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## Eighteenth Session

## VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED AND TWELFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 22 June 1956, at 2 p.m.President:

Mr. ASHA

(Syria)

1. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands [4d, 17] (continued)
2. Examination of petitions [5] (continued)

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(60 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. CHACKO (India): First of all, I should like to thank the President for permitting my delegation to ask questions on political developments even after the Council has taken up the next topic of economic advancement.

Having been a member of the United Nations Visiting Mission, I should also like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the special representative for all his assistance to the Visiting Mission while it was in the Territory, and to say that I am very glad to see him and his colleagues here in the Trusteeship Council.

I do not have many questions to ask concerning political development. The few I have arise in most part out of statements which have been made before this Council during the past few days. Regarding the development of territorial institutions, my delegation was glad to note the statement of the special representative that an inter-district conference is planned to be held next year. In that connexion, I should like to ask if the special representative would like to comment on the Visiting Mission's suggestion concerning the preparation of a book as contained in paragraph 29i of its report.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I think the suggestion is a good one, and it is my intention to have work started on such a book.

Mr. CHACKO (India): My second question concerns uniformity in the functioning and elections to district and other local bodies. We have noted that it is the intention of the Administering Authority to bring about uniformity at an early date. One important aspect of this is the question of the term of office of the elected officials. In answer to a question posed by the representative of Syria regarding elections, the special representative said:

"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." (T/PV.711, page 17)

It would appear that this argument would in our opinion favour a longer period. Six months or even one year is too short a period to determine the ability of a person, particularly since some of the bodies do not meet more than once during the whole term. In the case of the Marshallese Congress, for example, it is elected annually, but at least there has been one instance where it could not hold even one meeting. I should therefore like to hear some comments of the special representative particularly as to the term of office of these officials.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I wish to thank the representative of India for raising this point which permits me to clarify the record. When answering the question I was thinking in terms of semi-annual instead of bi-annual. Consequently, I gave the wrong answer because we have been trying to get and have been discussing with our Micronesians the possibility of their holding elections on a bi-annual basis, every other year, instead of every year. I gave an answer predicated on a semi-annual basis and was in error.

(Mr. Nucker, Special representative)

I should like to ask the representative of India to repeat the latter part of his question.

Mr. CHACKO (India): The special representative has answered my question. What I wanted to know was whether that argument was for a shorter term or a longer term.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): A longer term.

Mr. CHACKO (India): My third question relates to the site for a capital in the Territory. While the Visiting Mission was in the Territory, it got the impression that the possibility of establishing the headquarters in Dublon in the Truk District had not been abandoned. Yesterday the special representative made the following comment:

"One must recognize further that, in establishing a capital within the Trust Territory, where there are, as I 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." (T/PV.711, page 6)

I should like to ask the special representative whether that statement means that the idea of locating the headquarters in Dublon has been given up and that a new site is being sought now.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The thought of Dublon as the site for a capital in the Trust Territory has not been given up. The intention of the answer yesterday was to indicate that there are circumstances which must be considered prior to moving immediately or post-haste into a capital within the Trust Territory. It was not intended to mean that Dublon had been set aside as a possible future site for such a capital.

Mr. CHACKO (India): Has the final decision been taken that the headquarters will be located in Dublon?



Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): There has been no final decision taken that the headquarters should or should not be in Dublon.

Mr. CHACKO (India): I asked this question especially in relation to the present proposal to distribute some of the offices of the heads of departments in various districts. If a decision is not taken as regards the final location of the headquarters, will it be worthwhile locating these headquarters in various places and to construct permanent buildings and other things for the departmental offices?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): That thought has not been abandoned and, at such time as circumstances indicate that the headquarters should be moved to the Trust Territory, full consideration will be given to the possibility of locating various divisions of the headquarters in different districts.

Mr. CHACKO (India): Am I to understand from this reply that, even after the headquarters is located in the Territory itself, some of the offices of the heads of departments will be distributed all over the Territory?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): At that time we shall determine whether or not some of the officers are to be distributed through other portions of the Territory. The question is open; no final decision has been made in advance as to the distribution of individual officers, nor will such a decision be made until the location of the headquarters in the Trust Territory has been decided upon.

Mr. CHACKO (India): My next question relates to the return of the Rongelap people. We have taken note of the statement of the special representative that plans are now being made to return the Rongelap people late in the autumn. I should like to ask what arrangements are being made to provide them with adequate housing when they return. I ask this question particularly in view of the fact that when the Mission was on Ejit, the people were particularly concerned about the question of housing.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The Rongelapese now on Ejit have been assured that when they return to Rongelap, housing will be provided for them.

Mr. CHACKO (India): I have a few questions concerning the recent atomic experiments which have been held in the Marshall Islands district. My first question is: Have any sections of the population been removed from their normal places of residence because of these tests, either before, during or after the tests?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The answer is that no people were moved before, during or since the current tests.

Mr. CHACKO (India): Reports have appeared in the press concerning an error in the explosion of one of the thermonuclear bombs tested in that area. I quote from an official statement in the press, reading as follows:

"Due to a human error, the recent thermonuclear bomb dropped by a B-22 aircraft at Bikini exploded somewhat less than four miles short of the planned position."

Has this error resulted in any unexpected occurrences, particularly in regard to the extension of fall-out, or any other harmful effects?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): It did not result in any harmful effects as far as the humans in the area are concerned. The error -- somewhat less than four miles, as I have read in the press -- had no effects on any inhabited islands in the area.

Mr. CHACKO (India): We have seen some press reports to the effect that effects of radioactivity, resulting from these test explosions, had been felt as far away as 1,300 miles. I should like to know whether any adverse effects have been reported by the people of the Trust Territory.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): No reports have been received as to any adverse effects of radiation occasioned by the recently completed tests. This does not mean that the effects of radiation might not have been felt a thousand miles away, but it does mean that the wind direction and the movement of the radiation were in a direction away from the populated islands of our Trust Territory.

Mr. CUTTS (Australia): I had no specific questions to ask the special representative, but in the course of the discussion regarding political advancement in the Trust Territory I became interested in certain elements of basic philosophy. To commence my questions, which are very general in character, I should like to refer to part V of the annual report, page 11, regarding the basic policy of the Administering Authority. The statement made there has been the same for several years. It starts off as follows:

"It is the policy of the Trust Territory Government to permit and encourage all political advancement toward a goal of self-government which evolves through the will, the needs, and the desires of the inhabitants of the territory."

Then the last sentence of the paragraph states the following:

"The Trust Territory Government encourages inhabitants of the territory to retain intrinsically valuable features of political structure and organization, while it encourages, through educational programs encompassing all fields of government, the learning and understanding of other cultures to foster the wise selection, adaptation, and application of features of political structure, organization, and practice which will contribute to advancement as rapidly as the authority inherent in each culture situation permits."

Am I right in interpreting this general statement of policy to mean that the Administering Authority does believe strongly in the importance of what I might describe as the natural evolution as the principal element of political development, and that the basic factor affecting the rate of natural development is the response of the people? Am I carrying my inference too far when I infer that the Administering Authority recognizes that this response is, first of all, not going to be predictable at any given point of time and, secondly, that it will not be uniform throughout the islands -- that the rate of response and the kind of response will differ from island to island?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I think that the representative of Australia has answered his question. The Administering Authority recognizes that it will be too much to expect uniform development and a uniform time-table for precise things to happen for all of the Trust Territory with its different levels of advancement and different cultures. We must then work with the people in the various districts in order to aid and encourage their development along the principles of self-government in accordance with their desires.

Mr. CUTTS (Australia): I thank the special representative for that answer. It confirms the view which my delegation has taken of the general situation. Of course this fits into the general pattern of development which was indicated in the special representative's earlier statement, in which he mentioned certain target dates, to which the representative of the United States also referred. There are four particular objectives set out in the general statement. It struck us that all of them are short-term objectives. Most of them are for 1960, and one is for a shorter term. It occurred to me that this possibly stems from the view of the Administering Authority that this period is about as far ahead as it can plan in the circumstances of the Territory.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I would hesitate to make definitive statements beyond the goals mentioned in the opening statement to which reference has just been made. It is necessary that we have an organic act which will in large or total measure be responsive to the desires of the islanders as well as to the desires of the Administering Authority. In that regard, we must define the responsibilities and authority of the municipalities and take a few other elementary steps, which have been mentioned. You will notice that these are short-term target dates. At such time as we have attained those desired results, we will be in a much better position to make traditional forecasts for other developments along political self-governing lines.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): I am quite certain in my own mind that the representative of Australia does not have it in his mind to cause any embarrassment here. In the case of the Philippines, we had a twelve-year target date. We have three-year target dates in this Trust Territory. It may well be that next year the target date will be more than three years. We cannot say. But we have set a target date of three years this time, and I hope that the representative of Australia can do likewise with respect to his Territory.

Mr. CUTTS (Australia): I thank the representative of the United States for his concern for our Territory, which will be discussed by the Council in due course. I simply wanted to examine the significance of these particular target dates. If I may, I shall refer to the first of them: the organic act. Yesterday, as I understood the special representative, he stated that the date of 1960 for the organic act was a target date rather than a firm programme. Its achievement, of course, will depend on what I imagine the Administering Authority and the special representative himself is engaged in now: consultation with the people of the Territory, as he informed the representative of Haiti. Could the special representative confirm my understanding?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): We think it is definitely necessary to consult with the Micronesians with respect to the development of an organic act, which, for a considerable time thereafter, we hope will be the framework of government within which the Administering Authority and the Micronesians can both work. It is for that reason that we set the date of 1960 instead of attempting to start either this year or next year with a unilateral development of an organic act.

I believe that the Micronesians have advanced tremendously in the past six, seven or eight years in the understanding of the democratic way of government, the elective processes. By reason of that understanding and because of their understanding of law and order I think that they can now contribute intelligently to the development of an organic act for Micronesia.



Mr. CUTTS (Australia): I thank the special representative for his answer. This conception does fit in perfectly with the general statement of policy by the Administering Authority, and my delegation for one certainly wishes the Administering Authority every good fortune in respect of these objectives which it has set for itself

Economic advancement (continued)

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): The first question that I wish to put to the special representative arises from an answer which he gave yesterday to the representative of the United Kingdom with regard to road building in the Territory. I think I heard him say that this was going to be almost the exclusive responsibility of the municipalities. If I am mistaken, I certainly stand to be corrected.

In view of the already onerous responsibilities which fall on the municipalities in the Territory, at least in the field of education, I wonder whether the addition of another responsibility, road building, would not leave the Territory without good operating roads. I welcome the comments of the special representative on this point.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I am glad of this opportunity to clarify the statements made. Those roads within the Trust Territory which are for common travel and are used by the Administration in logistic support and in the normal affairs in the district are being maintained and repaired. I also made the statement that funds are being set aside by the Administration to take care of the care and rehabilitation of these roads.

With reference to roads in the municipalities, the vast majority of municipalities in the Territory do not have vehicles. The maintenance of their roads, paths etc., are considered to be the responsibility of the municipalities concerned. But I do not intend to imply that the municipalities will be made responsible for the maintenance and rehabilitation of these commercially-used roads in the Trust Territory.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I am very grateful for that clarification. The other question that I had in mind was put in part by the representative of New Zealand yesterday. However, since the reply to him was not a complete reply to the question as a whole, and in view of the fact that it is a question which does perturb my delegation to a considerable degree, I shall -- although we have raised it on several occasions -- put it again, even at the risk of appearing to the special representative to be a little repetitious. In paragraph 316 of the Visiting Mission's report I have read:

"The Mission noted a tendency on the part of the Administration to emphasize the need to reduce the heavy deficit of the Trust Territory. Such a reduction unless achieved by increasing local revenues would have to be brought about by reducing the present amount of appropriations and to do so would have the adverse effect of limiting the scope of the Territory's development by depriving it of adequate personnel and material assistance that are required."

The paragraph goes on to say:

"While the Mission appreciates the fact that the Administering Authority is already appropriating funds to cover the deficit of the Territory, it feels that the budget still fails to provide sufficient funds for essential economic and social development."

The only thing I would request the special representative to do is to comment on this statement with all the detail at his disposal.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): A lengthy answer could be given to the question. Such an answer would, of necessity, include the philosophy of the Administering Authority, and would have to be balanced against the philosophy of the individuals making the statement that budgets are not sufficient for the essential economic and social development of the Territory. However, rather than discuss philosophies I shall make one or two statements.

First, the budget for the Trust Territory has increased during the last several years. The United States Congress provided funds to start a construction programme which, during the first two years, received approximately \$1.6 million. It is going forward at the rate of another \$800,000 or \$900,000. Our administrative and official budget, aside from construction, has not been decreased by our Congress.

(Mr. Nucker,  
Special representative)

our revenues from the Territory have increased -- not greatly, but to some extent -- with the net result that budgets which are necessary for the administration and operation of the Territory have not been reduced, while budgets have been increased or allowed for construction work.

It will be noted that throughout the past several years the Administering Authority has maintained the position that it desires to aid the Micronesians to achieve self-government and self-sufficiency. I should like to emphasize a portion of that statement -- "aid the Micronesians to achieve". It is true that the Administering Authority could probably pour in much more money than it may at the present time be pouring into an area. It is also true, in my opinion, that advancement cannot at all times maintain pace with dollars. Advancement and dollars are not synonymous. On the other hand I should like to close by stating that, in my personal belief based on actual knowledge of conditions in the Trust Territory, in 1950 and 1951, and from then on, conditions improved tremendously, that the attitude of the Micronesians towards the Administering Authority is exceptionally good, that there is no hunger in the area and that the peoples have advanced tremendously in their political, educational and health programmes. I am well satisfied that in the past three years since the report of the last visiting Mission, the Trust Territory has continued to improve and is in much better shape than it was at the time of that last visit.

One final sentence. I do not believe that the Administering Authority's appropriations are minimal to the point that the area is being hampered in its advancement. If more money were put in it may be that advancement would be faster: it may be that that would not be desirable, or perhaps it would be. That, as I say, is a matter for discussion that could go on for a long time.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I certainly appreciate the points that have been brought out in reply to my question. I must say, however, that for our part, at least, we have always felt that the question of funds was of primordial importance for the Trust Territory in view of the dearth of its resources and the paucity of its wealth. Nevertheless, I can see the significance of the arguments that have been adduced by the special representative, and I thank him.

(Mr. Rifai, Syria)

My next question relates to the Copra Stabilization Board. I note that this year also the Micronesians have asked for an increase in the price of copra, and that the Administering Authority, as usual, has encountered difficulty in explaining the price of copra to them and in trying to give them the reasons therefor. In view of this, I wonder whether the Copra Stabilization Board should not include a Micronesian in order to make it less difficult for the people to appreciate the difficulties involved in establishing a certain price for their product. I believe that the Visiting Mission has also recommended that, and I should like to ask the special representative whether the Administering Authority has given it any thought.

Mr. MUCKER (Special representative): We have given it considerable thought, and we would have no objection whatever to a Micronesian's sitting on the Copra Stabilization Board. The only reason that this has not been done to date is simply a matter of travel and inconvenience. We have tried -- and, quite frankly, have not been too successful -- to keep the Micronesians posted as to the actions of the Board, its decisions and the reasons for them, and, in short, to disseminate information relating to the price of copra and the actions taken by the Board. Again, difficulties of communication, distances and the spreading of the communities have not permitted us to penetrate successfully in connexion with this problem. Recently we have begun writing to the districts giving detailed descriptions of the discussions of the Board and the condition of the copra crop, hoping that this would serve as an educative process. However, it may be necessary for us to arrange to have a Micronesian sitting in on the Board. I would like to have one doing so in order that he might become acquainted with the complexities of the problem, even though this meant that at times that we had to move the Board into the districts and, at other times, to move some of the Micronesians into Guam where the board meetings are held.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): In paragraph 66 of the Working paper, on page 23, it is stated that municipality revenues outside the Administration's budget totalled \$177,977 in 1955 and expenditures totalled \$157,506. I see that there is some sort of residue here. Is that due to a lack of projects into which this money could be channelled, or is it due to other reasons, and what has become of these funds?

Mr. NUJAYR (Special representative): The funds would still be within the municipalities in which the moneys were collected. This sum of money represents collections by municipalities from local sources, and the expenditures represent moneys spent against local budgets. The residues would be in the municipalities involved. I can assure the representative of Syria that residues would not be the result of a shortage of projects but would be the result of a cautious approach to the spending of money, an approach which is inherent in Micronesia and is, I think, a wonderful quality.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): There is no doubt that the Administering Authority is doing an excellent job in fostering the agricultural development of Micronesia. I have noticed here that during last year, in fostering this agricultural development, the Administering Authority has introduced additional breeding livestock and has attempted to diversify agricultural production both for subsistence and for cash needs. There are two things I should like to know. In the first place, what kind of livestock is this -- is it mainly cattle or is it other kinds of livestock -- that has been introduced into the Territory? Secondly, what kind of new agricultural products are being encouraged in the Territory? In this connexion, I would inquire whether any attempt has been made to experiment with cotton in the Territory. I think that cotton might be one of the products that could be very successful there and, at least in the realm of cash crops, might be an excellent idea. At any rate, I should like the opinion of the special representative on that matter.



Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): In answer to the question concerning importation of livestock, I am pleased to be able to state that in the past year we have brought in cattle -- Brahman, Herefords, Shorthorns, Angus. We have brought in chickens, ducks, geese. We currently are shipping from Honolulu new strains of swine. This has developed into quite a project.

As regards the kind of agricultural products being introduced, reference essentially is made to the development of cacao, increasing the varieties of vegetables handled in Tinian, Saipan and Rota for the Guam market, and to the bringing in of better strains of taro, banana, pandanus, breadfruit. I would want at this point to clarify the phrase "bringing in". It would have been more nearly correct to speak of the transfer from one district to another of the better strains of those crops of fruit. For instance, one district may have a much better taro than an adjoining district. We transfer the food crops back and forth, developing them in the districts.

With respect to cotton, there has been no work with respect to the development of cotton in Micronesia. I am not an agriculturalist, nor have I read precisely on this subject, but it appears to me that the nature of the soils throughout most of Micronesia would not favour cotton. We have either volcanic or coral-base soils and, from the slight knowledge I have of the locations in which cotton is grown in the world, I think the soils are different from ours. I would be only too pleased to check into this matter upon my return in order to get a more scientific answer.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): We know that the resources of the Territory are not very considerable. In reading the report of the Visiting Mission, I was struck by certain observations concerning the situation in different districts. I should like to cite two or three of those observations and ask the special representative to be good enough to comment upon them.

In paragraph 28 of the report of the Visiting Mission, there is a reference to the low income level of the population of Yap. The main produce of the area is copra, but it is said that much of it is lost: the inhabitants are not interested in earning more money than they need in order to buy the few articles which they



(Mr. Dorsinville, Haiti)

Desire. Further, in paragraph 32 of the report, there is a reference to an observation by the manager of the Yap Trading Company, who says that one could stimulate the need for money by introducing a greater variety of goods into the district. This, in the view of my delegation, is a narrow view of the situation. Can the special representative tell us what measures the Administering Authority has taken in order to promote or enhance the desire to acquire money, if account is taken of the fact that the lack of money is a brake upon the economic development in general?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Yap, in terms of the other districts of the Trust Territory, is populated by a people who are at heart most independent and who have the greatest desire to remain faithful to their cultures, habits and customs. Money is a medium of exchange in the Yapese mind only to the extent that he desires to purchase something. He sees at this point no true reason to develop a money economy so that people can be paid in salaries and may be able to develop a way of life based on a dollar ability to carry on life.

The trading company manager in Yap, who is an American, is understandably desirous that the Yap Trading Company should be a successful concern from the profit standpoint. He recognizes the Yapese willingness not to pick copra for the sake of owning money. He desire to create in the Yapese mind a wish for such things as outboard motors, sewing machines, cloth and other basic items which in the past have not been displayed in any large quantities with any degree of selection. He is simply saying that if he offers more trade goods he will create more desire for money. This desire for money will, in turn, be developed into energy, copra will be processed and sold, and the circle will be completed.

The Administering Authority is not taking any strong action in an attempt to convert the Yapese from their present way of life to that of a cash economy. It will be noted that the report of the Visiting Mission states that there is a great need for agriculturists in Yap. The reason for additional agriculturists can only be the attempt to produce cash crops.

Yap possesses the best food supply within the Trust Territory. There is no food shortage on Yap. There is no major developed desire on the part of the Yapese to change over from their local foods to American foods, which again would require cash. I believe that as time goes on the Yapese will succumb to the cash economy to which the majority of the countries of the world have succumbed. As that change takes place, we want to play a role of aiding them in developing their potentials for the earning of cash.

At the present time, I repeat, there is no solid strong programme to develop an immediate or fast change in the economy from a local agricultural economy to a cash economy.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): Paragraph 63 of the report of the Visiting Mission states that under the Japanese administration, two industries in particular flourished on the islands, namely fishing and pineapple canning, which no longer exist. The disappearance of these industries deprives the people of part of their incomes. I wonder whether it would not be appropriate to consider the reestablishment of these industries. Has the Administering Authority studied this question?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): When the Japanese Government administered the islands, there were from 25,000 to 50,000 Japanese in the Palau Islands and approximately 6,000 or 7,000 Micronesians. The pineapple canning factory and the fishing industry were valuable operations to the Palauans primarily for the benefit of the Japanese, who outnumbered the Palauans five or ten to one. We have discussed this question many times, and I have tried to introduce a fishing programme to the Palauans, which would be an expensive undertaking.

Unless the fishing industry were introduced in such a manner as to permit the Palauans to participate in the benefits profit-wise and operationally speaking, it would carry not too great benefit to the individual Palauans who would be serving in secondary capacities, as labourers and so on. It would not provide a large income for the Palauans because it would not be their industry.

We are hopeful, however, of overcoming some of these obstacles and of starting a fishing programme. I had hoped to be able to accomplish this during the past year. It could have been accomplished only if we permitted the industry to start on the basis of the return to the islands of a number of non-Micronesians, so we abandoned it. However, we are still working on plans.

Pineapple canning in today's market does not seem to me to be much of a profit-maker. We have not thoroughly discussed this problem and I am in no position to make any definitive statements. We shall discuss it and examine all the potentials of a pineapple canning plant in Palau. I seriously doubt, however, whether any actual plant will result from such discussions. But it certainly is worth examination.

(Mr. Nucker, Special  
representative)

I should like the Council always to remember that under the Japanese administration there were at different times more Japanese in the area than Micronesians. This created a false economy of Micronesians living off the service trades in serving the Japanese. Today, exclusive of the military, I would hazard the guess that there were not more than 600 or 700 Americans in the whole of the Trust Territory, with only about 70 or 80 in Palau. This naturally reverses the ability of certain types of industries to succeed, because the market is much lower.

Mr. DONSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): The third observation which struck me concerns paragraphs 64 and 65 of the Visiting Mission's report. Those paragraphs deal with bauxite and manganese, in which, as the special representative may remember, my delegation took an interest last year. We already know that the opinion of the Administering Authority is that the exploitation of the bauxite and manganese would not be profitable, but last year there was some question of sending an expert to make a survey on the spot. We have seen in the report of the Visiting Mission that the expert mentioned last year has not visited the Territory and I wondered whether the special representative could give us some information about that. I might add this observation, already made last year by my delegation, that if in the view of the Administering Authority American companies would not be interested in exploiting these deposits, why should they not be exploited by some foreign company which might have different requirements? I should like to have the special representative's comments on that point.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I have here a report dated March 1956 prepared by a member of the United States Geological Survey Group concerning bauxite in the Palaus. The expert did not visit the Palaus during the past year; the report was compiled on the basis of the statistics already at hand from past surveys and on the basis of the knowledge possessed by certain of the individuals concerned who had been there in the past. The essence of the report is that if any country were to try to develop the bauxite in the Palaus terrific investments would be required. The bauxite is of secondary quality and the mills in Japan which used to treat and process the bauxite have been retooled to handle a different type of bauxite which they have been receiving for a number of years, and considerable expenditure would be needed to fit them again to handle the type of bauxite coming from Palau. All this is by way of explanation of what we have done, but it does not answer the question whether or not the bauxite should be exploited.

Currently, we have an inquiry from an individual who is interested on the basis of Japanese requirements, and this person has asked permission to come to Babelthuap and review the bauxite deposits at first hand in order to be in a position to make recommendations. Permission has been granted. I hope he does come to Babelthuap and make a first-hand examination, because he is particularly

interested in development of the bauxite. I therefore wish to assure the representative of Haiti that we have not forgotten the matter; we have continued the work on bauxite even though nothing definite has occurred yet.

There is another thought in my mind which we have been discussing this past year at considerable length, and that is, do we need to exploit the bauxite at this time simply because we have bauxite to be exploited? One of my staff made a statement which I have remembered, namely, that we might be better serving the Micronesians by retaining the bauxite asset until such time as the cash economy of the area concerned requires the mining of bauxite to fill a need which may be present then but is possibly not present now. This statement threw a new light on the whole situation, and although we are still going to follow through and see what can be done or what can be developed, the edge has been taken off my desire to exploit this asset unless it can be done in a manner best to benefit the Micronesians.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I have a question concerning paragraph 98 of the Visiting Mission's report in which it is pointed out that at least one island among the Mortlock Islands has a population density of more than 2,000 persons per square mile. Reference is also made to the migration of this population to the district of Ponape, and it is stated that it is also possible for them to migrate elsewhere. Could we be given an exact idea of the situation in the Mortlock Islands and of the migration policy which directs its population towards Ponape?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): There are in the Trust Territory several homesteading programmes each of which is pointed towards the end result of relieving population pressures in given places within the Trust Territory. There are not too many areas in which population pressures have reached any degree of seriousness. As these pressures develop, I believe we shall be able to meet the needs of the people for land as the Micronesians become more and more accustomed to the homesteading programme. So far as the Mortlockese are concerned, I can assure the representative of Haiti that they are not making any outcry for land to satisfy the population pressure at the present time.



(Mr. Nucker, Special representative)

There is a population pressure in the Mortlocks, but it has not reached a critical point; it has several years to go. We have open lands in the Marianas; we have open lands in Ponapé; we have open lands in Palau. We have very little land to open in Truk because there we have very little public land which is valuable. I believe that we will be able to take care of population needs through homesteading as the problems arise.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I should like to ask the special representative whether the comment he has just made applies also to paragraph 199 of the Visiting Mission's report, which describes a similar situation in the Marshall Islands. He referred to a study of the land tenancy situation and also reference was made to land which is to be redistributed in two islands. Perhaps the special representative could make an additional comment on that or extend the comment which he made in connexion with Truk island. Are his comments also relevant to this area?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The comments are generally applicable to the points made in paragraph 199. I should also like to call attention to the fact that while population pressures on one island may seem exceptionally high -- 2,000 to the square mile -- it is a pattern in the Trust Territory that the people will live on one island and will go with their canoes to adjoining islands around the lagoon for foodstuffs. Thus the statement that 2,000 people live in one square mile should not be interpreted to mean that one square mile must support 2,000 people. Adjoining islands are used as food sources. I think that within the Marshalls definitely the need for more land and food can be met by homesteading programmes and by additional agricultural efforts now being put forth, as well as by the return of cash to the Marshalls, which in turn permits the buying of other foods. I believe the Marshalls have the best cash economy from the standpoint of balance of any district in that they produce approximately 40 per cent of our copra and have the money with which to operate.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): This is my last question.

Many fruits and vegetables are grown in the Mariana Islands, but some difficulties of transportation are mentioned in the report. It seems that the Administering Authority has set up a Commission to study the communication facilities between the Mariana Islands and other districts in order to have a more regular distribution of the products of the Mariana Islands. Could the special representative tell us what conclusions were reached by the Commission that was established by the Administering Authority and how the difficulties of the Mariana Islanders have been relieved? Paragraph 217 of the Visiting Mission's report deals with these matters.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The report of the Commission has not been finalized. It may be at this moment but it was not at the time I left Guam; it should be by the time I return.

The answer to the problem of the Marianas with respect to their delivery of produce is one which can only be found in some form of regular shipping between Guam, Tinian, Rota and Saipan, so that there is a known delivery schedule of locally grown produce. The matter of bettering shipping will be the major concern and is the major concern of the Commission -- that is to say, not the problem of starting shipping, but of developing a better shipping programme than we now have. I think we can find the solution. I hope to be able to handle the problem with the Commission upon my return.

Mr. GRUBIAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Paragraph 192 of the report of the Visiting Mission says that in the Marshall Islands there is no individual ownership of land. In this connexion, this question arises: what are the obstacles encountered by the Administering Authority in returning the land to the population? I am referring to the land which is in the hands of the Administering Authority since it says that there is no individual ownership of land. Therefore, obstacles to returning this land to the indigenous population apparently do not seem to exist.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The problem of returning land in the Marshalls -- and this may seem paradoxical -- is somewhat simpler than the problem of returning land in those districts in which individual ownership is a way of life. In the Marshalls land is returned to families or clans, which results in the ability to return satisfactorily larger blocks of land to fewer points of ownership without any complaints from the individuals within that family. Occasionally we do have disputes between families over boundary lines as to the areas involved, and that presents a problem for settlement. However, to date, discussion has been sufficient to handle, I believe, all of those problems. We had one outstanding case in the Marshalls in which our Chief Justice held hearings -- he did not hold court -- and took statements from members of various families involved. A satisfactory solution to the local problem was found and we have had no difficulty since.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): How is the land used which is not returned, the land which is at the disposal of the Administering Authority? I am not referring to any land that is used for military purposes or for administrative purposes. I am referring to the land which might be returned to the local population which has not been so returned. How is that land used?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I think that there are essentially three usages: first, land which is used by the Administering Authority in each district for its establishments and facilities; second, land which is used by the Administering Authority -- public domain land -- for such projects as the cacao and copra plantations and the Jaluit agricultural projects -- experimental low-atoll agriculture; and third, land which is in public domain, not used by the Administration, but held for two or three reasons. The first is to provide watershed areas, in order to ensure the continuation of adequate forestation; the second, to have land available for homesteading, which is, in effect, land being returned to the Micronesians; the third involves land which will be, in process of time, returned to the Micronesians to become private land either through leases or through its return to individuals.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In the reports for 1954 and 1955 we find the same figure, namely, 687 square miles of land in the Territory, which was the State land taken over after the defeat of Japan, the land used by the Administering Authority amounting to 434 square miles, and only 250 square miles occupied by the inhabitants. We have seen these figures for the last two years. I should like to ask the special representative how much land, in terms of square miles, has been returned to the indigenous inhabitants, and the extent to which these figures reflect the true state of affairs.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): It is unfortunate that the same figures appear in this report as in the last, because the facts are different and the figures should have been changed. During the past year thousands of acres have been made available to the Micronesians by means of homesteading, and returned to Micronesian ownership. I am sorry that I have not the precise figures with me so that I am unable to state the reflected change in land which is being retained by the Administration and that which is privately owned. I shall be glad to try to obtain these figures by cablegram and to submit them for the record.

(Mr. Nucker, Special representative)

I should like to point out that, of the 434 square miles mentioned in the report as public land, land under the control of the Administration, much of it consists of single islands, small, inhabited areas used by the population for producing food, but not definitively set aside as property owned by certain Micronesians. The very nature of the figures leads to wrong conclusions. Much of the land which is shown as Government land is in effect, and in fact, used by Micronesians in their everyday living.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I shall be grateful if the special representative will produce these figures in order to clarify our difficulties. One is rather confused since, on the one hand, the land is being returned and, on the other, the figures remain the same, and I should not like to voice the same criticism again. Perhaps the figures should be tuned down by one or two square miles, but even that small amount would be welcome.

My next question refers to paragraph 200 of the report of the Visiting Mission concerning a complaint by the inhabitants of Uliku Island. It is stated that the Government of the Trust Territory "had been using their land on Uliku Island for a period of six years without having obtained the permission of its owners". May I inquire into the factual situation? I imagine that the inhabitants of Uliku continue to live there. They say that their land was taken away six years ago, or rather, that the Government has been using their land for six years without their permission. In other words, the land was taken over some considerable time after the end of the war. I should like to know why this complaint was made. Why was the land taken over by the Administration, and how does the Administration propose to settle this problem? It is said that the Acting High Commissioner stated that the claims would soon be settled and payment made without delay. That is not what I am interested in at this point; I should like to know what will be done about the land itself.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Uliku Island is the island in which the Marshall Islands District Administration has its facilities and its headquarters. The land originally came to the United States Government by reason



of the end of the war, on our taking over land which formerly had been under the Japanese Government. In addition, the building of an airstrip on Uliku Island used some of this land, and some of it had to be used by the Administration in the early days immediately following the war. Since that time, the Administration area, as we refer to land that is now under the Administration, has been reduced and some land returned to the Marshall Islanders. At the present time much less land is occupied by the Administration than was the case ten or twelve years ago. The remaining land being used by the Administration, including the airfield, is land which the Marshallese will be paid for from the funds now available and concerning which negotiations will take place within the next month or so for the settlement of these particular claims. The concern of the Marshall Islanders -- and rightly so -- is that their land should be returned to them or payment made for the land which the Administration is using. Some of it has been returned, and what has been retained will be paid for.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): What sums of money are being claimed by the inhabitants of this Island for the use of this land? Are they large or small sums?



Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): That is a good question. I am trying to separate Uliku in my mind from other areas in the Marshalls. I would hazard a guess that it is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$50,000 to \$100,000 which is involved in the settling of land claims on Uliku.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Paragraph 223 of the report of the Visiting Mission speaks of the displacement of the population on the island of Bikini. I should like to know whether the land handed over to the people who were removed from the proving grounds was vacant land or was it held by other people.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The island of Kili where the people from Bikini now live was vacant land. The Bikinians are not occupying land which was previously occupied by other Marshallese.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Paragraph 226 of the Visiting Mission's report refers to a statement by the Acting High Commissioner to the effect that on the island of Bikini where the nuclear tests were held it might not be possible for the former inhabitants to return. Does this mean that this island has been lost forever, that it can never be repopulated or utilized and that, as a part of the Trust Territory, it will figure on the map instead of being a blank spot?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Forever is a long time. I would amend the statement to say that in the foreseeable future I do not believe that Bikini can successfully be inhabited by the Marshallese in the way in which the people in those islands are accustomed to living. It is my thought that the Marshallese should understand this and adjust their thinking in order to permit them to devote most of their time to learning the way of life in their present location rather than living in hope of returning to Bikini at any foreseeable time. To sum up, to all intents and purposes, the present Bikinians and their children should not contemplate returning to Bikini.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Does this prognosis also apply to the Atoll of Eniwetok?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Yes, it does.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I do not suppose that this applies to the adjacent islands of Rongelap and Utirik from where people have also been removed. Or does this prognosis also extend to those two islands?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The prognosis does not extend to the other islands. In fact, the Utirikese are now living on Utirik, and we anticipate that the Rongelapese will be inhabiting Rongelap late this fall.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have one more question. I am putting it because I am not very familiar with the situation on these islands, and I do not know what they are like. I am somewhat influenced by some figures in the report. It is pointed out there that the Administration has at its disposal 434 square miles, in other words, much more land than is at the disposal of the inhabitants. On the other hand, we have the difficult problem of the transfer of population from Bikini, Eniwetok, Rongelap and so on. Since the Administration has so much more land than the inhabitants, why is it so difficult to satisfy the needs of the small group of the population in such a way as to enable them to consider themselves duly compensated for the losses they have sustained as the result of the nuclear tests?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Many of the islands of the Trust Territory are not habitable from a permanent standpoint. A number of the islands have an absolute shortage of water. This varies from area to area. Others are not arable. Still others are so far out of the beaten path as not to be desirable. For instance, we moved the Eniwetokians to Ujelong. They are satisfied with the island on which they are now living from the standpoint of food production and of a lagoon. We have no problem of dissatisfaction there with the ability to live or to raise food. Some of the inhabitable islands, which may be marginal

(Mr. Nucker, Special  
representative)

from an arable or a water supply standpoint, may fall within the sphere of influence of another culture. The islanders do not want to move into these strange areas. They prefer to stay within the area of their own language, people and culture. I had a recent experience which was indicative of this fact. I desired to shift the logistic support of one particular island from the Marshalls to Ponape simply because it was more efficient. The ship could leave our Ponape District and provide better service at less cost. But the people on that particular island did not want to feel that they were having their local nationality changed, as it were, by a logistic supply ship coming from another district centre. We are still supplying them from the Marshalls in recognition of their desire. Therefore it is difficult to be specific as to why the Eniwetokians were not sent somewhere else. They seem to be fairly well content with their island.

(Mr. Nucker, Special representative)

I can only say that prior to the acceptance of Kili as the place for the Bikinians the entire area was studied and reviewed, and it appeared at that time, as it appears now, to be the only available suitable location from the standpoint of what we have to make available. In using the word "suitable" I do not mean to imply that it is entirely suitable to the Bikinians. There is another facet to this answer. The bulk of the public domain land of this 434 square miles lies in the Northern Marianas, and in the Palaus, which is a completely foreign country so far as the Marshallese and their district are concerned. We have little land in the Marshalls in public domain category.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Before putting my questions to the special representative I should like to thank him for the answers he has already give to the representative of Syria containing information on the dispute which involved a Belgian citizen.

In paragraph 317 of this report the Visiting Mission takes the view that the Administration should intervene more actively in support of the municipalities in order to provide for the support of schools, dispensaries and so on. While it is quite normal for these costs to be borne by the municipalities when they are in a position to meet them, that is not at present the situation and the Mission considers that intervention by the Administration would be justified. Could the special representative say what he thinks about this view?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I can sympathize with the views of the Visiting Mission and the framework of desire on their part from which this statement sprang. I believe, however, that, even though it is slower to have the municipalities provide local schools, the cumulative effect of maintaining the responsibilities there will, in the end, provide a better educational base throughout the Marshalls, Ponape, Yap, Truk, Palau and Saipan than were the Administration to move in, making it easy to acquire schools by providing facilities, teachers and so on in accordance with our normal way of doing things in this country. There are more and more schools being rebuilt and repaired by the individual municipalities throughout Micronesia each year. It is a growing, cumulative effect. Municipalities now are beginning to vie each with the other to ensure that their school is as good as that of an adjoining

(Mr. Nucker, Special  
representative)

municipality. Recently the Administration did take a step which is going to be quite helpful in my opinion. It set up a small fund to be used as a matching fund. Those municipalities which are not fully capable of financing a small building may, through their district administrator, apply for the use of some of this money. The municipalities, it is envisaged, will provide the labour and the local material, and if such things as roofing material, certain woods, the use of equipment to level the ground, and so on, are needed the Administration will give the municipality in question a sum which enable these needs to be met, providing the municipality, on its part, has done the work which it should do. So far as facilities are concerned, our school system is constantly getting better. It could be improved rapidly if the Administration would take funds and move in, putting up buildings and doing the other things which need to be done. But again, I think it is a matter of opinion which is the better way. I can certainly agree with the Visiting Mission that the adoption of its suggestion would produce faster results as far as buildings are concerned, but I personally question whether all-out aid by the Administration at this level of education, the elementary level, would produce the desired end result in the final education picture.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): One of the points which seems to continue to preoccupy some residents of the Territory relates to the losses sustained by many Micronesians through the expropriation or loss of some of their holdings or assets in Japanese currency. They were sometimes obliged to subscribe to Japanese loans during the war. It is said that negotiations are proceeding with the Japanese authorities on this subject. Could the special representative tell us whether there is hope that agreement will be reached, and why this fairly old problem has not been settled before now?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): We have settled the yen claims -- the money claims -- of the residents of Micronesia. All payments have been made, and money is available for additional claims if any: but I do not think that there are any additional claims because we have had no activity in the last three or four months. As far as concerns securities such as post-office money orders, and so on, we have practically completed arrangements for the Administering Authority to pay

(Mr. Nucker, Special  
representative)

those claims. I expect that they will be taken care of before the end of this year. At least, we shall be in the process of paying them by that time. I believe that this will satisfactorily close the issue with respect to money and securities which the Micronesians acquired under the Japanese occupation.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French):

The Belgian delegation believes that the Administration should be congratulated on the success of its initiative to replace a large central organization engaging in trade in Micronesia -- the Island Trading Company -- by seven private companies in which the Micronesians themselves hold shares and for the activities of which they are responsible. This is a remarkable achievement, and I should like to know whether the Island Trading Company's functions in their entirety have been taken over by the local companies. For instance, are the granting of loans and credit, the collection of certain governmental resources, transportation activities, and so on now handled by these seven new companies?



Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The shipping transportation is not now handled in its entirety by the seven companies. In the Marshalls, one of the companies -- the Marshall Island Import-Export Company -- is now taking over responsibility for all intra-island shipping. A considerable portion of the shipping problems in Truk are handled by the Truk co-operative. This is also true in Ponape. They handle certain local shipping. The Island Trading Company, before them, did not have the full responsibility for all transportation. This is by way of saying that the local trading companies now are discharging greater responsibilities in shipping than the Island Trading Company did before the strengthening of the local companies.

In respect to loans, the trading companies now extend credit to their customers and have picked up that responsibility formerly discharged by the Island Trading Company. In turn, the Government of the Administering Authority has had made available a sizeable sum of money -- \$500,000 -- to make loans to the trading companies in Micronesia for the purpose of enabling them to have better plants, add facilities, carry better stocks of goods, and generally improve their ability to meet the needs of the Micronesians.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): These commercial companies, organized on a district base, are therefore strictly private companies, financed by Micronesian capital and with boards elected by an assembly of stockholders, and so forth, assisted by a non-Micronesian director, an American. Nevertheless, the fact that one finds in each district a number of savings societies that are associating their capital and appointing a board to direct operations of this kind, shows that the degree of evolution of at least some of these Micronesians is already fairly well advanced. Under these conditions, it seems somewhat difficult to understand why it is not possible, through the boards of these companies, to explain to the population the reasons for a rise or fall in the price of copra. The Visiting Mission apparently had to do this on many occasions. Many petitioners or others asked why these rises and drops took place. I should like to know whether the special representative has anything to say to explain this phenomenon.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): It is true that the directors of the various companies present the logical pipeline of information to a majority of Micronesians, particularly with reference to such a commodity as copra, which is of local interest to all Micronesians. Over the years, we have tried to explain this financial arrangement -- the Copra Stabilization Board -- and we are slowly getting understanding. I think that two things are evident: first, all the members of the Board of Directors do not understand it; secondly, those who do understand it do not go out of their way to explain it to other Micronesians.

The copra comes from many little islands, scattered over large areas of ocean. The Micronesian brings his copra into the store, sells it, buys his trade goods and goes on, seldom having direct contact with the Board of Directors.

This is a real problem. The Mission was asked time and again about copra and about the prices. Perhaps we can make better use of the directors. In any event, we need to do something to get this information disseminated -- I propose, through letters to the Board of Directors, to the trading companies, through meetings, and through the inclusion of Micronesians in our day-to-day thinking and planning of the Board to get this information out.

I did not believe that lack of understanding existed to the extent that was evidenced as the Mission went through. Everywhere they went, questions were asked about copra. This is a natural question for the people, because that is their natural way of life.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The Visiting Mission has noted -- I am referring to paragraph 347 specifically -- considerable imbalance in the programme of agricultural propaganda. This seems to be due to the absence of planning, and the result is quite disorderly. The Visiting Mission recommends that propaganda in this field be planned in a more careful manner and that specific objects be set in terms of time. This is a recommendation which seems to be formulated by all Visiting Missions -- this tendency to encourage planning in every field, also in the political field. In the agricultural field, apparently, this planning is somewhat defective. I am wondering whether the Administration proposes to undertake such planning or why such planning should not be undertaken. Are there any reasons?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The background of our agricultural programme explains in large measure, I think, the current status and will indicate the future trend. About eighteen months ago, it was decided to strengthen the agricultural programme of the Trust Territory. This was mentioned at last year's session of the Trusteeship Council. We were engaged in recruiting additional agriculturalists and additional staff experts in various fields. It is difficult to find qualified agriculturalists in tropical agriculture. This has taken time.

At the time of the Mission's visit, we had just about completed our new staffing of the Agriculture Department. Some of our agriculturalists had been there only a few months, others had been there for six months, others for eight months. We are currently engaged in developing a common thinking throughout the Agriculture Department -- a welding together, as it were, of these individuals from various areas, with various thoughts and various backgrounds, into a working unit. We were having difficulties -- not with the men themselves, but in the adjustment of those men to the programme.

So far as planning is concerned, there is each year a meeting of the agriculturalists. The end result of that meeting is a programme presented for their particular district, which is reviewed by the staff agriculturalist and submitted and approved, or questioned and eventually approved, by the High Commissioner's office, and which is given to local agriculturalists as the guide line or the programme for that year for that district.

I think our planning is better than our implementation was at the time of the Visiting Mission. As this expanded Agriculture Department becomes unified and knowledgeable, I believe that within one year the same comments made here would not apply.

I should like the Trusteeship Council not to forget in its deliberations the very simple fact that today we are more than twice as strong agriculturally as we were a short twelve or fourteen months ago.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4.20 p.m.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): In considering certain of the basic recommendations of the Visiting Mission in the economic field, an interpretation has been put upon them in certain statements made here which does not, in our opinion, correspond to the literal sense or to their implications within the general framework of the economic life of the Territory. I shall return to this aspect at some length later.

For the moment, however, I should simply like to say that in our interpretation of the situation as set out in these paragraphs in which further economic assistance is requested from the Administration, they do not ask for unlimited all-out financial aid, but rather simply request somewhat larger sums so as to be able to advance more rapidly.

We have heard many times that the known resources of the Pacific islands under United States administration are very limited -- and I emphasize the term "known resources". It is also well-known, however, that there are considerable marine resources.

These limited resources offer a limited income to the inhabitants. Now this limited economic income is now in contrast with the desire of the population to obtain greater resources so as to achieve a higher standard of living and thus satisfy their increasing demand for goods, products and services.

If this is the actual situation, I should like to know whether the Administering Authority has any specific plans to develop any of these resources which seem, for the moment, to be those that would offer the greatest possibility for raising the standard of living in the islands -- bearing in mind that the development of the islands calls for a higher standard of living?

Mr. LUCKER (Special representative): I thoroughly agree with the representative of Guatemala that the marine resources present the greatest potential for the development of income in the Trust Territory.

We recently employed a fishing biologist essentially to study trochus. After he has completed studies and made recommendations on trochus -- recommendations

(Mr. Nucker,  
Special representative)

as to how we can best increase and improve its production -- he will move into other marine possibilities related to other types of shell-fishing and so on.

Recently, Mr. Van Pel, of the South Pacific Commission, studied the possibilities of local fishing ventures within the Trust Territory. On my desk in Guam at the present time there is a recommendation, as a result of Mr. Van Pel's studies, that a fishing programme should be started in Palau through the use of Palauans and the purchase of one or two small boats to be financed by the Administration. We are studying this proposal and may put it into effect.

We are planning to send at least one Micronesian, and we would like to send two Micronesians, to Fiji in the fall to attend the fishing school which is to be conducted by the South Pacific Commission in that area.

Through the combined efforts of a new staff fishing biologist, the studies of such men as Mr. Van Pel and the contemplated fishing project on a local scale, possibly in Palau, we are attempting not only to gather knowledge but also to implement it in starting a marine exploitation programme.



Mr. ROIZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): My first question concerns the considerable marine resources in the Territory. I should like to refer to resources which are just beginning to be developed through an agricultural programme, a homesteading programme. In some of the larger islands in the Territory, fortunately, there are still areas which can be devoted to a homesteading programme. The Administration has undertaken such a programme. They are developing agricultural resources more intensively, more efficiently and more scientifically. However, in order to develop this programme roads will be needed through these new areas. I am thinking of Babelthuap and Ponape. These roads will be new roads because there are no roads leading into the interior in those islands. This roadbuilding programme will be rather expensive, and I imagine that it cannot be entrusted to the financial resources of the localities or municipalities. The Administration will have to get into the picture and some of the existing roads will have to be repaired.

As a member of the Visiting Mission I must say that I was very happy to note the sacrifices made by the members of the Administration in riding over the roads because it seems to me that they are the ones who travel the roads more than anyone else. It is quite a task to ride on those roads. However, if these roads are to be used for economic purposes, I am sure that the High Commissioner will agree with me that they will have to be improved considerably. I doubt that the municipalities can really undertake such a job.

Connecting the homesteading programme with the roadbuilding programme, I should like to know whether you have actual, concrete plans for building these roads and whether this plan will be financed by the Administration.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): We do have plans. I have discussed with our Director of Public Works the need for new roads. Following the belief that roads which are commercially necessary and are also necessary for the development of the islands should at this stage be our responsibility rather than that of the municipalities, the financing of those roads will be the Administering Authority's responsibility.



Mr. ROIZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): I have one little question concerning copra and its importance to the Territory. During its trip the Visiting Mission had occasion to talk with the people of many different islands, and in each island we spoke with various groups of the population. Almost everywhere we heard a request for higher copra prices, higher than the present prices, naturally. It would seem that this request is based somewhat on a lack of knowledge as to how the copra market operates, but the mission got the very definite idea that this state of affairs was also due in great degree to the fact that the greater part of copra now sold by the inhabitants of the Territory was not copra of first or second quality but rather of third-class quality. The point was inevitably reached where we had to explain that to get better prices one of the first measures should be to improve the drying process. We were all agreed about that. You have to plant more and produce more copra and process it better. We got the very clear impression that it was necessary to improve the drying process.

I wanted to make this observation especially in view of certain comments which were made upon certain observations of the Visiting Mission's report. In asking for some comment on this matter from the special representative, I should like him to be good enough at the same time to tell me how many hot-air dryers for copra there are in the Territory. The Mission could not find any, but perhaps there are some in regions that the Mission did not reach. We know that the best copra is perhaps not produced by hot-air dryers, but nevertheless copra that dries in the sun sometimes spoils because of rain. This copra could be covered by leaves or something of that sort. I should like to hear some comments about this from the special representative.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): First, I should like to clarify the statement in the report with the statement made by me with respect to the quality of Micronesian copra. Micronesian copra, compared with copra from other areas in the world, does receive a premium, and is accredited by the buyers of copra as being one of the best types of copra obtainable.

We leave that statement and go to what I believe now the Mission was trying to express and with which I would agree -- if that is their expression. Within

(Mr. Nucker, Special  
representative)

Micronesia we grade our copra as number one, number two or number three, according to acid content and other factors. We pay a \$10 a ton differential between number one copra, number two copra and number three copra, which means that number three copra will produce at the present time \$90 a ton to the grower; number one copra would produce \$110 a ton. It then becomes obvious that creating a better copra within Micronesia -- from grade three to grade one -- would produce a greater income to the Micronesians. We can stand improvement in the grade of copra within Micronesia, but the total product of Micronesia, including our number three copra, is a net product better than that which is produced in other areas of the world.

This processing of the coconut meat into number one copra falls by the wayside by reason of the weather, the rain, the lack of time which some of the Micronesians may give it to dry, and the lack of care given while drying. Consequently, when they bring it in for sale it is graded as number three; but it is still better copra than the world's average.

Recently Mr. Pearson began discussions of methods of grading and sorting copra so that our merchants who buy the copra -- the trading companies -- could be fair at all times in the grading process. Also, our agriculturists, along with Mr. Pearson, are working with the Micronesians in order that they may better understand the grading process and, consequently, be more careful with their processing so that they may be able to sell their copra as number one rather than number three.

With respect to the number of hot-air dryers in the Territory, we have one sizable plant, I think, at Metalanim. I do not know whether members of the Visiting Mission saw the hot air-dryer at that plantation or not. There, they use the husks of the coconut as fuel for the fire. The meat of the coconut is put inside and, dried, it comes out copra. We have on several of the islands small heat-drying facilities for copra but they are not hot-air dryers in the sense of the one in Metalanim, which is a good-sized brick and concrete installation. On the islands they build a roof supported by four posts. About three feet above the ground level there is an open wooden tray, underneath which a fire is built whose heat tends to dry the copra more quickly. There are, as I say, several of those.

Mr. Pearson, our copra expert, is now studying the problem of whether or not the Trust Territory should initiate a programme of buying small drying apparatus to be placed strategically throughout various islands for the heat-drying of copra. It is true that when the heat-drying process is resorted to, some of the value of the copra is lost. Heat-dried copra is not as good as the sun-dried variety, and there is a question whether the use of the heat-drying process means the loss of some dollar advantage in the sale of the copra on the world markets. This subject is under study and has many implications as far as the Marshallese and the Ponapeans are concerned, who develop more than 60 per cent of our copra.

Mr. ROLZ BENNET (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): In speaking of hot-air dryers, I did not have in mind specifically the installation at Metalanim since it belongs to a plantation not being developed specifically by Micronesians. I had in mind Micronesian installations.

The representative of Haiti referred to certain industries in some districts of the Territory, particularly the pineapple industry, and the sugar and fishing industries. I should like to ask the special representative whether he feels that if there were sufficient markets for these products, the pineapple and sugar industries could be brought back into operation in the Territory.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): With regard to the sugar industry, deep consideration must be given to the current availability of sugar from other areas and to the amount of sugar now supplied to the world market in terms of the needs of the market. Such matters as transportation and the cost of processing the sugarcane would have to be taken into account. In such a small area as we have in the Trust Territory, it seems to me that it would be a very difficult matter, regardless of the sugar market, so long as the sugar had to be sold in a competitive market, for Micronesia to grow sufficient cane to warrant the processing and development into sugar. Years ago the Japanese had a sizable sugar plantation -- sizable when considering the area of Micronesia -- and had two or three sugar-processing plants. However, world market conditions in those days were quite different from those prevailing today. I seriously doubt whether sugar could ever be developed in Micronesia as a cash crop. So far as the canning of local fruits or the development of a canning industry is concerned, there may be possibilities in the area -- again, on a limited scale -- and I think there would be more chance of success in the canning and sale of canned goods than in a sugar industry. It is going to take some time to accumulate sufficient information so that we may know whether we shall have an adequate crop to develop a canning industry, and also to determine, from the state of the world market, whether or not it would be a feasible operation.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): At the end of the operations of the Angaur mines, a certain fund was in existence, according to the annual report. These mining operations were terminated satisfactorily. What is to become of this fund? When the Visiting Mission was in the Territory the Administration reported that certain measures were being taken and studies made to determine how this fund could be invested for the benefit of the inhabitants. I should like to know whether these studies have been concluded and whether, in the near future, new regulations will be made governing that fund.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): At the close of the Angaur mining operations, the Trust Territory Government had approximately \$1,300,000 in a trust fund for the benefit of the Angaurese. The trust fund, which was established as the result of discussions with the Angaurese and endorsed with their signatures, indicates at the present time the manner in which the fund is to be invested and also sets forth the distribution of the profits or dividends received from investment of the principal. Approximately 400 Angaurese participate in the returns from this trust fund. The discussion in this connexion with the Mission was intended to indicate that the Administering Authority felt some anxiety about the continued administration of this trust fund under its present terms and conditions.

(Mr. Nucker, Special representative)

We are studying the problem and we are carrying on discussions leading toward finding an equitable solution which will ensure to the individual Angaurese and his family a proper administration of the fund. At the present time the trust agreement provides that at the death of all those present at the signing of the agreement the principal shall be given to their heirs. The fund is now about ten years old. An Angaurese baby may have been born a few days before the signing of that agreement and may live to be eighty or ninety. The personnel of the Administering Authority is going to have a very difficult time locating all the Angaurese to whom the principal is to be distributed. We are concerned with creating a method of distribution of principal which will permit a more precise knowledge of how it will ultimately be done. Under the present agreement we can invest the principal only in safe securities. In other words, we cannot "play the market" or take chances with it. Our concern is with respect to the ultimate distribution of the principal of the fund. That is what we are trying to work out now.

Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): In connexion with this same matter, I should like to ask the special representative whether he is satisfied with the manner in which the mining operations ended. I am referring to the supervision of the Administration and the guarantees to the local inhabitants.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I am satisfied not only with the way the mining operations were carried out but also with the way in which the company concluded its contract in absolute agreement with the terms in effect.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): My delegation was particularly interested to hear the replies which the special representative has just given to the representative of Guatemala in connexion with the potential of the marine resources of this Territory. We gained the impression that the view is held by the special representative that, given sufficient development, there may indeed be a greater potential of marine resources than of land resources within the bounds of the Trust Territory. If that impression is incorrect, we should be very glad to be corrected.



(Mr. Hamilton, Australia)

Meanwhile, I should like to ask the special representative to tell us something of the activities of the South Pacific Commission expert who visited this Territory recently. This was the second of two points which he mentioned in connexion with the investigations and developments of the Administering Authority, the other one being the employment of a fishery biologist who, for the present time at least, is engaged in a study of the trochus shell, which is more a reef resource than a deep sea resource.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Mr. van Pell of the South Pacific Commission, who is widely and favourably known in the Pacific areas for his knowledge of fishing within those areas, visited each of our districts, I believe. I know that he spent considerable time in the Palau and Ponapé districts. As a result of his investigations, he submitted a report setting forth a plan covering deep sea fishing and the manner in which we could get into this activity. He recommended that the Administering Authority sponsor the start of such a programme, which would require the purchase of ships and fishing gear, the carrying out of other activities by the Administration and the use of Micronesians as the operators of the boats, the processors of the fish and for the carrying out of the programme.

We were quite pleased with Mr. van Pell's trip through the Trust Territory and quite appreciative of the factual manner in which he reported on the conditions he found. The suggestions he made have been studied, and action may be taken on them.

The trochus industry is essentially a reef industry. Trochus income has been increased in each of the past three or four years. We look for an additional increase this year. The biologist is working on developing information which will permit recommendations to be made to the Administering Authority as to how it can better harvest and at the same time continue to conserve and not destroy the trochus in the Territory. He has been on the job now about six months, and I believe that by next year we will have information which will be of extreme value to the Trust Territory, and which may permit a greater harvesting of trochus through either the lengthening of the time or permitting the catching of smaller trochus or various other techniques. His knowledge should permit him to make very good recommendations.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): I am very grateful to the special representative for that information. With your permission, Mr. President, I should like to quote two passages which, without apologies, I am lifting from the Working Paper prepared by the Secretariat. One of them is as follows:

"...although negotiations for the establishment of commercial fishing for export have been attempted, the Administering Authority reports that thus far no programme has been developed which would be truly for the islanders' benefit rather than their exploitation." (T/L.685, para.59)

The second quotation is as follows:

"The Visiting Mission noted that foreign interests were already making wide use of the fishing resources in the vicinity of the Trust Territory..." (Ibid., para. 87)

These two quotations, if accurate, would seem to face the Administering Authority with a very serious dilemma. There have been negotiations in an effort to establish an industry within the confines of the Trust Territory in such a manner that the people of the Territory and their resources will not be exploited to their disadvantage. However, those negotiations have broken down or failed so far. Meanwhile, the same exploitation of the resources is being conducted by foreign interests.

I do not know whether the special representative would like to comment on that dilemma at this stage, or whether he would, perhaps, like me to put a question. Could he give us some observations on this problem, telling us particularly whether the Administration, having now failed to negotiate successfully for the establishment of a fishing industry in the Territory through private interests, has, perhaps, envisaged governmental action of some sort pending, possibly, the transfer of the governmental or Administration industry to the Micronesians themselves? Could he give us some information in this connexion?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): While the two statements may seem to argue one against the other, they are statements of fact. Fishing within Micronesia, as discussed here, contemplates Micronesian bases and facilities and the operation of ships from those Micronesian bases. This is the area in which we have been unsuccessful so far in developing a desirable operation. The paragraph having to do with the fish resources being depleted covers an action which is now taking place. It relates to other nationals going through Micronesian waters in their fishing boats, outside the three-mile zone, and not using Micronesian facilities for basing or servicing their boats or selling or handling their fish. The waters of Micronesia abound in fish, as evidenced by the fact that other nationals are constantly sending boats to the area which engage in long-line fishing, get a full catch of fish and then return to their point of origin for the disposal and processing of that fish. It does seem anomalous that we do not have a fishing industry based on Micronesian facilities and their use, while at the same time there is large-scale fishing taking place in the area. But that fishing is taking place outside the three-mile zone and is being done by other nationals. I think that that explains the two paragraphs.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): I thank the special representative, and I should like to put one more question to him. Other representatives have, I believe, already inquired into the prospects of developing a fishing industry, but whatever is being done in that respect is going to take time. There is, however, this other question of what is happening to the resources in the meantime touched on very closely by the special representative a moment ago. The question of the

(Mr. Hamilton, Australia)

conservation of fisheries is, of course, one which has been very widely discussed in recent years, and, although no expert at all in this matter myself, I understand that investigations with regard to such conservation take a considerable time, although they may not perhaps occupy a large number of persons. Thus, it would seem that if a satisfactory programme for conservation is to be established the earlier it is commenced the better. Meanwhile, I wonder if the special representative could tell me whether there have been any efforts to make informal arrangements, shall we say, with regard to the regulation of fishing in this area outside the three-mile zone?

Mr. LUCKER (Special representative): This involves considerations of international law and the use of the ocean. There are over three million square miles of water in Micronesia. Existing international law permits any country to fish not only in that area but in other areas of the open ocean. I know of nothing that Micronesia can do to change that -- nor do I think that we should do anything to change it -- so long as it is open deep-sea fishing outside the three-mile limit. Our conservation work, having to do with trochus, sponges, shells and lagoon fish, is limited to waters within the three-mile zone.

Mr. CHACKO (India): My first question relates to the statement made by the special representative yesterday in reply to a question put to him by the representative of New Zealand. The representative of New Zealand quoted an observation made by the Visiting Mission in paragraph 349.4 of its report, and I should like to quote that observation again:

"At present copra drying is done mostly by primitive methods resulting in many cases in the production of inferior quality copra."

The special representative stated, however, that the total copra of the Trust Territory does receive the benefit of a premium payment because of its higher quality as compared with world copra in general. This reply apparently gave the impression to the representative of New Zealand that the statement made by the Visiting Mission in its report arose from an improper understanding of the situation in the Territory. This is a point which was touched upon by the representative of Guatemala a few minutes ago, and in reply to the question raised by him the special

representative agreed that in the Trust Territory copra is graded into three categories -- grade 1, grade 2 and grade 3. First grade copra is paid for at the rate of \$110 per ton, second grade copra fetches \$100 a ton and third grade copra \$90 a ton. During the Mission's visit to the various islands the people in practically every place asked for higher prices for copra, and at each place the Mission made it a point to ask what they received for their copra. In practically every case, with some exceptions, they were receiving either the second or third grade price. The Mission advised the people that one of the ways to obtain more money from their existing resources of copra was to improve their methods of drying. I wanted to explain that this statement by the Visiting Mission was made in relation to that situation and not in consideration of the price the Territory's copra was fetching on the world market. In view of this I should like to ask the special representative whether he would agree that the larger part of the Territory's copra is paid for at the second or third grade price.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I would agree that the majority of the tonnage of copra in the Trust Territory is grade two and grade three copra rather than grade one. This is occasioned partly by our high standards for grade one and partly by the methods of drying and caring for copra which are practised by the Micronesians and which we are trying to change through education and personal contact. The statement is correct.



Mr. CHACKO (India): I should like to state that that position justifies the statement made by the Mission in its report.

My next point also relates to a statement made by the special representative in reply to a question by the representative of New Zealand at yesterday's meeting. Before I go into that question, I should like to ask the special representative whether he will agree with me that, out of the present appropriations of nearly \$6 million, nearly \$4,500,000 are paid by the Administration itself. And am I correct in assuming that this amount -- that is, the amount of almost \$6 million -- is only enough to support the existing services in the Territory, including whatever development plans have already been started?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): We have been using the figures \$1,500,000 and \$6,500,000, the difference of \$5 million being the appropriations. I should like first to correct those figures. The \$1,500,000 revenue is approximately correct. The figure of \$5 million for appropriations does not include the money appropriated for use by the Navy in the administration of Saipan. Thus, approximately another \$1 million should be added to the amount appropriated, bringing the total appropriations to approximately \$6 million each year, as contrasted with local revenues of approximately \$1,500,000.

With that clarification, I would answer the representative of India by stating that, in our opinion, the amount of money now appropriated does not -- to use the language of the report -- hamper progress within the Trust Territory. My comments in the past have been pointed toward that statement about "hampering". More money might produce faster change, which may be interpreted by some as more progress and may not be so interpreted by others. But I sincerely feel that the amount of money appropriated by the United States Government, approximating \$6 million, is a sufficient amount of money certainly to ensure against the hampering of progress in the Trust Territory.

Mr. CHACKO (India): I should like to explain to the special representative that I had not actually gone into the question of the particular statement. My idea was to find out whether the amount now available is anything more than what is required to support existing services. In other words, what I should like to find out is this: if the Administration should decide, for example, to start a fishing industry, will money be available for that purpose from the existing funds?



Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The answer to that question goes to the heart of the appropriation technique of the United States Government with respect to the agreement given the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. If we decide to go into a fishing programme which requires additional money beyond the funds available within the \$6 million, we shall ask Congress for that money. We shall explain the purpose for which the money is being asked and, given a good justification, the money will, in my opinion, be provided.

Six million dollars is not enough money to take on economic development programmes, as individuals now in the Administration may think they should be taken on, but we always have access to Congress for additional funds. Congress gave us additional funds for a construction programme. Congress gave us \$500,000 to enable this loan programme which I mentioned earlier to take effect. Therefore, the question cannot be answered by "yes" or "no" without an understanding that we always have the ability to go to Congress for additional money as those funds can be justified.

Mr. CHACKO (India): With that explanation, I should like to go into the particular matter on which I wanted to raise an issue here, namely, that there seems to have been some misunderstanding of the Mission's recommendation, which I propose to read again:

"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." (T/1255, p. 111)

The special representative has indicated that the use of the word "hampered" has given rise to some difficulties. I am not going to argue about that particular word, but I should like to explain what the Mission had in mind in putting down that commendation.

I should like very briefly to refer to what, in the view of the Mission, are some of the immediate requirements of the Territory. One of them is the provision of adequate shipping, for which a considerable amount of financing would be required. In this connexion, I should like to turn to paragraph 232 of the Visiting Mission's report, which deals with the position of the displaced persons who are now living on the island of Ujelong. It is stated there that "Ujelong, a long distance from the nearest headquarters at Majuro, has frequently gone for six months or more without

a field ship calling to load copra and to deliver trade goods". I am quoting only one example, to show that the expansion of the present shipping facilities is very necessary.

Secondly, we had so many requests at various places for starting industries, such as fishing, canning and other industries. I would particularly like to draw the attention of the Trusteeship Council to paragraph 63, dealing with a public meeting in Palau, where there had been some industries during the Japanese time. People there wanted some assistance for industries such as pineapple canning.

Reference has been made to assistance to schools. The special representative stated that it is the policy of the Administration to let the people rely mostly on local resources, particularly in regard to elementary education. While this policy is commendable in principle, it is obvious that under this policy the progress will be extremely slow since the local resources are very limited.

For all these reasons, the Mission came to the conclusion that if the existing appropriations are not raised -- we were referring merely to the level of existing appropriations and not to the possibility, which the special representative has just mentioned, of going to the Congress for additional funds -- there is very little possibility that the Territory will make any adequate progress in any reasonable time. I want to make it clear that I have no intention of implying that no progress is being made. Every effort is being made within possible limitations to improve conditions in the Territory. But the Mission's view was that, unless the existing appropriations are increased, no large-scale development can take place, and that for that purpose the appropriations should be increased.

I want to state that it is not necessary for me to go into one aspect of the Mission's recommendation, as to whether the Administering Authority should provide additional funds because of security considerations or the use that the Administering Authority is making of the Territory. I do not propose to go into that; I merely wanted to explain the circumstances and the considerations which led the Mission to make this recommendation.

Mr. Hucker withdrew.

EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS Agenda item 57:

- (a) 157TH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (T/L.672)
- (b) 158TH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (T/L.673).
- (c) PETITION FROM MR. MOHAMED CHELLE AND OTHERS (T/PET.11/679/Add.1)
- (d) PETITION FROM THE SOMALI NATIONAL FRONT (T/PET.11/687)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. de Holte Castello (Colombia), Mr. Salah (Egypt), and Mr. Baradi (Philippines), members of the Advisory Council for Somaliland, took places at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT: I propose that the Council should first deal with points (b), (c) and (d). The Council therefore now has before it the 158th report of the Standing Committee on Petitions and two petitions received after the submission of the report, T/PET.11/679/Add.1 and T/PET.11/687. Does any member of the Council wish to make comments?

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I take it that we are dealing first of all with the 158th report, which deals with certain petitions. My delegation would like to recall that the Trusteeship Council has in the past recognized the handsome contributions made by the Governments of the United States of America and Egypt to the development of the Trust Territory of Somaliland. We noticed from the 158th report that the Petitions Committee has taken note of certain statements made by the representative of Egypt on the Advisory Council. Furthermore, we observe that the Petitions Committee, operating under the rules of procedure of this Council, has considered that it is not competent to put forward any recommendations. Indeed, it has not put forward any recommendations to the Council. In these circumstances, my delegation would propose that the Council take note of the 158th report and decide that no action is called for. In other words, we should like to suggest that we consider the matter closed.

Mr. MYA SEIN (Burma): I should like to associate myself with the proposal of the representative of India, which I support.

Mr. GRILLO (Italy): I know that the representative of Egypt on the Advisory Council wanted the Italian delegation to throw some light on the matter which is the subject of the petition. I am of the opinion that in this matter a preliminary question of principle needs to be taken into consideration. As far as I understand it, petitions are normally addressed or submitted to the Council in order to lodge complaints against the Administering Authority or to call the Council's attention to conditions of a general nature existing in the Territory. Or, petitions may be directed against the activities of local organs or persons who in one way or another fall within the jurisdiction of the Administering Authority and for whom therefore the Administering Authority can be held responsible. That to me is the letter and the spirit of the relevant provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement. If I am correct, I submit that the case under consideration is of quite a different nature. It is a petition against a person for whom the Administering Authority cannot be held responsible inasmuch as that person does not fall within its jurisdiction. In fact, here is a case of a member of an organ of the United Nations, and I consequently believe that the Administering Authority should refrain, and for obvious reasons too, from intervening in the discussion of this petition. This much as far as the subject matter is concerned, but I can assure the Council that if it wishes my delegation to throw some light on the matter by reporting on specific factual data, I shall be glad to try and obtain relevant information and submit it.

Mr. de CAMAROT (France) (interpretation from French): I would not have spoken at all had I not heard the interesting statement by the representative of the Administering Authority. As Chairman of the Petitions Committee, I was asked in the Committee when the request came up to take a decision in order to clarify the question of whether it was for the Advisory Council to enlighten us on these matters. I did not at that time deem it desirable to take such a decision because these petitions, as some members of the Petitions Committee pointed out, are unique in the annals of the Committee. It appears very clearly to my delegation, moreover, that no article of the rules of procedure could be invoked either with regard to inviting the Administering Authority to make observations or with regard to asking the Petitions Committee to submit its views.

(Mr. de Camaret, France)

Speaking now as representative of France and not as Chairman of the Petitions Committee, I should like to draw attention to the difficulties which did not fail to arise every time the Committee had to speak of draft resolutions. It faced real difficulties for the simple reason that the members of the Advisory Council do not depend on the Trusteeship Council, they depend on the General Assembly, and that is something to which I should like to draw attention. They are not responsible to the Trusteeship Council, they are responsible to the General Assembly.

The PRESIDENT: The representative of India made a suggestion and if I do not hear any objection I shall consider that the suggestion is adopted.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUVAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I think there should be a vote on the draft resolution. Respect for the right of petition is one of the major principles of this Council and it requires the Council to take decision. I do not know to what draft resolution the President was referring and I should like it to be placed before the Council before any decision is taken.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I am not aware of any duty imposed on my delegation to present a draft resolution here; we have made a formal proposal and it is open to members of the Council to discuss it and vote upon it. If the representative of Belgium wishes to have a resolution, I have no doubt he will introduce one himself.



Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I had understood that the representative of India made a formal proposal. I should like this formal proposal to be formulated and communicated formally to the members of the Council.

The PRESIDENT: Before calling on the representative of India, I want to say that the question of a resolution has not been mentioned here. I believe that was clarified by the representative of India.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): May I repeat my formal proposal:

"The Trusteeship Council takes note of the 153th report of the Standing Committee on Petitions and decides that no action is called for."

I think the proposal is in fairly simple terms and my delegation does not think it necessary to circulate it in writing. I do not think that has been done in the past. There are many such instances of which I believe the President is aware.

The PRESIDENT: As the representative of Belgium has requested that a vote should be taken on the formal proposal submitted by the representative of India, I shall now put it to the vote.

The proposal was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Mr. KIANG (China): I should like to explain my vote. In view of the fact that the United Nations Advisory Council was established by the General Assembly, I am not certain whether the Council has competence in dealing with this matter. For that reason, I abstained in the vote.

Mr. de CAMARLET (France)(interpretation from French): I should like to explain my vote. I have not been a member of the Trusteeship Council or of the Petitions Committee for a long time, although I have been Chairman of the Committee twice. However, I thought that when petitions were addressed to the Council, the right of petition also included a reply. I note that this is the first time in which petitioners are not sent a reply. For that reason, I abstained in the vote.



Mr. GRILLO (Italy): In keeping with my previous statement, I should have abstained in the vote. The essence of my previous statement was that my Government wished to refrain from intervening in a matter dealing with an organ that was set up by the United Nations and, although operating in Somalia, was outside the jurisdiction of the Administering Authority.

The members of the Council will have noted that my delegation, while expressing its appreciation of the favourable judgement passed by the Advisory Council as a whole on the Italian administration of Somaliland, refrained from commenting on a statement made earlier in our discussion by a member of the Advisory Council in regard to the relation between that organ and the Administering Authority.

However, so as not to leave the slightest doubt about the regard in which the Italian Government holds the Advisory Council as a body set up by the United Nations, I voted in favour of the Indian proposal.

Mr. SALAH (Egypt): With the President's permission, I should like to point out that I stated in the Standing Committee on Petitions that the authors of the original petition, the General Secretary of the Partito Democratico Somalo, and the members of his party of the Executive Committee and of the National Council, visited me at my house one day before I left Somaliland and expressed their regret at this petition. I stated this very clearly before the Committee on Petitions.

I have now been informed that a written letter by the Partito Democratico Somalo was presented to the headquarters of the United Nations Advisory Council in Somaliland on 26 May. In this letter the Partito expresses its regret and withdraws the petition.

I should like to know why this letter has not been circulated, while other letters and petitions, including statements and accusations against the Egyptian representatives, were circulated and attached to this document which is under consideration. I would be very grateful if an inquiry was made in this connexion.

Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary): So far no written text of that communication or petition has been received here. We shall inquire why this is so.

The PRESIDENT: The second part of the item, that is, 2(a) will be dealt with on Monday because we will adjourn soon. The Drafting Committee on Somaliland under Italian Administration will meet at 10.30 a.m., and the Standing Committee on Administrative Unions at 2.00 p.m. We will also have under consideration the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under the United States Administration, and we will continue the questioning of the special representative on social and educational questions. May I also ask members of the Council to be ready to prepare their general statements for Monday afternoon. I think we are doing very well, and I hope we will continue with that pattern.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.