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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHT HUNDRED AND SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Wednesday, 29 May 1957, at 2.30 p.m.

President:

Mr. HOOD

(Australia)

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the  
Pacific Islands: annual report on the administration of  
the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands [4d] (continued)

Note:

The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.802 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

WELCOME TO MR. KRISHNA MENON, REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA

The PRESIDENT: Before proceeding with the business of the day, I wish, first of all, on behalf of the Council to take note of the fact that the place of the representative of India is at the moment occupied by Mr. Krishna Menon. I am sure that the Council would like me to extend to him, on behalf of all of us, a welcome and also to convey our congratulations to him for the recent distinction which has been conferred upon him by his Government. The last time that Mr. Krishna Menon was here, he was indeed well known to all of us in his capacity as permanent representative of India. We now welcome him in his capacity as a Minister and as a member of the Cabinet of the Government of India.

Mr. Krishna MENON (India): Thank you, Mr. President. When I next speak, I will take the opportunity of replying to you.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION.

The PRESIDENT: I now wish to refer to an action which was taken during the course of the nineteenth session of the Council, actually at the 793rd meeting of the Council, at which it was decided that the Council should send a telegram extending its best wishes to the new Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons under French administration. I have just received a telegram in reply to this message of welcome. If I may translate it as best I can into English, it reads as follows:

"On behalf of the Legislative Assembly of the Cameroons thank you for your wishes for its success in the important duties it has undertaken under new Statute. We thank the United Nations Organization for the understanding it has shown concerning the development of the Cameroons and the generosity of the Administering Authority. Signed: Ninine."

The Council will take note with appreciation of this acknowledgement.

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS: ANNUAL  
REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(T/1316, 1323; T/L.769) [Agenda item 4d] (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Nucker, special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under United States administration, took a place at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT: We will now proceed to the stage of the questioning of the special representative of the Administering Authority in respect of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Mr. KIANG (China): I asked for the floor, first of all, to seek some clarification from the President in respect of the procedure to be followed in our questioning in this particular Trust Territory. The members of the Council may still recall that at our last private meeting there was a suggestion that in order to expedite the work of this Council, we might adopt a new procedure whereby the members of the Council, if they so desire, can put their questions in different fields at one time; that is to say, after the questioning, for instance, in the political field, we may immediately ask questions on economic, social or educational advancement. This suggestion, of course, was not entirely agreeable to all members of the Council. However, I do feel that the proposed procedure may serve a useful purpose in our examination of this particular Territory.

I do not propose to ask the Council to adopt this procedure, but I would like to know whether such a procedure is not inconvenient to the special representative of the United States, who is directly concerned. I wonder whether, with the permission of the President, my delegation may resort to this procedure when we are about to put questions with respect to the Pacific Islands. I would certainly like to see how the experiment as regards this procedure will work, and I also would recommend this procedure of questioning to the other members of the Council for their voluntary acceptance. I do hope that we will give this new procedure a trial. I should therefore like to hear from the President before proceeding to put questions.

The PRESIDENT: The proposal of the representative of China is, of course, not a formal motion and I would, in proper course, ask for the agreement of the Council with it in the terms in which it was stated.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): I merely wanted to say that we welcome the procedure and we hope that it may serve to expedite the process of work. It may help us along.

The PRESIDENT: There is, of course, no obligation on any member to follow this procedure, which is a matter of choice and discretion.

Mr. KIANG (China): My delegation is now prepared to initiate this new procedure as an experiment and I think that the President can rest assured that should the experiment not prove to be very satisfactory, the blame, if there is any, would go to the one who initiated it.

Before I put questions to the representative of the Administering Authority, may I, first of all, say to Mr. Nucker that my delegation wishes to congratulate him very warmly on his recent appointment as the High Commissioner.

The first question I would like to ask is in connexion with the conversion programme of American employees to the competitive civil service. The Council learned with great satisfaction from the special representative at our last meeting about the conversion programme of American employees to the competitive civil service. Competitive civil service is now complete. Do I understand that this programme affects all districts of the Territory?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The programme does affect all districts of the Territory.

Mr. KIANG (China): Then with the full implementation of this programme, do we understand that there will be no problem of the so-called constant turnover in the administrative staff which, as I think Mr. Nucker will remember, we discussed at the last session of the Council?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): We will continue to have problems of turnover because of the nature of the area in which our people work, its isolation and its lack of conveniences, as expressed in Stateside terms. We will have much less turnover by reason of the fact that now our employees are entitled to full civil service benefits and are permitted, by such action, to look towards security and longer tenure of service.

Mr. KIANG (China): I thank the special representative for the reply to the two points of my question. I will now proceed to the second question. We are happy to note that the Micronesian Leaders Conference was held in August 1956 and that a similar inter-district conference is set to take place this coming August. In our opinion, they are indeed very important steps in the development of inter-district political consciousness. The special representative also cautioned us when he said that these conferences cannot as yet be described in terms of a territorial conference.

At the last Inter-District Conference, which I understand was held in August 1956, there was some discussion on the municipal administration. I should like to know whether there was at that Conference any consultation in connexion with an organic act for the Territory.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The organic act was discussed briefly, not at length. At that Conference the delegates were advised that we were pointing towards an organic act and the purpose of an organic act was explained. But no decisions nor major discussions were held with the delegates which would point towards a decision on their part at this time.

Mr. KIANG (China): I thank the special representative for the information he has given me. Yesterday, the special representative told us at the same time that the Administering Authority, through various actions, including the Inter-District Conference, is attempting to set out a number of intermediate targets in the field of political advancement, as well as economic and social advancement.

(Mr. Kiang, China)

In the light of this, will the special representative give us his estimate as to when a territorial council could be shaped and brought into being out of the present energetic steps taken in this direction?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I would hazard a guess. I would not want to give a statement which would be in the form of a commitment. It is my opinion that at least five years of conferences such as we initiated this past year will need to take place before the Territory will be in a position intelligently to elect individuals to serve on a territorial congress, which in turn could do a true and worthy job of discharging their responsibilities as representatives of all of Micronesia, rather than as representatives of the particular district in Micronesia. In short, I think that seven or eight years from now we might have the beginning of a territorial congress.



Mr. KIANG (China): My next question is this: I think the Council must have noted with great satisfaction that the people of Rongclap will return very shortly to their home. I think it is indeed a very important and happy event. Will the special representative tell us about when their return can begin and how long such an operation will take.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I believe the exact date now contemplated for the move to take place is 18 June. I am satisfied that the move will be completed before the end of June, even though it may not be started on 18 June.

Mr. KIANG (China): Now I come to the economic field. On page 45 of the annual report, under part VI, it is clearly stated that the attainment of maximum self-sufficiency remains the primary economic objective of the Administering Authority. In the light of the opening statement of the special representative in this regard, can we interpret this to mean that the Government of the Trust Territory's policy is on the whole still based on the needs of Micronesia and not on the Administering Authority's appraisal of the strategic and security value of the area?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The answer is definitely yes. Our aims and financing are pointed towards needs rather than security value.

Mr. KIANG (China): I now proceed to the social field. On page 79 of the annual report, in chapter 3 regarding the status of women, it is stated that in a few encouraging instances women have shown an increasing willingness and desire to participate in community activities and local government affairs. The last paragraph of this chapter seems to me to give certain instances; I wonder if I am correct. I would like to know from the special representative whether there are encouraging instances other than what have been referred to in the last paragraph on page 80.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): There are several instances in which the influence of women is beginning to be felt quite strongly in Micronesia. This Council may remember that several years ago we mentioned that five Micronesian women had attended a conference of women of the South-eastern Pacific in Manila. One of those women is today in Ponape heading a group activity of women, going to the outer islands and to more isolated municipalities, teaching the English language and discussing community activities looking towards a bettering of the community. This lady has been very active. Our congresses are beginning to notice more and more helpful activity on the part of the women who are members of the various district councils or congresses.

Mr. KIANG (China): The Council at its last session noted with interest that plans have been formulated for a Territory-wide census to be held during 1957. Will the special representative be good enough to throw some light on this matter.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): We have developed the forms for taking the census and have cleared these forms with Census Bureau officials in the United States and are now about ready to have a trial or sample census taken in the District of Yap in order to develop the adequacy of the forms and the ability of the Micronesians to handle the census. We propose, within a few months after the sample census taken in the District of Yap, to move into all the districts simultaneously and complete our census-taking of all Micronesia early in the fall of this year.

Mr. KIANG (China): I now come to the educational field and I would like to invite the attention of the special representative to UNESCO's observations in document T/1323. In paragraph 4 on page 2, reference is made to the programme of grants-in-aid or loan funds, which is reported to be still in the trial stage. The UNESCO observation is this:

"It would be interesting to learn how far the Administering Authority considers it possible and desirable to use this programme, to equalize or raise the salaries of indigenous teachers employed by municipalities." (T/1323, paragraph 4). I wonder if the special representative would care to comment on this particular paragraph.



Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The Administering Authority has not as yet considered the suggestion contained in the paragraph referred to. It appears to me that to use our loan funds for such a purpose as equalizing or raising the salaries of indigenous teachers would set up an activity which could extend to many fields and which would not in truth be consonant with the Administering Authority's desire that the local communities continue to accept full responsibility for elementary education at the local level. Our programme of elementary education has advanced; our teachers' salaries are being raised; we do have considerably more participation by Micronesian leaders at the local level; and now it would appear that were we to step in with additional financing, we might slow up the movement which has taken a very good hold in Micronesia.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The first question that my delegation should like to put is with respect to the organization of the judiciary. On page 37 of the report we read that the judges of the District Courts are nominated for four years by the High Commissioner and that the judges of the Community Courts are appointed by the District Administrator for a two-year term. Perhaps the special representative would be able to supply some information with regard to the reasons for having such short terms of appointment for judges and whether this is not detrimental to the creation of competent judges.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): At this point in the development of the judicial system in Micronesia, I believe that the appointment of Community Court judges for two years meets two true benefits desired by the Micronesians. The Community Court judges are learning. They are not qualified lawyers who have been appointed judges; they are Micronesians who have been selected to act as judges. Until they have had more experience the Micronesian feels better satisfied if his Community Court judge is appointed for two years so that if he does not properly serve the judge can be changed without too much difficulty. The District Court judges on the other hand are appointed from the better trained Micronesians, and in many instances those who have served as Community Court judges are brought into the District Court as time goes on. They have proven themselves, and we are then electing to appoint them for four years over the two-year appointment at the local level for the Community Court.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): My next question deals with the economic aspect in the Territory. Last year, following the report of the Visiting Mission, the Trusteeship Council had recommended to the Administering Authority to take measures to give current information about the work of the Copra Stabilization Board. The special representative at that time gave us some very interesting indications. I should like to ask the following question: Are there at present in the Deliberating Committee of the Copra Stabilization Board elements that are representative of the producers?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): At the present time the Copra Stabilization Board does not have a Micronesian on the Board and it therefore could not be said that we have a representative of the producers on that Board.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The capital in the reserve fund consists of receipts from export taxes, I suppose. Is this conjecture correct?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I should like to ask for clarification of the query regarding the capital reserve fund.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): My question is the following: The active capital of the stabilization fund which is presently about \$800,000 consists, I suppose, of products from export taxes which are deducted from prices obtained by the exporters.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The reserve of \$800,000 represents the difference between the selling price of copra on the world market and the cost of purchasing, storing, shipping and selling the copra. In reality that \$800,000 represents the amount of money we have collected more than has been paid to effect the sale of the copra. It does not represent a tax of any form.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I will ask my last question concerning the social aspect. With regard to conditions of labour document T/L.769 shows that the number of accidents occurring during work has increased this year by 213 over last year's number. What is the cause of this considerable increase of accidents?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Essentially the reason is better reporting of accidents, more consciousness on the part of the Micronesians and of supervisors of the need for reporting accidents and caring for them. The actual accident rate in my opinion has not increased greatly, but we now have better reporting, better safety consciousness and better treatment of those accidents which do occur.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): If I understand correctly it is rather a fiction, it is not an actual increase; it is the result of better registration of accidents that occur during work.

The second question deals with the victims of those accidents who receive indemnities. Apparently only two workers have received accident indemnities. Why is this figure so low?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The majority of accidents amounted to the loss of a few days of work; the Micronesian did not lose pay and was given full medical benefits if needed. The two reported payments represent payments for loss in one instance, as I remember, of fingers, and in another instance, I believe, a broken leg -- where actual payment was made for the loss of limb or for a severe or more serious injury to the body.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The labour legislation provides compulsory indemnity for all cases where a permanent invalidity results from the accident. Can this be confirmed by the special representative?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): We in the Trust Territory do have the full machinery for paying when permanent injury does obtain to the Micronesian. The answer would be, yes sir.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Administering Authority mentioned in its report that the inhabitants of the islands of Bikini and Eniwetok have received compensation for moving from those islands, and the United States has thus obtained the right of using the actual land of the islands of Bikini and Eniwetok. Is this to be understood that these islands are now in outright ownership to the United States?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The islands are not under the outright ownership of the United States. The former residents of Bikini and Eniwetok gave to the Trust Territory Government use rights for an indefinite period of time with respect to those islands. They did not pass title to those islands to the Trust Territory Government.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am very thankful to the special representative. I should like to ask an additional question in view of this answer. If these islands were given to the United States Government only for use, what document embodies this arrangement and for what period?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): There is an agreement between the people of Eniwetok and the people of Bikini and the Trust Territory Government which sets forth that the Trust Territory Government shall have the right to use the Bikini and Eniwetok Islands so long as that Government needs them. This same statement provides that the people of Eniwetok and the people of Bikini shall have similar rights running concurrently to the islands of Ujelang and Kili and small islets which are also near Kili. That same agreement provides for the payment of the money, which took place at the time of the signing of the agreement.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to receive additional information on the following points. Who signed this agreement on behalf of the inhabitants of the island, the representatives of what organ? What is the meaning of the term, "as long as the need exists on the part of the Administering Authority"? Does this mean that if the need should exist those islands would remain under the United States even after the termination of Trusteeship?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The members of the Council who represented the people now living on Kili and Ujelang signed the agreement, along with the elders of the village, and they signed it in the presence of practically

(Mr. Nucker, Special representative)

everyone on the island. The agreement was discussed with the entire population, the terms were clear to the entire population and it was signed by the representatives of the population. So far as the definition of the term "use right" that the two islands in question would continue with the United States Government even after, as suggested, the elimination of Trusteeship activities, that was not contemplated at the time of the signing. The only intention was that so long as the United States Government had the responsibility as the Administering Authority over the area and, during that time, had need for Eniwetok and Bikini Atolls, it would be able to use those islands.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am very grateful to the Special representative for the clarifications he has given, especially the last one with regard to the passing of those islands into temporary use by the Administration of the United States.

In the report of the Administering Authority, it is stated that the inhabitants who have returned to the atoll have been satisfactorily settled there and that their present standard of health and living is better than it was prior to the radioactive fall-out. It would be interesting to find out what index was used to determine the standard of living of the population after its return to the island. What compensation has been received by that population not only for the material damage, but also for the moral damage that was caused by the tests of nuclear weapons and the transplanting of that population?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The people of Rongelap and of Utirik who originally were sufferers as a result of the fall-out of several years ago were given full and complete medical attention at the time of the fall-out. The people of Utirik were returned to Utirik several years ago. They were only off the island, relatively speaking, a few months while precautions were taken to make sure that their island was satisfactory and safe for habitation. The people of Rongelap, as this Council is aware, have been maintained at an islet known as Ejit in the Marshall Islands. Before those people are returned to Rongelap, there will be completed a new village, the houses and the buildings necessary for normal



(Mr. Nucker, Special representative)

life in a Trust Territory municipality. Those people had been given complete medical care through the years and monthly payments for foodstuffs. Several years ago they submitted requests for payment for damages to personal property. Those payments were made. Arrangements have now been made so that when the people are returned to Rongelap they will continue to be subsidized with respect to foodstuffs and living needs until such time as they have adjusted themselves and developed their first crops. They will be starting life over on Rongelap in a manner comparable to and I think better than the time when they were removed from that island.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to draw the attention of the special representative to the fact that apparently I have not received an answer to my question regarding compensation for the moral damage inflicted on those people. I suppose that nobody is ready to believe that after exposure to radiation the people can enjoy better health than they enjoyed before. I see that measures have been taken to protect the people from actual dangers. But was there any compensation for the loss of health as a result of previous radiation?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I am sorry that in answering the question I forgot the portion concerning payments for moral damage. There have been no cash payments to individual Rongelapese in an attempt to settle any moral damage as expressed by the representative of the Soviet Union. In my opinion, the Administering Authority has taken every conceivable step to ensure that the people of Rongelap are properly treated to the best of its ability. The health of the people was impaired at the time of the fall-out and immediately afterwards. Their health has been looked after and checked on regularly since. Today, all reports I have received are to the effect that they are as healthy or healthier than they were before the fall out. This does not mean that at the time of the fall-out they did not suffer.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Generally speaking, this is quite an interesting case. Science has been warning mankind with regard to the dangers that are incident to tests of nuclear weapons, and yet we have just heard about the therapeutic effect of these terrible weapons. Of course, this is quite difficult to believe until we ascertain actual facts that would show such a therapeutic influence.

My next question is as follows. The Administering Authority states that in Truk a budget has been established for the first time and that on this island the first district congress was being organized. I should like to ask the special representative to clarify how it came about that judges were fulfilling functions that are not normally the functions of judges in all other countries, and why other more appropriate organs have not been created to take care of the planning and preparation of budgets and so forth. Why did the judges receive such jurisdiction in this case?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I am sorry, but I do not understand the question or the point of reference as to the judges and the budget. I should like to ask for a clarification.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Perhaps there is a difficulty in translation. In the document that has been distributed by the Secretariat, paragraph 20 states that on the island of Truk the annual conference of judges has approved for the first time the budget of that island. In the same paragraph it is stated that the same conference has begun the planning for the creation of a district congress on the island of Truk. Therefore I am asking the question why judges are dealing with such matters which normally would be the function of other organs and not of judicial authorities.

The PRESIDENT: Is the question now clear to the special representative?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I think it is. I believe we have a problem of interpretation. The council of magistrates met in Truk and reviewed budget matters and other matters having to do with administration. A magistrate is an elected leader of a municipality, comparable to a mayor in the United States. A magistrate is not to be confused with a judge; their positions and responsibilities are completely different.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am very grateful to the special representative for the correction. This is not a problem of oral interpretation but of written translation, because in the document I read the word "judges". This was the reason for my having inconvenienced the special representative with this question. If, of course, magistrates are meant, then my question is superfluous.

My last question will deal with the report of the Administering Authority and the statement that is made about the qualified Micronesians that have been appointed to responsible positions in the field of public education. Perhaps the special representative will be able to tell us what posts have been filled by such Micronesians and what the scope of their work is.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I understand that the question was what posts in education had been filled by Micronesians. Is that correct?

The PRESIDENT: That was my understanding of the question.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): In the Marshall Islands the district director of education is a Micronesian. In all of the districts, the principal of the intermediate school is a Micronesian, and the superintendent -- I think that is the title -- is a Micronesian. In each of our districts we have limited our American positions, in all but the Marshalls, to a district director of education and, under that director, teacher trainers, with the exception of the Pacific Islands Central School, where we have teachers working directly with the classes.

The administration of the elementary schools and the intermediate schools in the districts is essentially a Micronesian administration carried on with the help and guidance of the Americans; it is not a function directly carried out by the Americans.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): With your permission, I shall ask another question. In the report of the Administering Authority there is a statement about posts that have been filled in the field of public education, and it states that Micronesians are filling responsible posts especially in the fields of health protection and public education. We were already informed last year that some Micronesians had been appointed to responsible positions in the field of education. I should like to know what happened during the year under review. The statement by the Administering Authority contains information about the filling of new positions by Micronesians.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): During this past year, we have made a Micnesian the finance officer in one of the districts. For over a year we have turned the responsibility for the health programme in the Ponape district over to a Micnesian. We have added for the first time -- and I think this is significant, even though the position itself is not of the highest -- a secretary who is a young Micnesian woman. She has studied and learned shorthand and is a very satisfactory secretary.

We have used Micnesians more in the higher levels of the administrative staff, working with, counselling and aiding the district administrators. We have moved several of our school teachers into more responsible positions this year than last year.

I believe that will answer the question by the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Allow me to thank the special representative for the clarification he has given in reply to my questions. I wish to state that questions concerning other parts of the Administrative Authority's report will be put by my delegation latter, after we have heard the statements by the representatives of the UNESCO and other specialized agencies.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I am very happy to see among us this year Mr. Nucker, the High Commissioner for the Territories in the Pacific. May I welcome him and congratulate him on his promotion.

Mr. Nucker has recalled the fact that there is to be a conference of Micronesian Leaders. The report of the Administering Authority refers to this fact on page 12, and states that the conference will have several objectives, particularly that of creating a better understanding of community interests in the islands of the Territory. It would appear that it must be rather difficult to persuade the inhabitants of islands that are so far removed and so sparsely populated that they do have a community interest, especially since they have not had a community life in the past.

I wonder whether the administrative structure is not in itself an obstacle to an understanding of community interests. We know that the services are scattered over the islands, and the representative of the United States and the special representative have explained the reasons for this situation. From my point of view, this would not seem to be a major obstacle, but it does seem to create a dispersion of activities which could be an obstacle to the development of a community interest. All the services are not grouped around the High Commissioner.

Is there not some disadvantage in the fact that some services are on Guam, and others are on Truk, Ponape, Palau and various other islands of the Marshall Islands? I repeat: does this not create a difficulty for the indigenous inhabitants to understand that they have a community interest, since there is no real community of action on the same point, although there are services that are common to the entire Territory?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): It is true that the great distances involved create obstacles and tend to slow down the understanding of Micronesians concerning the whole of Micronesia and the activities of all of Micronesia.

I should like to point out that the activities located within the districts, programmes related to health, sanitation, education and justice, are not administrative types of activities but rather programme types of activities.



The administration of the Trust Territory takes place from Guam, and the Guam headquarters are known to be the seat of the government and the head of the administration in the Trust Territory. The fact that we have our doctor, our educator and others in the field tends to cause the Micronesian to believe that in these programmes, which so surely affects his every-day living, we are keeping our directors more closely in touch with Micronesian problems. Our district administrators serve to keep the headquarters informed and to act as the administrative link with headquarters. I do not believe that bringing the health, education and judicial activities into headquarters would in any way change or improve the feeling of the Micronesians with respect to being part of a whole. I do not think it would change their attitude at all.

Mr. EARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): I should like to thank the special representative for his explanation. Is it his personal opinion that this feeling of political unity can be achieved in the near future? Can the Micronesians achieve in the near future the feeling of community interest which is so essential for the establishment of political unity in the entire Territory?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I think they can. I do not think it will be in the immediate future, because it must be realized that ten years ago the Micronesian had no sense of one-ness and had no true belief that he in his district was a member of a total community known as the Trust Territory of the Pacific or Micronesia. Through education, through inner change and through visitations -- through these conferences in Guam -- we are developing an awareness on the part of the Micronesian of his place in the world. I believe that sometime within the next seven to ten years we shall have a fairly effective understanding on the part of each Micronesian of other parts of Micronesia and of the problems of the other areas of the Trust Territory.



Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I have a question on a point of detail which may correct a mistake on my part in the interpretation of the figures that appear in the statistical information given at the end of the report. Page 137 of the annual report contains tables which give statistical information on the population of the Territory, from which we note that the non-indigenous population is shown as 121. That is a very small proportion of the population. Page 150 of the annual report contains tables related to the activities of the justice tribunals, from which we note that ninety-four non-indigenous persons have been prosecuted and three have been acquitted. It would appear that the non-indigenous inhabitants who have been prosecuted represent five sixths of the entire non-indigenous population. This seems rather strange, and I should like the special representative to clarify this point.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I wish to thank the representative of France for bringing this matter to our attention. Again, this is a question of interpretation; I find that we sometimes misinterpret our own English.

The word "non-indigenous" as used in the table on page 137 of the annual report refers to individuals who are living in the Trust Territory but not working for the Government or the various companies in the Territory. In other words, it refers to residents of the Territory who are not indigenous persons but who have spent many years in the Territory.

The word "non-indigenous" as used in the other table to which the representative of France referred includes all individuals in Micronesia who are not Micronesians -- our personnel, contractors' personnel, and so forth.

I again wish to thank the representative of France for giving us an opportunity to clarify this point.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I am grateful for that explanation. This was obviously an error on my part, but it arose from the fact that the same heading was given to two different categories of persons.

I turn now to my next question. The report tells us that a traditional chief may be removed by the people of the area or by a council of elders when the chief fails to fulfil his obligations. If the people of the area or the Council of elders do not consider it appropriate to remove a chief, can the Administration do so on its own authority?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I do not think that the Administration has the authority to replace a chief or, as it were, to remove him from his position. I have never had occasion, frankly speaking, to look into this point. I believe that the Administration, if it were faced with this necessity, would discuss the matter with the Micronesians so that the Micronesians could take the action themselves. The Administration attempts -- I know that this has been the case since I have been in the Territory -- not to interfere with the local hereditary lines and with the methods used by the Micronesians to decide on their chieftainships. I do not think that we would have the right to take the kind of action mentioned by the representative of France.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I thank the special representative for that reply, which leads me to put a second question to him on the same problem. On page 25 of the annual report, we read that "On Kusaie Island there are no longer any hereditary chiefs". I suppose that means that there were hereditary chiefs at one time. I should like to know why and in what circumstances these chiefs disappeared. From the reply just given by the special representative, it would appear that the Administration could not have intervened in any way in this matter -- even in the form of more or less disguised pressure. I understand, then, that the population itself decided to eliminate this ancient institution.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): That understanding is correct. The people on Kusaie have changed their local form of rule. The change has taken place of their own desire. I am very happy to state that the change largely resulted from suggestions made by the chiefs to the people that elections should be held so that the people could be sure of having magistrates and leaders whom they desired. Thus, the action on Kusaie was strictly voluntary and represented the wishes of the Kusaiens.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I have no other questions in the political field. I should like to ask one question in the economic field.

I have noted that the budgetary receipts have decreased. In fact, they represent a rather small proportion of the expenditure, and the difference is made up by a subsidy -- a very generous one -- granted by the Administering Authority. This is a situation which we have observed in other Trust Territories -- with the difference, however, that in the case of this Trust Territory the subsidy granted by the Administering Authority represents almost the entire expenditure; that is, five-sixths of the expenditure. There is a very acute problem here with regard to the collection of revenue, even if a considerable increase in such revenue cannot change the general situation and the Administering Authority's need to continue to furnish subsidies.

In 1956, the revenue was about \$1,700,000. The estimated revenue for 1957 is only \$1,650,000, and it does not appear that the actual figure will be higher than that estimate. The principal revenue comes from taxes on sea and air transport of merchandise, as well as on air travel. What is the reason for this reduction in revenue? In 1956, the revenue actually collected was already considerably lower than the estimates. Has there been a slowing down in the transport activities, or have the rates been changed?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The receipts in 1956 were higher than those in 1955 and slightly lower than those in 1954. The revenue for freight and passenger service in 1954 was about \$919,000; in 1956, it was only about \$571,000. This more than accounts for the drop in the receipts. This change in revenue has been brought about by a change in the accounting system. Before 1954, we included in the revenue figure a paper revenue for goods hauled for the benefit of the Trust Territory Government. Since 1954, we have maintained only an information account on the value of the freight for goods hauled for the Government. We do not reflect this in our books as either debits or credits. Thus, we do show a smaller figure for revenue, but actually the dollar revenue -- leaving aside the paper revenue -- has increased.

That is a rather involved answer. In direct response to the question, I would say that the cash receipts have actually increased in each of the past two years.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I should like to thank the special representative for the explanation which he has just given me, which dissipates some of the doubts which were in my mind. I can now see the situation clearly and can understand that the figures which I mentioned do not indicate a factual decrease of cash receipts. I am glad to know this.

In the report of the Administering Authority mention is made of the preparatory work being carried out for a BCG vaccination campaign against tuberculosis; this campaign was to be undertaken in 1957. Has it been started, or will it begin soon?

Mr. NUCHTER (Special representative): We are now directly and completely involved in the BCG vaccination campaign; it is going forward in all districts. It has not been completed in any one district, but the work will continue until the programme has been completed.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I have a question to ask regarding education. I apologize to the special representative for mentioning figures once more. I should like to ask him for an explanation in respect of the difference in statistical figures from one year to another. In his preliminary statement, the special representative said that the number of students studying abroad was increasing; he said that in 1956, 225 students were studying outside the Territory. The corresponding figure given in the UNESCO report -- T/1525 paragraph 19 -- is only 223, a difference of two. However, according to the same table of information, in the previous school year there were 254 students studying abroad. Therefore, if we take as a basis the figure given by the special representative, there would appear to be a difference of 29 in the number of such students; while, if we take the figure given by UNESCO as a basis, the difference would be 31.

The decrease relates to students who are not studying in Guam, but rather in the Philippines, the United States, Fiji, etc. Here, too, there would appear to be an anomaly, unless the special representative can explain the decrease in the number of students.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I have not yet seen the UNESCO report, and I would ask the representative of France kindly to allow me the time to read it and to reply to his question at a later stage in this debate.

Mr. BARGUES (France)(interpretation from French): I thank the special representative for his proposal. I have no further questions at this time.



The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.15 p.m.

Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation only has a few questions to ask in the political field. We should like to reserve our right to put questions later on with respect to the economic, social and educational aspects of the situation in the Territory.

My first question refers to the Congress which is to be held in Truk. At the last session the Administering Authority announced the possibility of holding a Congress in Truk in 1960 or approximately. In the initial statement made by the special representative we were told that an official letter for the Congress of the District of Truk is almost ready for signature and that the Congress will be held this fall, that is to say, three years before it had been originally scheduled. On the other hand, on page 27 we read that in the Yap District "the Magistrates' Council was renamed the Yap Islands Council...and its organization and functions were better defined". In the light of this very rapid progress, could the special representative tell us what the prospects are for the holding of Congresses at Rota and Yap?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I can give no specific date for the developing of a Congress at Yap in the same sense as our Congresses in the other Districts have been and are being developed. My best guess for an elected Congress at Yap, having full authority and responsibilities as other Congresses, would be about 1960 in Yap -- perhaps 1959. It would be approximately the same time in Rota.

Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): My next question refers to the age established in the various districts for suffrage. It would appear to vary between 18 and 26 years of age. We have some doubts regarding the reasons, apart from the customs, for maintaining such a wide divergence, and we should like to hear some comments from the special representative regarding the possibilities of standardizing the age level for voting and what influence it would have on the democratic life of the various districts.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The determination of voting age within the various districts of Micronesia is now left entirely to the people in the respective districts. Their decisions flow from their traditions, their culture and their background as to when a person is of sufficient age to perform properly the duties of an adult in society. To date the Administration has not attempted seriously to change the thinking which takes place in each of the districts. I believe that as time goes on, within the very near future, the Palauans, who have the 26-year age limit, will reduce that age limit by reason of the number of young Palauans now becoming quite interested in the administration of the district and by reason of the degree of education which has been attained by the youth of Micronesia. I think, to answer briefly, that within a period of three to four years we will have uniformity of age for voting purposes throughout the Territory and that this uniformity will come about by reason of the action of the Micronesians.

Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I hope that the special representative will forgive me if I insist on this question, which has, of course, given rise to some concern in my delegation. What possible influence would it have on the democratic life of those territories if a uniform voting age were established, and would it be possible, in accordance with the biological conditions of the inhabitants of that area, to establish an age limit of eighteen years? It would appear that development should be quicker in that area because it is a tropical area.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I wish to thank the representative of Guatemala for going into the question even further. In direct response to what effect it will have on the democratic processes in Micronesia were the Administration to insist upon or decree an eighteen-year age limit, I can only say that it would cause the older people in Micronesia to think that the Americans were probably guilty of departing from democratic principles when they insisted upon a certain thing taking place rather than permitting the people to choose and select the age at which they deem very young people have reached an adult stage of life. I do not think that other than a flurry of perhaps resentment or excitement which would take place for a period of a few months, there would be any lasting effects, but I prefer not to cause to happen by decree that which I am certain in a true democratic process will happen over a period of time.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I was interested to hear the representative of China and, I think, the representative of France, refer to the Conference of Micronesian leaders which was held in Guam in August 1956, and that another one will be held this coming August, I believe. It was mentioned that the Conference last year lasted a week and that common problems were discussed. I am wondering whether the special representative could tell us what kind of common problems they were. I am rather interested in knowing whether the inhabitants of the Trust Territory show a consciousness of their geographical position in the world and the limitations of that position.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Such problems as shipping, which is always uppermost most in the minds of Micronesians, were discussed; also taxation, how far and how fast the municipalities should go in raising additional money to take over additional responsibilities; problems of education, vocational versus the academic type of education; scholarship problems; how much more the communities could participate in scholarship problems having to do with law and order; the nature of the duties of the constabulary. A great discussion was also held concerning the desire for chartering municipalities; the need for having chartered congresses, which would be truly representative of the people. The price of copra was also discussed, and ways and means of increasing production of copra. These are problems which come to mind rapidly; there were many others. But I think this shows that our discussions went across the board.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): That is a very helpful list of subjects and I am sure that the discussion of that kind of matter, which is of common interest to all the territories, is a great help and that these conferences are, as the special representative said yesterday, a basic step in the development of inter-district political consciousness.

I should just like to pass on to one or two other small questions. On page 26 of the annual report there was reference to the Truk district congress, and the special representative said last year that the point was being approached where the inhabitants of that region would wish for the congress. I notice in the special representative's statement of yesterday that he mentioned that the official charter for a Truk district congress is almost ready for signature. I am wondering -- and I would not want to embarrass him -- whether he could give us an outline of the kind of congress which is envisaged.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The congress will follow the pattern of other congresses established in other districts, namely that there will be elected representatives from the different geographical political units within the District of Truk. There will be a determination -- I do not know what it is at this moment -- as to how many people will have a representative. It is normally

(Mr. Nucker,  
Special representative)

broken down to one for each two or three hundred people. In Truk they are planning on having a unicameral congress. The charter will set forth the number of meetings each year, probably the duration of the meetings, and the techniques of calling special sessions, and it will in general formalize the method of creation and the nature of actions a congress may take within the Truk District.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I have one more question in the political field. Last year the special representative said that English was developing as the language of communication between the territories. In a territory where there are at least eight and, I understand, nine official languages, it seems to me to be a very important development that the inhabitants should have access to a world language like English. I am wondering whether the special representative could confirm that that trend is continuing and developing.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): That trend is continuing and developing; and during this past year we have made a special effort to emphasize the teaching of English. We have gone into the field of adult education in English more during the past year than during any previous year of our administration.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I have one or two questions in other fields and I will pass on to them. The Belgian representative referred to the Copra Stabilization Board and in reply to his question the special representative made it clear that there were no producers represented there. I had been meaning to ask what the constitution of the Board was and I wonder whether the special representative could answer that point.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The Board is constituted of officials of the Administration who are more closely allied with copra production and financing than with anything else. I think we have five members: the Controller is a member; the chief agriculturalist is a member; our programmes commercial man is a member; the Deputy High Commissioner is a member; and there is one other member. These individuals meet monthly and discuss copra problems as they affect the Territory including the price and growing of copra, its quality and so forth; but the Board is constituted of officials of the Administration.

Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I have another point on intra-district shipping. The special representative mentioned in his statement yesterday that the policy had been followed of gradually turning over intra-district shipping to qualified local companies or individuals. I am wondering whether ventures of this nature would be attractive commercially to those firms, or would it be necessary for the Administration to subsidize them?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): So far it has been necessary to subsidize the firms and as I view the picture, from a very practical standpoint, it will be necessary that we subsidize such activities for years to come.



Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): I had thought that was probably the position because I was quite unable to see how such ventures could prove attractive commercially.

My last question refers to tuberculosis, which I understand is a major problem in the Territory -- I have seen several references to it in the documents. I wonder whether there are in this Territory any special conditions that predispose the population towards this disease.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The family life of the Micronesian predisposes him to be very receptive to tuberculosis. The very close living and close contact each with the other causes tuberculosis to be spread rather easily if there are active cases of tuberculosis in the community. Our programme of separating the active cases is helping; education is doing more than any other one thing in helping to clear up tuberculosis and we are hopeful that with the present medical care and the BCG vaccination programme we shall be able to reduce the incidence of this disease drastically within the next decade in Micronesia.

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): Before putting questions to the special representative, I should like to say that our delegation is very happy to welcome him among us this year and to congratulate him for his well-deserved promotion.

During the preceding sessions, the representative of the Administering Authority has indicated the reasons for which the Government of the Territory has retained Guam as the headquarters for the Territory up to now. Could the special representative tell us whether the population of the Territory has so far indicated any wish to have the headquarters transferred from Guam to another part of the Territory? In the opinion of the Administering Authority would it be better to have the capital in some other place where the co-ordination of activities could be carried out under better conditions?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): To the best of my knowledge there has been no indication from any part of Micronesia which would develop the desire that we move into Micronesia.

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): This was the only question I wanted to ask in the political field because so many questions have been asked by previous speakers and replies have already been given to all the questions I originally wanted to ask.

I would like now to ask the following question: What is the importance attributed to communications by radio between the different districts and headquarters? Are the representatives of the population authorized to make use of such communication facilities?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Radio facilities are available for the use of anyone in Micronesia.

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): My third question is the following: What measures have been taken to encourage the creation of small industries in the Territory and to attract foreign capital to the Territory? Does the Administering Authority take any steps to attract foreign capital into the Territory without discrimination? Is it possible to create an industry to process pineapples and sugar and have any measures been taken in this field? Here we have to consider that sugar is one of the most important export items in the Territory.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Considerable thought has been given in headquarters to the possibility of developing pineapples and sugar as a local industry and in terms of the climatic situation it is not felt that either of these products would lend themselves to successful development in Micronesia. We are currently continuing to discuss fishing, boat-building and other possible local industries, but there has been no change of any consequence in the industries in Micronesia during the past year.

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): Perhaps the special representative would be able to tell us whether any possibilities exist to establish small banks or local co-operatives in this section of the Territory where only one banking facility exists, in Saipan.

(Mr. Salomon, Haiti)

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): We are currently having an examination made of the possibilities of establishing other small banks in the Trust Territory. A survey trip is being made by a representative of a large banking firm. He is to report to us the possibilities of establishing banking facilities in addition to the one bank we now have in Saipan. I am hopeful that we may be able to achieve this desire of having additional banking facilities available in the district.

The question concerning small co-operatives I think can best be answered in terms of the additional small trading companies which are stock companies -- stock being owned solely by Micronesians. During the past year we have had several new trading companies start. They in fact are co-operatives in the manner in which they work. They are not co-operatives in the regular sense of the word "co-operatives".

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): The special representative stated yesterday in his preliminary remarks that the Stabilization Fund for copra had received \$890,000 last year. Do the by-laws of this establishment enable it to grant loans to producers or to producers associations for the purpose of improving production?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): As a matter of clarification, the Copra Stabilization Fund did not receive \$890,000 last year. It had a balance of \$890,000 last year, which balance had been accumulated over several of the past years. The Copra Stabilization Fund is not permitted to be used for any activity other than support of the price of copra within Micronesia. It is not used for loans or for any other purpose than that of stabilization of the copra price.

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): The Administering Authority's report for 1956 states on page 170 that in the district of Palau the Administering Authority is in possession of 71 per cent of the entire land of the region and 65 per cent of the arable land, and the same situation exists in the district of Ponape. Perhaps the special representative could give some comments on this situation and explain the reason for it.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): In the Palau district the percentage of ownership indicates that 71 per cent of the land is in the public domain -- and this I believe is a close figure. One must accept the fact that in Palau there are numerous small islets, uninhabited throughout the district, which would occasion the larger percentage of public domain land in Palau than in some of the other districts. This arable land referred to in Palau would include the Metalanin Plantation which is operated by the Administration, it contains several thousand acres. I am not able at this time to clarify the figures and I should like to refer to this later in our debate.

The PRESIDENT: Is that agreeable to the representative of Haiti?

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): Yes, Mr. President.

What is the amount of funds presently provided for the improvement of roads and the system of communications by sea, and what is the percentage of this in regard to the total budget?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): There is provided for communication and transportation in our budget something over \$1,750,000 which roughly represents slightly more than 25 per cent of the total budget of the Trust Territory.

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I should like to ask the special representative to clarify whether this figure also includes the postal communications.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): This figure would include all of our communication expenses. I know there is a schedule in here which sets forth the exact amounts spent during the past several years for transportation and communications.

Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I should like to thank the special representative for the clarification which he has given me. My delegation should like to know what is the relationship between the classification of the American personnel and the indigenous personnel employed by the Administration. Is this relationship on a complementary basis? On page 149 the maximum salary of the indigenous civil servant is given and it does not reach up to the figures shown for American employees on much lower levels.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The representative of Haiti is correct. The salaries of Micronesians do not reach the salaries paid to Americans. The salaries of Micronesians are based on the economy of Micronesia. The salaries of Americans are based on the economy of the United States.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I regret that at this juncture I am going to be able to put questions only in the political field. I should also like to take this opportunity to extend to the special representative our congratulations on his appointment as the High Commissioner of the Territory.

I come now to my first question. It refers to the agreement between the Administering Authority and the peoples of Bikini and Eniwetok. Both groups have been given land use rights on their present island homes in addition to cash and trust fund compensation. I should first like to know whether the lands on which they were given use rights belonged to anybody before their arrival. Secondly, were there any individuals in these groups who did not accept the over-all settlement?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The lands given to the Eniwetok and Bikini people were lands which were in the public domain. As such, they were given to the people by the Trust Territory government. The lands were not inhabited. I do not know of any dissenting thoughts or voices with respect to the agreement reached so far as either the Eniwetok or Bikini people are concerned.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): My second question relates to the proposed organic law of the Territory. I wonder whether the study which is progressing has yielded any results so far and whether the special representative would wish to tell us at what stage it has arrived and in which way the people of the Territory are being consulted. Are they participating in its formulation?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): We have had preliminary discussions with leading Micronesians in each of the districts concerning the possibility of an organic act, its nature and the timing now intended for its creation. Recently I discussed this problem in Washington, D.C., with officials of the Interior Department and other Government agencies. I advised them that I thought we now had in Micronesia a sufficient number of Micronesians who are conscious of our democratic processes of government and aware of the Micronesians' ability to participate in the formulation of a new organic act as to warrant the sending to the Territory of an expert in the drafting of organic legislation.



I told those officials in Washington that I thought such an individual could visit each district, talk with Micronesians and American staff members and obtain sufficient and adequate information to permit him to draw up a draft of a workable organic act, which could then be presented for discussion and, I would hope, ultimate acceptance for the Trust Territory.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I would like to ask the special representative about the conditions of service for Micronesian personnel. During the year under review there apparently has been no change in their situation. I wonder whether their general conditions are satisfactory to them or whether they are satisfactory in the opinion of the special representative.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I would state that in my opinion conditions generally are satisfactory and conditions generally are accepted by the Micronesians as being satisfactory. We have instituted a survey of salaries, wages and working conditions which has been undertaken by our Personnel Department. It has not as yet been completed and there has been no specific recommendation as yet to the High Commissioner's Office. I am looking forward to reviewing that survey and determining what if anything should be done to change wage or labour conditions within Micronesia.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): In his informative speech the other day the special representative told us that the Administering Authority is planning to charter new municipalities in the Territory. I was impressed by this tendency. I should like to know the basis on which this chartering is taking place.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): It will be recalled that the United Nations Visiting Mission discussed the need for uniformity in the chartering of municipalities. In the Trusteeship Council last year, this matter was discussed at some length.

We decided to move as rapidly as we could in this direction and still use and benefit from the Micronesians' attitudes and desires. Upon my return to Guam after last year's session, I called in several of our staff and gave to them the specific responsibility of visiting the districts and discussing with

the Micronesians the nature and type of charter which the latter thought would best serve to aid and guide municipalities in their day-to-day operation. We found that the Micronesians were entranced with this idea and very desirous of going ahead. As a result, a charter was prepared. It was then submitted to Micronesians in each district and their comments were in turn submitted to Headquarters. Subsequently a final charter was prepared and it will act as a guide for all charters, which are subject to change to fit local conditions. When we started this activity with the Micronesians, we found that we had started a programme which almost ran away from us instead of our controlling it. It has been moving very rapidly, and I am very well pleased with the acceptance on the part of the Micronesians.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I should like to obtain some information on another point. The special representative told us in his speech that it is now becoming a custom for congresses in certain districts to have observers from other districts. I should like to know whether these observers initiate that step themselves or are they being sort of pushed to do it by the Administration.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The major impetus comes from the Micronesians. They are desirous, particularly since this conference we held last August, of seeing how other district congresses are conducted. The congresses send invitations to other districts to send observers. The action is primarily a Micronesian action.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I read the following statement in the speech of the special representative and I would like him to expatiate on this point:

"The Administering Authority, through actions such as these, is attempting to set out a number of intermediate targets under which progressive growth may take place in the field of political advancement as well as in economic and social advancement." (T/FV.801, p. 96)

I would welcome any details on this point from the special representative.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The statement is a general one in nature and was intended to convey the thought that the Administering Authority is ever mindful of its desire to turn more and more of the responsibility for government, education and other fields over to the Micronesians. This action can be done as time goes on, and I think it had better be done through intermediate target dates as we speak of them here, rather than attempting to set a final conclusive date when everything will have been accomplished. Micronesia as we know it is only ten years old, but as they know it it is thousands of years old. We want to aid them and to permit them to accept such responsibility as they can discharge. I am only attempting to say that we are moving constantly in the direction of turning over to Micronesians various responsibilities.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I have no more questions. I wish simply to thank the special representative for his most clear and informative answers.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): Since I have not been able to attend all the time this afternoon, I hope that the special representative, whenever my questions touch upon matters that have already been discussed, will refer me to the relevant sections of the record; with that I should be entirely content.

On page 20 of the report of the Administering Authority, under the title "Marshall Islands District", the Council is informed that the House of Iroij is composed of those persons holding rank as "iroij laplap" in accordance with Marshallese custom. Could we be told the correct pronunciation of these words and also what exactly the Marshallese custom is in this connexion?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I should have thought from his pronunciation that the representative of Australia had just returned from the Marshalls. "Iroij laplap" signifies the leading man of a group of people and has in the Marshallese mind the connotation of the highest in rank in a given society and a particular geographical grouping. We have "iroij", and we have "iroij laplap", the "laplap" meaning "the highest".

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): I take it that these individuals are not in fact elected and that therefore this is a hereditary position. Could the special representative tell us the relationship between the House of Iroi and the House of Assembly in this district?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The House of Iroi is made up of members who have obtained their titles by hereditary process. The House of Assembly is made up of individuals who have been elected by the Marshallese to represent the various districts involved. Thus we have a bicameral Congress, one part made up of the leading chiefs -- hereditary -- and the other made up of elected individuals.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): My next question relates to the Palau district, where we have another indigenous term, the chadal olbil. Could we be told the nature of this institution and whether its members are also hereditary?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The Palau Congress follows somewhat the pattern of the Marshall Islands Congress, with two houses: one made up of individuals who are chiefs by heredity, and the other of individuals who have been elected. It is interesting to note that, at the request of the hereditary leaders in Palau, the voting on any measure is left to the individuals elected to Congress. The chiefs do not participate in the voting on any measure.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): My third question relates to the Nobles' House and the People's House in the Ponape District. Is the relationship between these two Houses the same as in the Marshall Islands District, that is, that there must be agreement on matters in both Houses before decisions are valid?

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

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): In respect of the municipal administrations, could the special representative tell us -- and I do not wish to ask for too much detail here, because I dare say one could elaborate extensively -- what proportion of the electorate actually participates in the elections, which, I presume, are

(Mr. Hamilton, Australia)

either annual or biennial? To what extent do we have competition between individuals for election, and what is the proportion of hereditary leaders who are in fact elected -- or, to put it the other way round, the proportion of hereditary leaders who are not elected?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): This is a rather involved set of questions. I shall try to answer each segment. First, the percentage of participation in elections is very high -- higher, I believe, in Micronesia than in more sophisticated societies, because Micronesians consider it a privilege to vote. I daresay that in the neighbourhood of 90 per cent of the eligible voters actually vote in an election.

The percentage of hereditary chiefs now holding magistrate's office is decreasing each year. This is only a guess but it is my opinion that less than 20 per cent of the magistrates are also hereditary chieftains throughout the Trust Territory. A number of hereditary chieftains do not desire to be magistrates. They hold that they are more nearly chiefs if they stay away from the magistrate's job, and quite often they refuse to permit themselves to be nominated or run for office. I should like to ask whether I have left out any of the points.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): There was one additional point: to what extent is there an element of competition in these elections?



Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The element of competition varies from municipality to municipality. In some of the elections it is quite an element; in others not so much.

The Micronesians do not have a party system -- two parties or three parties as we in the United States may think of them -- but rather the Micronesians vote for individuals whom they think are competent. They vote on the basis of the individual rather than on the basis of any party line. Quite often this attitude towards individuals develops considerable competition. In attempting to answer the question directly, I would state that I believe that competition in the Micronesian society is almost comparable to competition as we know it here, but it follows a different pattern.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): The special representative referred earlier this afternoon to the later development of what he called the beginnings of a territorial legislative organ. Could he tell me whether this development will indeed await, among other things, the completion of municipal and district governmental structures, or whether there is no direct connexion between the two developments?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): It is my opinion that there is a definite connexion between the two developments. I would not want to see an inter-district congress develop if the majority of the municipalities were not operating competently at the time. To have a single legislative body at the top not resting on a solid foundation of municipality know-how would be, I think, advancing too rapidly. It is my sincere hope that the municipality form of government will be quite effective at the time we develop a single congress for all of Micronesia.

U PAW HTIN (Burma): I have one question to ask on the political aspect of the Territory. Earlier in the meeting a question was raised with regard to the return of the Rongelapese to their home atoll of Rongelap. In this connexion the special representative mentioned the fact that the return would take place during the month of June and that it would be completed during that month.



(U Paw Htin, Burma)

In this connexion, I wonder whether the Administering Authority foresees any reluctance or lack of enthusiasm on the part of some sections of the Rongelapese people to return to their homes for resettlement, considering the fact that they had suffered considerably as a result of radiation exposure.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I think, on the contrary, the Rongelapese are anxious to return to their home atoll. At the time of the fall-out there were, as I recall, eighty-four or eighty-eight people living on Rongelap who were removed eventually to Ejit in the Marshall district. There are now approximately 200 who are going back to Rongelap. We are providing homes for that many when we removed only about eighty. There could be no great distress or feeling of reluctance to return with so great an increase.

U PAW HTIN (Burma): I thank the special representative for his reply. I should like to reserve the position of my delegation with regard to questions which relate to other aspects of the Territory.

The PRESIDENT: I think that the Council may now adjourn its meeting. We shall meet again on Friday at 2.30 p.m., when the Council will first hear the final statements on behalf of the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration, and then continue, and I trust conclude, the stage of questioning of the special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.