month or six weeks at a time, planting and caring for crops the harvest from which would be taken back to Kili. It was also contemplated that the people resident at Jabwar would fish in the lagoon and that their catch would be hauled back to Kili by boat. However, this plan did not materialize during the past year because we had no proper transportation and because there was some reluctance on the part of the people in Kili to go to Jabwar to live since they would then be away from their families, and the Marshallese like to live within their own groups -- more so, I believe, than the people in any other area in the world.

Today, however, our plan is this -- and I have reason to believe that it will succeed. We have given the responsibility for the boat to the Kilians, and it will be used for no other purpose than transportation with the Kilians' approval. It is our idea that the boat crew will be stationed at Jabwar for a start, and then we thought that one or two families would come there to stay in order to develop some local agriculture and to aid in the care of the boat, the fishing

enterprise, and so on. As I say, the boat will be stationed at Jabwar. The families which go there will, at their desire, be returned to Kili, and other families will come over to Jabwar.

With regard to fishing in the lagoon, when I went into the problem it developed that there were many fish just off shore from Kili. In the tropics we have a problem of keeping fish. If we catch them in the lagoon at Jabwar it takes us seven or eight hours to transport them from there over to Kili, and there is a chance of spoilage. It is our idea now that this boat which we have -- it is larger than the one originally intended, and requires a crew of five, comprising a captain, an engineer and three crew members, to maintain it -- can fish just off Kili and hand over the fish to the Kilians in the minimum amount of time so that a minimum of spoilage, if any, will take place between the time the fish is caught and the time it is delivered.

Thus we now contemplate the use of Jabwar as a kind of post, as it were, for Kilians to come to and stay overnight -- or to stay with the boat and visit, bring copra, pick up trade goods and so on, so as to give them a kind of outer station, with a boat, which will provide them with more frequent contact with Jaluit island and the Marshallese. We expect that the crew will be living in Jabwar, which is part of the Jaluit atoll, and that families will also be living there from time to time.

Mr. ROLZ BEIREMT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): With regard to the inhabitants of Rongelap, who suffered the effect of the radioactive fallout from the 1954 explosion, and who are temporarily at Majuro, I would like to know, first of all, what has been the result of the consideration which the Administration was giving to the possibility of raising the monthly subsidy or allowance paid to these people?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The allowance has been raised, and I have had no further complaints from Majuro.

Mr. ROLZ DEHEET (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): I am very happy to have that information because it satisfies the desires expressed by the Visiting Mission both in conversations with the High Commissioner and in the comments included in its report. The High Commissioner was good enough to explain that there was a reasonable possibility that the inhabitants of Rongelap might be returned to their island, perhaps at the end of the present year. If this is confirmed, I should like to know what plans are contemplated by the Administration to compensate and assist these people when they return to Rongelap.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Plans are now being made to return the Rongelapese late this autumn. It is further contemplated in our plans that housing shall be provided, that an inspection team shall visit the island in advance of the transfer to ensure that adequate clearing of land is performed as necessary, and that a study shall be made of the food potential of Rongelap so that if, when the Rongelapese return, there should be a period of two or three months during which the crops are being planted and harvested, they will be given continued assistance to carry them over that period. The water supply of Rongelap will be examined, the cisterns will be cleaned and, in short, every measure we can think of which would aid in making this return to the island a smooth adjustment is now being discussed.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): There is a matter which is of the greatest importance for the inhabitants of Rongelap and about which the Trusteeship Council and the Visiting Mission have expressed concern and interest. I refer to the matter of medical services for the inhabitants of Rongelap since the time when they suffered the effects of radioactive fall-out. Is it thought that such medical services will continue after the inhabitants have returned to Rongelap? This question may perhaps be of greater importance if we realize that we do not yet have enough scientific information to know whether consequences of such radioactive fall-out may not arise for a long period of time. I should therefore like to know whether the special medical attention will be continued even after the inhabitants have gone back to Rongelap.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The people from Rongelap who are now on Ejit recently underwent willingly a complete and thorough physical examination. The results of that examination were very, very good. There is no known illness among the people at this time which can be attributed to the experiences they had a year or so ago. The people, when moved to Rongelap, will continue to have medical attention given them and checks will be made at regular intervals. Our doctors, as well as doctors of the Atomic Energy Commission, are stopping there from time to time to make certain that the excellent conditions that are now found continue.

Mr. Mya SEIN (Burma): I understand that there are no political parties such in the Territory. Did political parties exist at all in the past, before the present Administration took over at the conclusion of the last war?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): To the best of my knowledge, the answer is "No".

Mr. Mya SEIN (Burma): Do I understand correctly that there is no real vehicle for public political opinion in the Territory?



Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): There is no vehicle as we think of a vehicle when we think in terms of the ability to carry a public belief or a public opinion to a conclusion through the election of individuals representing different beliefs or thoughts. However, there is in Micronesia a very good method, which has so far proved quite satisfactory. The elections to date in the municipalities and in the Districts for the District Congress, that come from the municipalities, are predicated upon personal and intimate knowledge of the candidates running for office. But there is no party system in the Trust Territory.

Mr. MYA SEIN (Burma): In the absence of political parties, are there social clubs that sponsor a union on a Territory-wide basis?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): No, sir, there are no such clubs.

Mr. Nucker withdrew.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.10 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(T/L.683) [Agenda item 18]

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I shall make a brief statement now and reserve the right to speak at greater length and in detail after hearing the members of the Council who have not yet spoken on this question.

On the basis of the discussion so far, I have the impression that a division of the report into two or three volumes would constitute an innovation. This is not bad in itself, but it could lead to misunderstanding and confusion. The present first part of the report could be voted upon and approved -- the thirty pages would mean twenty printed pages. If we approved the report, we would need the second part, because we would like to see the report in its final form before it is sent for publication. That, however, is a technical aspect. The main question is of a more substantial character, namely, what are the difficulties, in the first instance, with which we are faced?

Let us take Chapter III, Examination of Petitions, which will appear in both the first and the second volumes. The petitions will be divided by Territories in both volumes. Some of the African Territories have been discussed and their petitions have been examined -- these will be divided between the two volumes. That, however, is not too bad, but what I do consider more serious is a question such as the attainment by Trust Territories of the objective of self-government or independence, which we consider of sufficient importance to be placed at the beginning of the report.

The Trusteeship Council adopted a decision and, in accordance with its decision, recommendations were made concerning a group of Territories. Therefore, it would seem logical and necessary for us to have the Council's decisions placed at the beginning of the report rather than in the second volume or the third volume.

I should like to remind members of the Council that recommendations were adopted Territory by Territory on the question of the attainment of the objective of self-government or independence. This is a question of substance, and those who are going to examine the document before the General Assembly takes any action must be able to follow a logical sequence in the report.

The Secretary told us that it would be easier for instructions to delegation to be drawn up with the first part to be received. I will not contest this point. You yourselves know that no Government is going to give instructions on the basis of half a document or a third of a document. Instructions are issued when the whole report is received, and the administrative part, so called, which is relegated to the second volume and which is going to come up later contains questions of rather great importance. They are not purely administrative issues; they are questions of substance, and it is questionable that governments will give instructions on the basis of the few African territories that have been dealt with in the previous sections. The whole document and report will have to be available before instructions are drawn up.

Another argument which should be borne in mind before a decision is taken is that repeatedly we have been confronted with the question of costs for the Secretariat and the publication of various documents. I am not going to engage in estimates or calculations, but I think it is well known which documents require large numbers of copies. I think that the Secretariat has to be consistent and to bear in mind the importance which is attached to specific documents and consequently the copies that are required. I do believe that this point might lead to some confusion if we follow the suggestion of the Secretariat. I think another method should be found. During the course of the last nine or ten years a method has been followed which is well known to all of us, that is, the publication of a single-volume document. I do not believe that there were any objections or complaints. I will remind you, for instance, that last year, during the tenth session of the General Assembly, it was not a matter of not having the documents printed in their original form. The Secretariat told us that they were not translated into all languages. I do not know how true this is in fact. Perhaps partially it was not translated into all languages, but I do recall that when the question of translations into languages other than English and French came up, it was something to do with tidiness in the translations.

We consider that the translation work could be done and should not entail great difficulties whereas the publication of a single document is something that is quite necessary. This will help the secretariat of the delegations in the handling of various matters. You will recall that the resolutions adopted

by the Council are published separately and there are annexes, addenda, etc. You will also recall that there are quite a number of brochures, handbooks and annexes, and you will also remember that the third volume will constitute another little handbook of twenty-five pages more or less. That is just going to add to the over-all volume of documentation to carry around. Consequently, I would question the desirability of breaking up the report into a number of parts.

I am not going to speak on this matter in a final fashion. This is a very frank statement of certain apprehensions that exist in the mind of my delegation regarding this matter. Today we are nearing the end of the month of June and at the end of July we will have to think of concluding our work; therefore, we do not have much time left for the Secretariat to prepare itself. If this question had been raised in the month of April, when we were still in the seventeenth session, it might have been more of a burning issue and more understandable. Now, however, as we are nearing the end of June, when there is just one month left to complete our work, this breaking up of the report in our view does not seem to have sound justification.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I have been caught almost unprepared, but I have been thinking about this problem, as have many of my colleagues around this table.

In the first place, I want to say that we are very grateful to the representatives of Australia and of the United Kingdom who have awakened us to the drawbacks in this kind of division, in this kind of suggestion that was advanced by the Secretariat for the division of the report. I must state very frankly that at the beginning we were impressed by the suggestion and we thought that it might be a helpful procedure for the benefit of the Fourth Committee and the General Assembly, but upon further reflection we have come to the conclusion that the drawbacks and difficulties which will arise as a result of this division of the report will far outweigh the advantages that will accrue. For this reason, my delegation has come to the conclusion that it would be much more advisable, at this time, to continue having our report in a single form, as it used to be in the past. I say this bearing in mind that, for this year at least, the General Assembly is meeting at a later date than regularly. This consequently will facilitate the task of the Secretariat and will not place them in the difficulties which might arise, as they have stated them.

I think that if these reasons are cogent and sufficient to allay our fears as to the difficulties that the Secretariat will encounter in producing the report in time, then it might be possible to have the report this year in a single form. If there is any necessity to consider other procedures for the future, we might consider that at a subsequent date. For example, I think it might be considered during the meeting of the General Assembly itself since this is done primarily for the benefit of the Fourth Committee and the General Assembly in order to have the report on time. The question might be considered in the Fourth Committee, and possibly the Fourth Committee might want to have a little sub-committee to settle the question with the Secretariat.

I am just making these suggestions as a way out of the problem, but in the meantime I want to say that my delegation would prefer to see the report in a single form at this stage. I say that with the full knowledge that this is not going to give rise to any difficulties as far as the Secretariat is concerned and as far as the services and needs are concerned. I hope that most of my colleagues will find it appropriate also at this stage to adopt this procedure. We could then come to a definitive decision with regard to this. Then if it should become an urgent problem in the future to study this facet of our work, we might consider it either here or in the Fourth Committee.



Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I do not know whether it will be necessary for me to make a long statement. I do not know exactly what the general feeling is this afternoon with regard to this report. I know that the President is very punctual in starting the meetings and very punctual in adjourning them, so much so that yesterday I could not even conclude my statement. I have not yet stated my opinion with regard to the problem of the division of the report. But when the Secretariat presented the suggestion, and I believe even at the second meeting when we discussed the Secretariat's proposal, my delegation pointed out that in view of the reply from the Secretariat to the effect that the problem of the attainment of self-government was going to receive the same treatment, in spite of the fact that the report itself was going to be divided into various parts, we had no objection to offer. My delegation believed and continues to believe in the reply of the Secretariat. We do not think that the Secretariat was mistaken.

However, my delegation does not quite share that point of view. We think that there has been a consequence and that this consequence will continue to exist, at least with regard to the problem of the attainment of self-government and the manner in which the Council has dealt with it.

I should like to point out that I agree with the statement made by the representative of Australia. His suggestion seems very logical. We are trying to save time and there is no reason why we could not at the same time save money and avoid any overlapping. However, my delegation finds an objection to the Australian proposal, in addition to other objections which are common to the two proposals made. This objection pertains to the distribution of the report.

In reality the Council's report to the Assembly is not merely for delegations; it is also put out for other bodies and persons, including inhabitants of the Trust Territories. We know that in spite of the efforts made by the Administering Authorities to disseminate knowledge of the United Nations and the Council's reports, and so forth, on more than one occasion these efforts have not been completely successful. Consequently, we greatly fear that if we divide the contents of the report into two or three parts, the distribution of it may result in not having the full knowledge of our activities reach those persons who in the past received such information. This is the principal argument which my

(Mr. Arenales Catalan,  
Guatemala)

delegation finds common to both types of preparation. We could not support the Australian proposal along these lines. My delegation would not like to have any reader of any part of the report fail to have some other part of the report as important as the one we have before us which has a fifth chapter in which reference is made to so important a matter as the attainment of self-government. Such a reader might not even have a second or third volume. We would have to distribute not just one volume but three volumes, and we would have to have indexes, cross-references and so forth so that the information could be tracked down.

With regard to the original suggestion of the Secretariat to divide the report into two parts, my delegation feels that we have understood very well the reasons given by the Secretariat, and we support them as well. The entrance of new members will not greatly upset the work of the Secretariat in having to produce more copies of the report of the Trusteeship Council. But there will be more work, because we have two new members here and some experience in that regard. Sixteen new Members in the United Nations will make for sixteen additional principal statements, and so forth. This will lead to even more paper work for the Secretariat.

For this reason, and principally for this reason, my delegation will support the Secretariat in its position. However, there are further reasons why we could not go along 100 per cent with the idea which, under certain circumstances, we accepted at the beginning. These additional reasons refer to the treatment given to the problem of the attainment of self-government. This will be affected by the manner in which the report is divided. If the increase of new Members in the United Nations will create more work and if an attempt is made to remedy the situation by dividing the report, with the consequential difficulties as to distribution and the handling of an important question like the attainment of self-government, perhaps we could find an easier solution, which would be simply to realize that the increase of new Members implies greater work and that greater work implies greater expenditure, but that the additional Members will represent more income for the United Nations, and with greater revenue you can deal with a great many problems.

(Mr. Arenales Catalan,  
Guatemala)

For these reasons, as well as certain others which were mentioned previously, my delegation finds itself in the following position: I will not refer to the contents of the report. Perhaps the wisest suggestion would be that of the representative of Syria -- I think I understood it correctly -- namely that for the present year, and especially taking into account the fact that the next session of the General Assembly will be held later than usual, we might follow the traditional system and at a later date the Council or the Fourth Committee, as suggested by the representative of Syria, might decide the question as to how the report is to be divided.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): There is little for me to add to what has been said on the subject of changing the form of the Council's report. I should have liked to support the views of those who have had more experience than I, and to understand the original motives which could have been adduced in support of the various suggestions. I am not in favour of the system of innovations in general, and we must be fully aware of the reasons for making a change.

The arguments that have been presented indicate that, although at the beginning, the problem was one of presenting to the Governments the Council's report in sufficient time for them to study it and to give the necessary instructions to their representatives, but the fact of our envisaging a new form of report raises technical problems. What will figure in the first part? What will figure in the second part? These questions must be dealt with. We can see already that there may be differences of opinion. The representative of Australia has made a proposal that the report should be in three parts, so we find that each of us sees the problem from his own point of view and finds solid arguments in favour of his own position, whatever it may be.

I am not trying to judge the merits of the arguments that have been put forward by the representative of Australia, but what I really wonder is whether we are actually going to simplify matters or, on the contrary, to complicate them.

The very fact that we have had a rather protracted discussion shows that we are not clear as to whether the report can be published in a form that would receive the unanimous support of the Council. The representatives of Syria and Guatemala have presented arguments which I also had had in mind.

This year the General Assembly is going to meet much later than usual, and the problem of presenting the Governments with all the factual material in sufficient time does not, then, constitute an insuperable difficulty. I think that it will be possible for the Council's report to be published early enough for the convenience of the Governments, and in its usual form of one volume. I believe that the Secretary of the Council informed us the other day that the greater part of the document is already prepared in all languages. If that is

so, it appears to me that we might envisage the possibility of sending to the printers that portion of our work which is now ready, without the necessity of putting that particular part in a special document and then adding to it later when the second volume is ready.

I think that our problem might be looked at from that point of view, namely, to give immediately to the printers that part of our report which is already up to date, the subsequent parts to come later. We could thus have the final document in its usual form in sufficient time.

I believe that the technicians in the Secretariat can tell us whether or not my suggestion contains merit. If it is accepted, I think that our debate might be shortened as to the need of having two or three volumes in the report. We should still be faced, in the final analysis, with the problem of what to do with the various parts to be printed at a later date, which would be in individual volumes. The publication of the report in a series of volumes would be confusing not only to the new delegations which will be participating in the next session of the General Assembly, but also to all those who are interested in the work of the Trusteeship Council.

I think that it would be much simpler to have a single volume, and this would be in line with our past practice. We have not considered the report in its final form, since our work is not yet finished.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): Perhaps I take a rather simple view of this question, but I am going to risk adding to the confusion by putting it on record.

We had a fair assessment from the Secretariat of the problem which it faces: the problem of a compression of documentation towards the end of the year. My delegation is, therefore, willing to consider some kind of division to help to solve this problem. The issue seems to me, however, to have been expressed not as an urgency to get the first part printed and sent out to Governments, but to get it printed and out of the way so that it will not have to be printed late in the year. For that matter, we could print the first part and hold it until the second part was ready; and no one would be any the worse because we would then have the second part earlier, presumably, than we would otherwise have had it. And that is the aim of the exercise.



Therefore, while I found the suggestion of the representative of Australia, that we have the report in three parts, to be sound in principle, I preferred the comment made by the representative of the United Kingdom, that we might put two parts into one and have two volumes. The first, which would be printed early to get it out of the way, would contain the territorial chapters which we dealt with at the last session; it could be volume 2, even though it would be printed ahead. The other two would be printed as soon as possible, comprising volume 1, to which volume 2 would be the second part, with an explanatory note in volume 1, and, although it comes after in time, I believe that it is common bookkeeping practice to print a second volume first. We would then achieve the result wished for by the Secretariat and get the whole report out some days or weeks ahead.

These are the comments which I wished to make. If it is later explained to us that this year it does not matter if we print a whole volume, we could take it up next year, but I understood that when the matter was introduced, the aim was to save time this year.

The PRESIDENT: Most representatives have expressed the views of their delegations on this problem. In order to save time -- and I hope that the Council will agree with me -- we can dispose of the matter by taking a vote, and I would make the following suggestion.

Since we have now one volume, I do not think that we need vote on that. Therefore, I shall put the question in this way: those who are in favour of having the Council's report to the General Assembly in two volumes will vote in the affirmative, and those against will vote in the negative. If that vote is lost, there will be no need to vote on a proposal to have one volume, since that is what we have at the moment. If this suggestion is agreeable to representatives, we can save considerable discussion. Everyone has expressed his views, and I do not think that the problem is so complicated.

If I understood the representative of Syria correctly, his suggestion -- I do not know whether it is a formal proposal as yet -- was that the Council should adopt the idea of one volume for this year and that the question would be open for further discussion either in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly or in the Trusteeship Council, as this body might wish to decide. Personally, I think that the General Assembly would have much to say. However, I take no sides on this particular issue.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUJAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I wonder whether this proposal is really necessary. As I recall the debate, no delegation has proposed that the report be made in two parts. It is the Secretariat which suggested that practice in order to facilitate its work and the dissemination of the report.

It is the opinion of my delegation that this is a purely technical problem of editing, publishing and printing. I did not participate in the debate because in my view the question was a simple one. I do not share the concern of those who think that there will be serious consequences if the report is split up. It is certain that it is easier to deal with a single volume. However this might be compensated for by the economy which the Secretariat might accomplish by allowing the printers to have a later deadline in respect of their contracts.

Should you put the question to a vote in the following way: Are there delegations in favour of having the report to the General Assembly divided in two parts? we would abstain because we are not interested in the whole question.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): In the first place, I want to state that I have not made any proposal in the name of my delegation. Secondly, I wish to give my own idea about the subject in so far as your suggestion with regard to the procedure is concerned.

We do not have any proposal before us. Therefore, it does not seem necessary to me to vote on anything in view of the fact that the suggestion was made by the Secretariat, and I do not think that under the rules of procedure the Secretariat can present a proposal to the Council. We have had an exchange of views on this subject, and we have not come to any conclusion. No member has made a proposal. Consequently the matter can be considered as closed.

(Mr. Rifai, Syria)

I am not in any sense disagreeing with you, Mr. President, but I think you will agree with me that this is the situation. If you want to put it to the vote, I will certainly not vote for the division. However, I do not think that that is at all necessary. At any rate, I am in the hands of the Council.

The PRESIDENT: In my statement I never said that there ever were any formal proposals. I am sure that the representatives of Syria and Belgium will bear me out. I referred to suggestions. The reason why I thought it might be useful to put some kind of a question to the vote was to save time. Now the representative of Syria has invoked a rule of procedure. I do not know which one it is, but he is quite correct in that there is no formal proposal from any delegation before the Council. Certainly we are not going to consider the proposal of the Secretariat as a formal proposal. Therefore if the Council expressed itself by its silence the representative of Syria would be correct in stating that the Council has taken no action whatsoever and that the Secretariat should proceed to issue one volume.

Mr. GRILLO (Italy): In my opinion the division of the report into one, two, three or four volumes does not necessarily imply that undue difficulty will be caused to the reader, as long as there is on the inside page of the cover of each volume the information to the reader that what he is reading is only a part of the report. The important point to decide now is the table of contents of the whole report and to print this table on the inside page of the cover of each volume, regardless of whether there are one, two, three or four volumes. It should be clearly stated that the particular volume is a part of the whole report. Consequently it would not be necessary to repeat in each volume the organization of the Council etc. and to refer the reader to the other volumes for other sections of the report. Therefore, I would be in favour of dividing the report into one, two or three volumes. In this way we would meet the wishes of the Secretariat.

The PRESIDENT: Is the representative of Italy making a formal proposal? If so, I should like him to say so to the Council.

Mr. GRILLO (Italy): Not yet, unless it is of any help to you, Mr. President, in the discussion.

The PRESIDENT: Since no formal proposal has been made, I take the silence of the Council to indicate that it has taken no action on the problem, and the situation remains as it was.

It was so decided.

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/L.685):

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (T/1244, T/1254)/[Agenda item 4(d)]
- (b) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO TRUST TERRITORIES IN THE PACIFIC, 1956 (T/1255)/[Agenda item 7] (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. D.H. Mucker, special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, took a place at the Council table.

Economic advancement

Sir Alan PURNS (United Kingdom): With reference to the planting of cacao seedlings, which is referred to in paragraph 85 of the Visiting Mission's report, I presume that the growing of cacao is possible only on the high volcanic islands and that this crop will be of no direct benefit to the inhabitants of the low islands. Could the special representative tell us whether there is any possible alternative crop other than coconuts, of course, which might be of value to the people in the low islands.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I know of no crop currently receiving serious consideration by our agriculturists which is considered to have the potential for the low islands that cacao has for the high islands. We are conducting experiments in our agricultural centres, but no experiment to date has indicated the possibility of developing a crop for the low islands comparable to cacao for the high islands.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): Has the special representative any comment to make on the Visiting Mission's criticism in paragraph 364 of this report of the general road conditions in the Territory? Cannot the maintenance of the roads be made a responsibility of the municipalities, if this is not already the case?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Outside of the district centres, the maintenance of the roads is the responsibility of the municipalities concerned. It is true that we have in several districts roads in need of repair -- in fact, in need of rebuilding. It is also true that visitors to the Trust Territory spend most of their time in the district centres where the roads are bad, and they come away with an impression that the roads as a whole are bad. From the standpoint of positive action, we have begun a repair and rehabilitation programme, and with the coming fiscal year, beginning 1 July, definite sums of money will be set aside for that purpose.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): In paragraph 367 of its report the Visiting Mission endorses the attitude of the Administering Authority with regard to the protection of the interests of the Micronesians against foreign investors, but suggests that this attitude should not be carried too far. Would the special representative care to comment on this?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I should like to comment on this particular matter. It is possible to bring in outside capital to the Trust Territory and initiate an industry or two which I believe would be successful from the outside capital standpoint. I question whether the bringing in of the industry through outside capital would create a benefit for the Micronesians, firstly because the outside capital, so far, has always required that persons should come in from outside to promote the industry resulting from the capital's being invested. It would require, in some instances, exploitation of assets, and would result in the Micronesians receiving very little benefit from the natural assets of their tiny islands. Since there is in Micronesia no urgency of great moment to swing over into a cash economy completely, and since the Micronesians are going through a process of development politically, economically and in all fields, it appears to me that unless outside capital will produce an industry or an activity which is truly and completely beneficial to the Micronesians at this time we might better serve the Micronesians by waiting until they are developed to the point where they themselves can benefit from the exploitation of their resources.



Mr. de CAMARET (France) (interpretation from French): In paragraph 343 of its report, the Visiting Mission refers to the development of agriculture in the Territory and recommends that the Administering Authority should increase its efforts in this field to meet the urgent needs of the Territory. I wonder if the special representative would be good enough to inform me on two points? What is the point of application for the efforts in relation to agricultural development, and what are the needs of the Territory? Is there a shortage of foodstuffs? In other words, is the food supply situation unfavourable?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): On the basis of my own opinion, and from direct observation, my reply would be, emphatically, "No, there is no food shortage in the Trust Territory". There is no tremendous or urgent need to develop agriculture in order to feed the Micronesians. There is a need in Micronesia for a continuous effort to be exerted to better methods of agriculture so that future population increases can be fed from the land -- which is, of course, constant in volume and does not expand as the population expands. Agricultural development, in my view, should be directed towards better production of subsistence crops, looking towards a future need and not an existing need.

Again, agriculture provides a cash income through copra, through trochus, which we consider in our agricultural programme, and, we hope, through cocoa. The presence of more cash in a territory results in more reliance upon a cash economy than there is at the present time, and that, in a modern world, I imagine is considered to be good. We are developing cocoa and we are aiding in the development of more and better copra, looking towards increasing or bettering the cash position, but agriculture in the Trust Territory is not at the present time a "must" programme from the standpoint of feeding the people.

Mr. de CAMARET (France) (interpretation from French): The special representative has, properly, spoken of the cultivation of cocoa, and the Visiting Mission has recommended greater efforts by the Administering Authority in that field. Could we have detailed additional information on the production of cocoa? How, and to what extent, is the Administration taking measures to increase the output of cocoa, and what material benefits does it bring the producers? Does it provide them with capital equipment?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Cocoa is not as yet established in the Trust Territory as a cash crop. Cocoa experiments began on a large scale some three or four years ago. Today we have one plantation devoted to it with thousands of trees, quite a few of which are now coming to the bearing stage. As the result of the efforts of our agriculturists, both at the centres and in extension work, we have distributed cocoa seeds throughout the Territory in enormous quantities, and many Micronesians are now growing cocoa. Next year we may have a commercial crop. It will be small. As representatives here from cocoa growing areas will know, some five to seven years are required for a good commercial crop to come from a planting, so that we are approaching that stage. To date the Administration has been buying the pods as they develop and distributing them for additional planting, so that the Micronesians are not putting everything into growing cocoa needlessly. We are now negotiating with a view to sending two Micronesians and an American to a cocoa producing country for a period of time to study local methods of harvesting and care of cocoa, shipping, and so on. We hope that these men will begin their work within the next few months. It is our hope that when they return to the Trust Territory they will take over the responsibility for further educational efforts in connexion with cocoa, which will now move forward into the harvesting and selling stage instead of the stage of planting and growing, and that this will result in a proper handling of this coming cash crop.

Mr. KIANG (China): Before I proceed to invite the views of the special representative on certain matters in which we take a great interest, I should like to draw the attention of the Council to something in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat which, it seems to me, needs correction. I refer to paragraph 105, the last sentence of which reads as follows:

"While all known currency claims have now been settled, the 1956 Visiting Mission found that dissatisfaction still existed, in respect of claims concerning postal savings and bonds and also concerning war damage and the redemption of Japanese securities."

So far as I understand, there are only three kinds of claims: one with respect to Japanese currency, one with respect to postal savings and bonds, and the other with respect to war damage. I think the Japanese securities should be included in bonds. I do not know whether I am right in thinking that this should be corrected. At any rate, I leave it to the Secretariat.

Let me now proceed to ask one or two questions. First of all, I should like to know the view of the special representative on the matter of shipbuilding, because I gather from the report of the Visiting Mission and the report of the Administering Authority that shipbuilding would aid materially in improving the economy of the Territory. I should like to know what would be the immediate prospects of that industry, because I know very well that it is not easy to build such an industry overnight. All I want to know is what the immediate prospects are and whether there are any plans under active consideration by the Administration.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): We have no immediate plans for the construction of a shipbuilding yard which would be capable of building ships for inter-island service or for service between the islands and the outside world. I thoroughly agree with the representative of China that the construction of a shipyard for the building of major ships is a terrific undertaking, and I believe it is too great an undertaking to be started successfully at this time in Micronesia.

We do have in the Marshalls a small ship repair facility or firm operated by a local individual who repairs small boats and constructs small boats for intra-island service. In another section of the Territory, Mokil, we have a small boat-building programme. A boat is built there which is highly respected for lagoon

work -- the Mokil canoe or Mokil boat. . I think our programme should be limited to the sponsorship of local industries pointed toward the building or repairing of small boats, not large ones.

Mr. KIANG (China): Copra is the mainstay of the Territory's economy and the main source of income for most Micronesians of the Territory. It is very gratifying to know that copra production has increased in 1955 and that a further increase is expected this year. Since copra is such an important industry, I believe the Administration must have in mind some long-term plan for the development of this industry, and I understand that the Visiting Mission is also of the opinion that this industry should receive the priority attention of the Administration. Such a plan would certainly take into consideration, in my opinion, the various technical requirements and -- no less important -- the attitude of the people. I should like the special representative to throw more light on this matter.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The Administering Authority thoroughly concurs in the statement that copra is the cash crop of the islands, the mainstay of the economy, and that it is the most important agricultural commodity with which we have to deal. Recognizing that, we are desirous of increasing copra production and we have taken certain steps in an attempt to ensure such an increase. We were successful in employing a Mr. Pierce, who was internationally known in the copra industry as one of the true experts in the field. Mr. Pierce now has charge of our copra programme and is engaged in going from district to district and to islands within the district, making surveys and making recommendations, holding meetings with the Congresses, the Councils and interested Micronesians, and also advising, instructing and directing our agriculturalists, so that they may carry on his work when he is not there. Mr. Pierce has not been with us too long. The results of his work will be cumulative. We have had some administrative problems in lining up this field of work, but those are behind us. Some of the steps that he has already recommended which have resulted in the taking of action include, for instance, on one island that I personally know about, an examination of the trees which disclosed to him that there was a disproportionate number of older trees on the island. He immediately started a nursery project on the island and convinced the Micronesians on that island that the trees should be

planted twenty-eight feet apart and that other steps should be taken. I happened to call there about a month after Mr. Pierce had been there. The islanders were quite appreciative of his visit and showed me with pride what they had done to conform to his wishes.

We propose to continue this educational programme and to continue working with the Micronesians to make as certain as we can that their desire to grow copra does not lessen.

On the mechanical side of maintaining copra production, certain things such as regularity of shipping, ability to purchase a wider variety of trade goods, which acts as an incentive, and a knowledge of the price of copra for months in advance -- in other words, a feeling of confidence in the price they are to collect from copra -- all play important parts in the attitude of the individual who must produce this copra. In each of these areas, I think, we have taken positive steps, and I believe that our production increase in the past two years has been occasioned by the mechanical betterment in handling the operation. I think our production increases in future years will depend in large measure on the educational programme and the actual efforts with the coconut trees that we are now undertaking.

Mr. KIANG (China): I should like now not to ask a question but to invite, I might say, a lecture by the special representative. My colleague told me that several years ago this Council heard a very interesting exposition on the subject of the tsetse fly by Sir Alan Burns. The question that I am about to ask is prompted by a great curiosity, because I happen to be very fond of snails and I notice that the High Commissioner, in his statement, made reference to the introduction of carnivorous snails. I think it would be most interesting if the special representative could tell us something about the introduction of this snail from outside and could also give us a description of this particular snail.



Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I believe that I can speak intelligently on this subject for about two minutes, in other words, I can only repeat what I have been told by individuals who are conversant with it.

In Micronesia we have a pest snail, the giant African snail, which grows to a size approximately that of the microphone into which I am speaking. It destroys green plants and, in general, is quite destructive.

Many methods of control have been tried, such as the placing of poison along a line in order to keep the African snail from going beyond a certain point. We have tried the spreading of another type of poison, which, when eaten, is supposed to kill the African snail.

These methods based upon poisons and trapping have never been successful in staying ahead of the snail's ability to grow in population and to do damage.

A small carnivorous snail -- I have forgotten where it came from -- known as the Gonaxus snail, was introduced about five years ago in a small island in the northern Mariannas, Aguiguan, in a controlled experiment which the scientists and agriculturists checked on regularly. They introduced a minimum number of Gonaxus snails in a small area in which there was an overabundance of African snails. The Gonaxus snail is the size of the first joint of a good-sized thumb. The Gonaxus snail attaches itself to the African snail and proceeds to enjoy life by eating the African snail until it is dead, and then goes on to another one. The Gonaxus snail eats nothing but African snails so long as they are available.

After a period of about five years with this experiment, they returned to the selected area in Aguiguan and found that the African snails were practically eliminated and that a sizeable colony of Gonaxus snails had been established. Those snails were gathered and were well taken care of and have now been distributed to other islands in the Trust Territory.

We are hopeful that the small snail will control the large snail. Personally, I am very hopeful that the agriculturists and scientists are right in saying that when there will be no large snails to eat, the small snails will eat each other. Then we shall have no problem.



Mr. KIANG (China): I have no further questions to ask. I wish to thank the special representative for all his answers. I am particularly grateful for his explanation about the snails.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): My first question relates to copra production. The report of the Visiting Mission, paragraph 349 (4), states: "At present copra drying is done mostly by primitive methods resulting in many cases in the production of inferior quality copra." I should like to ask the special representative whether he considers this to be a fair assessment of the quality of apparently a sizeable amount of local copra. For example, how does the copra from the Trust Territory compare in quality and price with other copra in the world market?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Our copra receives a premium price in the world market because of its quality. I can only say that it is true that some of the dried copra may be of inferior quality to other copra dried or processed in the Trust Territory. We strive, however, to have No. 1 grade copra throughout. Of course, we have not been able to do this, but that is our goal. The total copra of the Trust Territory, however, does receive the benefit of a premium payment because of its higher quality over the world's copra in general. We desire very much to maintain that quality because it has a cash value as well as a prestige value to us.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): I am very glad to hear that reply. I was a little wary of the phrase "in many cases". It may only mean many of the cases which the Visiting Mission saw, and I assume that that is what it does mean.

The main form of commercial organization in the Territory is the joint-stock company. I find no direct evidence that co-operatives have been established. Both forms of organizations exist in other Territories which we have considered. The philosophy of co-operative organization is well understood in communities with experience of communal ownership of land and resources, and, I should imagine, it would be acceptable to the people of these islands. Does the Administration consider that there is room for the existence of co-operatives side by side with the joint-stock companies, and has it given any thought in the last twelve months either to sponsoring or at least to encouraging their establishment?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): We have thought of co-operatives. However, we do not seem to meet with a ready response on the part of the Micronesians in terms of the possibilities of starting co-operatives. The Micronesians have learned the stock company technique and they seem to like that approach as far as trading companies are concerned. We hesitate to set up rival organizations in this respect in Micronesia. The co-operative has been discussed from the standpoint of buying, producing and marketing in other areas besides trade goods. The Micronesian has in his daily life what I should like to refer to as an ability in the co-operative programme in that the families work together and the families in the village work together. It may be that in the next few years co-operatives as we understand the term will be developed advantageously in Micronesia. At the present time, there is no true co-operative, as we understand the term, of any size or value in the Trust Territory.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): In paragraph 316 of the report of the Mission, there is a sentence which reads:

"The natural resources of the Territory are limited, but the islands are of such strategic value to the Administering Authority, that it should, in the Mission's view, increase its appropriations, so that the development of the Territory is not hampered."

I would be very glad if the special representative could comment on this sentence. Does he consider this to be an objective standard by which to plan the development of the Territory and to set the level of appropriations? I ask this question because of my own reservations about the validity of this particular statement.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I think it would be only natural to say that on reading this sentence I was somewhat surprised at the import of the thought involved in it. The word "hamper" to me is synonymous with obstructing, holding back, delaying, slowing up, preventing a person from advancing. To me our appropriations for the Administration of the Trust Territory have at no time been so small as to hamper growth. I have taken considerable pride in the fact that during the past three years, not all of which time I was there -- this is not a personal statement but just from personal observation -- growth has taken place in the Trust Territory: political growth, economic growth, educational growth, medical growth. A social consciousness has been developed by the Micronesians of their place within the scheme of nations in this world.

I can only answer the question directly by stating that one could only agree that if twice the amount of appropriations were made available, with more Americans, then concrete things could be done more speedily. This might be considered advancement; it might be considered desirable. Again, it might truly hamper long-range growth by instilling a false sense of values in the people too quickly at this time; thus it would make too sharp a break when they do become self-governing, because the goals have been set too high for them to maintain by reason of too high a level of appropriations. To me it is a delicate subject. It is one that can be discussed for hours and one on which any number of people could have any number of different opinions. I can only sum up by saying to the representative of New Zealand that in my opinion the appropriations given have in some measure been near the size

(Mr. Nucker,  
Special representative)

necessary to permit and aid a development in Micronesia consonant with the desires and needs and abilities of Micronesians to accept change.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): I am grateful to the special representative for that statement. I should also like to add that, in tearing it from its context in the report of the Mission, of course I do not do it full justice but my justification is the reply which I received.

I should like to ask one further question. The Acting High Commissioner informed us that sums of compensation are shortly to be released to inhabitants. This will place in the hands of many islanders sums of money which they could be expected not to have handled before. I should be glad to know of any action which either the Administration or these people themselves under guidance have contemplated in order to handle this money which will give them purchasing power perhaps beyond the capacity of even their local trading stores to cope with.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): This question hits at the heart of numerous discussions in the Headquarters offices as well as discussions with the various district administrative staffs. I think several courses will be followed in handling the money; first, a number of Micronesians will invest in their local stock companies in order that they may obtain annual dividends. They consider their stock companies to be a safe investment and a place of good return for their money. Some Micronesians are going to build homes, better than those they now have, and some will purchase items which they now desire. So far, I am talking of the individuals who will participate in the receipt of money paid for land claims. There is also a third solution which we are hopeful of being able to work out by which communities -- there will not be too many of these; I have in mind two -- which have the money invested in trust funds will, under the terms of the trust agreement -- in which they will have a vital part in making; in other words it will be their agreement -- participate in the dividends or earnings of the trust fund. Where large payments are to be made, I am hopeful that we can develop trust funds to suit best the area involved. It is only natural that some of the individuals will, as people do the world over when getting funds unexpectedly, spend that money unwisely. However, I believe that it will be kept to a minimum through the Trust Territory.

(Mr. Nucker,  
Special representative)

I might just refer for a moment to knowledge based on payment of land claims reason of our recent settlement of claims in the District of Truk. I think in large measure I can support the wise use of money by the Micronesians. We recently paid out in Truk approximately \$40,000 in less than a week to 225 individuals who represented about 350 landowners, and they then divided the money. They were authorized to collect payment for all. The highest amount paid was over \$8,000 to the Micronesian lady who had five claims. She advised us that most of her money was going into the Truk Trading Company. Many of the Micronesians invested in Truk trading as this lady did. Quite a few of them bought clothes, bought outboard motors, bought useful and usable items. Very little evidence of squandering could be seen during the week, and we were assured by the Micronesians themselves that they were going to use their money wisely. They had discussed this amount they were to receive for weeks and months in advance, and had their minds fairly well made up to the use of the money. They did not have to get a handful of money in one day as a surprise and then think about it; they thought about it beforehand.

Mr. MYA SEIN (Burma): My delegation would be grateful if we could obtain some further information on a point made by the special representative in his opening statement. I shall quote the relevant sentence:

"A basic policy of the Administering Authority is to return to Micronesian hands as soon as possible land that falls in the category of public domain." (T/PV.709, page 13-15)

I am not very clear about this. I would welcome information throwing light on who determines what land falls in the category of public domain and what is the criterion thereof.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The handling of land problem is another major problem in the Trust Territory. At the time the Administering Authority was given jurisdiction over the Trust Territory, lands which formerly had belonged to Japan were turned over to the Administering Authority as public lands. That answers the question as to how we got our public lands.

Since the Administering Authority took over, it has not bought land for additional use. We have been engaged in turning back land which we do not need. We have turned some land back each year. The rate of return is increasing as years move on, by reason of our knowledge and our untangling of property right titles, the straightening out of surveys, the replacing of information which was lost by reason of the war and destruction of records, the holding of hearings and attempt to settle disputes between various claimants, families, individuals and municipalities. So that in short reply, I would say that public domain land consists of that land which we acquired when we took over land formerly being under the control of Japan. The return of the land to private individuals is complex. It is being worked out, and while I would like to be able to make further progress, I think that progress is being made in consonance at least with the wishes of the Micronesians.

Mr. MYA SEIN (Burma): I am grateful to the special representative for this information, but I fear that my questions have not been fully met. I ask two simple questions: who determines and what is the criterion?



Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The Administering Authority determines. I am sorry that I did not answer that question. The criteria of determination is based on land hearings which are held to hear the various statements of the Micronesians involved and is also based on work with land advisory boards in each community which consists of Micronesians and Americans sitting together to decide these problems. So that the determination is made by the Administering Authority and the criteria is information gained from the Micronesians, from the records and as we acquire the information from local sources.

Mr. MYA SEIN (Burma): Do these criteria stand on legal legs? In other words, are they embodied in the code that is in application in the Territories?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The answer to that is in the affirmative.

Mr. MYA SEIN (Burma): Since I mentioned this point about land that falls in the category of public domain, it stands to reason that there would be land that falls outside the category of public domain, and there I presume that it would include land alienated from the Micronesians. Could the special representative kindly give me in brief outline the history of land alienation in the Territories?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I think I can answer that question; I think I understand it. Land has not been alienated by the Administering Authority since the end of the war. Certain lands were taken and used as a result of this past conflict. We are now settling with the Micronesians for land which had been, I think in your term, alienated, taken from the Micronesians in the past. The purpose of the payment of funds which we were discussing a while ago is to pay those Micronesians for lands which had been alienated or taken without their consent.

The PRESIDENT: Before adjourning the meeting, I would like to inform the Council that in addition to the examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands tomorrow afternoon, the Council will also have before it the 158th report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.673).

This report, which deals with certain petitions containing references to a member of the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland, was circulated to members of the Council this morning. In this connexion, I would like to inform the Council that since the submission of that report, the Secretary-General has received two further petitions dealing with the same subject. They are contained in documents T/PET.11/679/Add.1 and T/PET.11/687.

If the Administering Authority and members of the Council so agree, I would like to propose that rule 86, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure be applied and that these two petitions be examined at the same time as the 158th report of the Standing Committee on Petitions.

If there is no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In addition to what I have just stated, the Council will put questions to the special representative. First there will be questions by two delegations on political advancement, then by other delegations on economic development, and in addition we will also have an opportunity to put questions in the social and educational fields combined. I am sure there will be no objection on the part of the Administering Authority and the special representative.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.