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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 28 May 1957, at 2.30 p.m.

President:

Mr. HOOD

(Australia)

1. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration (continued):
 - (a) Annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration [4e]
 - (b) Financing of the economic development plans of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration: report of the Mission of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration [11]
 - (c) Report of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration [16]
2. Examination of petitions: 193rd, 194th, 195th and 196th reports of the Standing Committee on Petitions [5]
3. 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]

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.801 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

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(53 p.)

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION (T/L.765): (continued)

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION (T/1315, 1321) [Agenda item 4e]
- (b) FINANCING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION: REPORT OF THE MISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT TO THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION [TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1255 (XVI)] (T/1296) [Agenda item 11]
- (c) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY OF SOMALILAND UNDER ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION (T/1311) [Agenda item 16]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. de Holte Castello (Colombia), Mr. El-Zayat (Egypt) and Mr. Baradi (Philippines), members of the Advisory Council for Somaliland under Italian administration, took places at the Council table.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Zadotti, special representative for Somaliland under Italian administration, took a place at the Council table.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): I wish to associate my delegation with those who, in speaking before me in this general debate, have congratulated the Administering Authority for the excellent work which it has done in recent years in the Trust Territory of Somaliland and not least in the year under review. It would seem fitting indeed for the Council to recognize the confidence and respect which the Government of Italy, as Administering Authority, has won for itself and its administration in the Trust Territory and to congratulate it upon the results which, under difficult circumstances, it has achieved. Equally, my delegation wishes to congratulate the Somali Government and people upon the major advances they have made and the spirited attack which they are now making upon problems relating to the future development of the independent Somali State.

These problems are not small. A population of about 1.3 million people live in a country as large as Thailand or Spain with an uncompromising climate, generally infertile soil and little evidence of major untapped resources.

Only a small fraction of the land area of the Territory is of any significance for agriculture, and more than half the country offers, in the words of the International Bank, at best a precarious existence for the hardiest of nomads. Some seven tenths of the total population live, by tradition and by necessity, a nomadic existence, and in the area of 235,000 square kilometres north of the Scebeli River we are told, indeed, that probably less than one tenth of the population is regularly settled.

Against this background the achievements of the Administering Authority and the Somali people in the years under Trusteeship must be regarded as remarkable. The Council should not, however, lose sight of the fact that much of what has already been achieved in all fields demands, for its very preservation, the completion of further achievements whose scope, cost and complexity will rival most of the achievements of the recent past.

In the political field we find today, at the territorial level, that both a Somali legislature and a Somali executive are provided with powers that reflect a very much large measure of autonomy. The Legislative Assembly was elected by the adult male population, partly by direct but mainly by indirect suffrage. Direct suffrage is therefore yet to be exercised not merely by the majority of male electors but also by the entire adult female population.

My delegation has noted that the present Somali Government envisages major new steps towards the attainment of the objective of universal adult suffrage as speedily as possible. We do not, however, underestimate the difficulties which may be encountered in this regard. Although originally envisaged as responsible to the Parliament, the present Government is not at present fully responsible, and there is no assurance -- and little apparent prospect -- that the constitution to be adopted in 1958 will greatly modify the present arrangement in the direction originally contemplated. My delegation would express the hope, in this connexion, that whatever arrangement may ultimately be adopted by those who frame the final constitution will allow the fullest opportunities to the elected representatives of the population to exercise a decisive influence in the government of the country.

My delegation notes that the organization and development of local governmental institutions in the Territory has been to some extent outstripped by the urgent development of political institutions at the territorial level --

so much so that local governmental institutions appear, today, to exist more as dependencies of territorial institutions than as a separate and dynamic system of political organization. This development was perhaps inevitable in the special conditions of the Trusteeship Administration, but it will not be regarded as unalterable.

My delegation notes with interest that further steps have been taken in the year under review to grant a larger measure of autonomy to municipal administrations, and we would express the hope that all possible efforts will continue to be directed towards the development of the system of local government as a major element in the political life of the population.

In respect of economic conditions in the Territory my delegation has welcomed the submission to the Administering Authority -- and through it to the Council -- of the report of the mission of the International Bank. This most ably prepared and most authoritative document has been of great value to my delegation in its study of political and social, as well as economic, conditions in the Territory, and we have no doubt that it will receive in the future the closest attention of the Administering Authority and of the Somali Government. Already the Council has received the benefit of the initial comments of the Administering Authority and the Minister of Economic Affairs upon the Bank's report, and although we are struck by certain differences of emphasis we are nevertheless encouraged by the large measure of agreement in essential matters which exists between all three parties. The Council has now been informed that the new State of Somaliland will require a total of approximately \$4 million in external aid when it obtains its independence, ~~if~~ it is to balance its budget, and if it is to maintain an over-all balance of payments with the outside world and a minimum programme of economic and technical development.

The Council has not been given a clear indication of the form which the budget of Somaliland must take in 1961 if external aid is to be fixed at ~~this~~ this minimum figure, and the absence of detailed information of this nature is perfectly understandable. One fact is clear, however. If the question of the frontier of Somaliland with Ethiopia has not been settled by the time the new State gains its independence, Somaliland will be faced -- in the words of the Minister of Economic Affairs -- with the dramatic necessity of diverting funds and initiatives from the front of economic independence to the front of security and peace at the borders.

(Mr. Hamilton, Australia)

While not for a moment abandoning its hopes for an early settlement of the frontier problem, my delegation feels that any assessment of the ultimate needs of Somaliland should take into account the possibility of increased external aid being required to cover additional budgetary commitments such as those envisaged by the Minister of Economic Affairs. We should be grateful, therefore, if at a later stage in this debate the Council could be given additional information, and the Council will no doubt welcome any further statement which the Minister of Economic Affairs may wish to make in this regard.

My delegation has listened with the greatest interest to the statement already given by the Minister of Economic Affairs and the explanations of Mr. Gasbarri in respect of future economic policies in Somaliland. We applaud, moreover, the intense study which is being made of these problems in the Territory, and the confidence of those concerned in the capacity of the Somali Government and people to surmount the very serious obstacles which lie in their way.

My delegation notes that, inter alia, decisions have been taken to intensify the production of bananas and of cotton in the Territory, and it has no wish to attempt any analysis of the facts upon which these decisions were based. It does feel, however, that the very fact that these decisions have been necessitated underlines heavily the scope of the Territory's present economic problems and the precarious foundations upon which its economy will rest, at least in the early years of its independence.

Without entering further into the question of the economic situation in the Territory, my delegation wishes to state that we have noted with appreciation the statements of the representative of Italy concerning the extent to which his Government is prepared in the future to assist the independent Somali State -- in particular, with technical assistance. We believe that at the present stage the Council should recognize formally that external aid will be needed by Somaliland for some time after 1960 and should recommend, accordingly, to the Administering Authority that, in consultation with the Somali Government, it should proceed forthwith to explore the means whereby the requirements of independent Somaliland for external economic assistance, having regard to all the possibilities, may best be met in the years ahead, and that it should submit an interim report to the Council at its twenty-first session on the progress of its investigations.

It is stated in article 4 of the Trusteeship Agreement that "education in its broadest sense is the only sure foundation on which any moral, social, political and economic advancement of the inhabitants of the Territory can be based".

My delegation does not propose to attempt, in the course of this statement, to examine in detail the existing educational situation in the Territory. We recognize that, apart from the pressing question of finance, physical and social problems of a formidable nature have limited the progress that could be made in this field in less than a decade. We recognize, too, and we commend the efforts of the Administering Authority, and indeed of UNESCO, in this field, and the important progress which has been achieved. Such evidence as is at present available suggests that some of the targets for educational development which were established in 1955 may not be met, and that, for the time being, the Somali Government will attempt to consolidate the gains already made and to utilize to the full the facilities which it has been possible to establish in the last few years. We recognize the wisdom of this policy and we would express, in conclusion, our confidence that, in the years that lie ahead, the maximum of available resources will continue to be devoted to the further development of a sound and effective system of education throughout the Territory as a whole.

Having offered these comments in connexion with certain aspects of development in the Territory, it would seem appropriate for my delegation to make one further remark on a more general subject. The Advisory Council, in its report, and certain delegations which have spoken in the general debate, have referred to difficulties experienced by the Advisory Council in exercising its responsibilities. The problem is not new. Indeed, as the representative of Colombia has reminded the Council, it was discussed by the Council in 1956. It derives from the progressive withdrawal of the Administering Authority from direct participation in the Government of the Trust Territory. My delegation believes that this progressive withdrawal is accepted by the Advisory Council as necessary and desirable. An extraordinary situation would, indeed, arise if the withdrawal of the Administering Authority were to be accompanied by a progressive extension of the powers or influence of the Advisory Council. We are unaware, moreover, of any suggestion on the part of either the Administering Authority or the Somali Government that the existing situation, which has long been anticipated, should be altered.

My delegation believes, in short, that the progressive reduction of foreign responsibility for the affairs of Somaliland should continue on the orderly basis which has long been envisaged. If the function of the Administering Authority, and even more so of the Advisory Council, is now largely confined to the informal exercise of a measure of influence, this would appear entirely proper, and consistent with the fact that the objectives of the Trusteeship System are now close to attainment in the Territory. Any suggestions for the modification of the former position of the Advisory Council would appear to my delegation, therefore, to be neither necessary nor desirable.

In concluding this statement, I should like to tell the representative of Italy how deeply my delegation has appreciated the lucid manner in which he has put before the Council the views of his Government, and the steps which his Government has taken to enable the Council to hear, through the Minister for Economic Affairs and through Mr. Mohamed Shek Osman, the views of the Somali Government. I should like, also, to thank the special representatives, Mr. Zadotti and Mr. Gasbarri, most warmly for their clarifications of the many and complex questions which have, this year, been the subject of our discussions.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Trust Territory of Somaliland has entered the last stage of its road towards independence. That stage was initiated by the creation of a national Government and a Legislative Assembly. Since very little time remains before the attainment of independence, it is indispensable to provide for its utilization with a maximum of efficiency in order to bring to light and eliminate all the problems which might later make it difficult for the independent country to prosper.

It is our view that there must be a considerable quickening of the pace of the Territory's development in this last stage. In the field of political advancement, it is necessary, as soon as possible, to complete the formation of all State organs and the transfer to their hands of all the functions of administration. It must be borne in mind here that the Government of the Territory will have to begin its activities under very difficult circumstances, and it must, therefore, receive the active support of the people as well as the most effective assistance possible from the Administering Authority.

In this connexion, we consider of particular importance the creation in the Territory, as quickly as possible, of an entirely democratic electoral system for the whole of the population, and the transfer, on an ever increasing scale, to the administration and control of the Somalis, of all phases of the political, economic and social life of the Territory, with the benevolent co-operation of the Administering Authority.

The considerable changes which have taken place in the political advancement of the Territory in the year under review indicate the potentialities which exist and which must be utilized to the full.

We believe that the function of the Advisory Council is by no means exhausted. This function will be fulfilled only when the Territory has attained independence. In this connexion, we hope that the Administering Authority will have an understanding attitude towards the useful activity of the Advisory Council in this last stage of the existence of the Trusteeship System in Somaliland.

A focal point in our discussion concerns questions of economic development in the Territory, and this is not by accident. The condition of Somaliland's economy is characterized at present by such phenomena as a chronic budgetary deficit, a balance-of-payments deficit, a one-crop system in agricultural development, a nomadic existence for the majority of the population of the Territory, the absence of modern industry, and hence a low standard of living for the population and the lack of financial means to develop the country. In other words, the situation is the typically complex one that results from long colonial dependence of a Territory.

The Administering Authority gives first place to the problem of attracting capital and -- to use a figure of speech -- it sees in this the only lever with which it will be possible to raise the whole economic life of the Territory. Without entering into a discussion on this point, we feel it necessary, however, to point to the indisputable fact that even the best of levers may become useful only if sufficient strength is applied to it. In this particular case, we see this strength in the people of Somaliland.

Without denying certain efforts which have been made in the Territory, in recent years, to solve the difficult economic problems which exist, we think it essential to stress the fact, frankly, that until now no attempt has been made to solve these problems with the active participation of the majority of the Somali people.

(Mr. Lobanov, USSR)

The solution of the problem of the creation of an independent economy was attempted through the development of certain fields of endeavour which do not concern the majority of the population but primarily the sector which came from other countries. We do not want to say anything unfavourable about bananas but we must state, however, that this branch of the economy, which is responsible for 75 per cent of the country's exports, has not, thus far, done anything to advance the Territory towards independence. The material at the disposal of the Council shows that the emphasis upon banana cultivation, in the economic life of the Territory, has not had any positive influence on the standard of living of the majority of the population. It has only shown the increasing dependence of the Territory upon countries purchasing their product and emphasized the marketing problems.

The branch of the economy of Somaliland which is most important to the majority of the people is animal husbandry. Despite this fact, insufficient attention is being given to the development of this important phase of the economy. This is clearly shown by the situation in this field and by the place it holds in the economic development plans. It is well known that the seven-year plan gives animal husbandry less financial support than other fields of the economy receive.

With regard to projects combining the development of animal husbandry with projects planned for the rational utilization of the products of animal husbandry and the creation of a modern industry to process such products, nothing exists, so far, along these lines.

We felt that it was necessary to stress the aspect of animal husbandry because, thus far, it is responsible for the standard of living of 75 per cent of the population of the country but, in spite of this fact, this important field does not receive due attention. It is impossible to admit that the gloomy forecast contained in the Bank's report can bring about the results described, namely, that the present generation of the Somali nomads will die without enjoying the benefits of independence.

Of course, we understand how difficult it is, here in the Council, to determine the exact stage of development of this or that branch of the economy. The solution of these difficulties must be left in the hands of the Legislative Assembly. The only wish that we can express here is that it will be possible to provide for planning -- which should be established by the Somali Government -- which will take into consideration the present and future needs of the people.

In this connexion it is our pleasant task to state that our delegation was very favourably impressed by the statements of the representatives of the Somali Government and the Legislative Assembly which were full of optimism and faith in the future of their country. We do not doubt but that the difficulties which still obstruct the road for this country which is about to be born will be overcome.

However, we feel that it is indispensable, at this stage, for the Somali people to take their rightful place in the development of their own economy. We stress this point because we believe that genuine independence cannot exist if the key posts in agriculture, industry and trade are in the hands of foreign capital.

The representative of the Administering Authority, in his statement at the beginning of the discussion, expressed the thought that the Administering Authority did not in any way prevent the Somalis from participating in various spheres of economic life. Such an understanding of the aims of the Administering Authority is, in our opinion, limited, to say the least. Its aim, in accordance with the aims of the Trusteeship System, is not merely not to prevent the indigenous people from participating in all phases of economic life but should be the creation of favourable conditions for their full participation in all economic endeavours.

It is impossible, for instance, to consider favourably the fact that in 1956 out of 4,317 transactions of the Somali Credit Bank, only seven concerned Somalis. We consider very strange, also, the fact that the Somalis are deprived of the decisive vote in the work of such organs as the agency for the economic development of Somaliland.

Speaking of the economic development of the Territory, we believe that it is most important to mention a point which has been discussed at some length by the representative of Italy, namely, the inclusion of the Trust Territory in

the so-called common market. The representative of Italy attempted to show this matter in a light which would indicate that this step would not involve any danger for the Territory but would, in fact, give it various benefits.

Here, we feel that it is necessary to repeat that the inclusion of Trust Territories in the common market is beyond the scope of the Trusteeship Agreement and that it is inadmissible without consultation with the United Nations and with the population of the Trust Territories concerned. With regard to the alleged benefits which it is claimed would result from this step, we would only point to the indisputable fact that under conditions of competitive struggle, benefits are distributed in proportion to strength, which is defined by the size of capital, and right here is the answer to the question concerning who will derive benefits from the common market. What are the chances of the Trust Territory of Somaliland in this respect? They are clearly indicated by the discussion which has taken place here concerning the economic problems of the Territory.

In the field of social and educational advancement, there are also several problems which have not yet been solved. The report of the Administering Authority stated that during the year under review there was an improvement in the field of health protection, but still we cannot consider that the situation is altogether satisfactory. On the contrary, we feel that this situation needs speedy improvement. The representative of WHO has given the Council very distressing information about the lack of medical personnel. He warned that this lack will become more acute after 1960 when the Territory will have attained independence. It appears that in 1963 the country will have only nine Somali doctors. As you see, the situation is such as to give cause for concern, inasmuch as in the future this independent country may find itself completely dependent upon foreign specialists in this field which is of such importance since it concerns the protection of the people's health. It is absolutely clear that in order to avoid such an abnormal situation, it is necessary to promote the training of Somali medical personnel in order to ensure that the country will have its own medical personnel and even specialists of the highest qualifications.

(Mr. Lobanov, USSR)

We should bear in mind the fact that 75 per cent of this population is nomadic and rarely is to be found in places where medical centres exist. Therefore, that part of the population does not receive any systematic medical assistance or enlightenment in the field of health. Furthermore, we cannot deny the fact that this part of the population is the one that most requires medical attention since it is exposed to considerable pressure from various obscurantist forces and superstitions.

The problem of the education of the people is also very important; in the case of Somaliland, this problem is related to that of the illiteracy of the majority of the population of the Territory. If this problem is approached from that aspect, it is possible to say that the problem of the education of the people is now in the very first stages of its solution. Nevertheless, this problem is a most important one in considering the future of the Territory; if that problem is not solved, then all of the other problems which are connected with the Territory's independent existence will meet with serious obstacles. One cannot deny the fact that the successful solution of the problem of nomadism itself is dependent on the educational work carried out among the nomads. It is impossible to imagine that the development of a country will not be related immediately to any changes in the way of life of the population and without the active participation on the part of the population in the development of its new way of life.

The question of the language is closely related to that of education; it is quite superfluous to point out the benefits derived from the use of the language of the people in education. This is confirmed by the experience of all people throughout the centuries. In the case of Somaliland, the problem has an even more important basis: it is not merely a question of the language in which the people are educated; it is a question of the future language, which is actually used by the majority of the people and it is impossible to imagine that these people will decide not to use and further develop and improve this language when the Territory has attained its independent status. In this connexion, we have to express regret that this important point has not received due consideration. We should bear in mind the fact that the solution of this problem will require a certain amount of time and preparation, as well as fundamental education and, most important of all, the preparation of teaching personnel. To defer the

(Mr. Lobanov, USSR)

solution of this question until the time when the Territory has attained independence would, of course, retard the cultural and political development of the country. The solution of this question falls within the competence of the people of Somaliland themselves; however, we believe that there is a possibility of giving them the means to begin to achieve a solution even now, without deferring it to the future.

In dealing with the question of educational development, we should like to express the hope that the radio and films will be more widely utilized for educational purposes. It is clear that this work can only be performed by organs which will be expressly under the jurisdiction of the Government of Somaliland. Nevertheless, assistance from the Administering Power, UNESCO, and so forth, must attain its maximum level -- especially now, in the last stage of the Trusteeship System.

In conclusion, may I be permitted, once more, to welcome the representatives of the Government and the Legislative Assembly of Somaliland and, through them, transmit to the Government of Somaliland and its people our wishes that they attain all success in constructing their independent country.

Mr. EL-ZAYAT (Egypt): As it is the misfortune of humanity that the experience gained and education and knowledge attained by one man cannot be left over to a successor, the Egyptian delegation was not able, this year, to contribute much to the deliberations of this Council. It was my privilege, however, to witness here at first hand the tremendous efforts made by everyone to further the cause of the independence and happiness of the people in Somaliland and to see that they will attain this goal in the given time.

I should like to say how pleased I was to witness the efforts made by the people of Somaliland themselves, as represented here by the Minister of Economic Affairs and the representative of the Legislative Assembly, of the Administering Authority and its representatives here, of all of the members and representatives of different delegations in this Council; also by the United Nations itself and its bodies, UNESCO, WHO, and the Bank.

(Mr. El-Zayat, Egypt)

I was also very happy to see that we aim, beyond the attainment of the independence of Somaliland, at making this independence meaningful and its future contribution to the world community useful and positive. I am sure that nothing could be allowed to hamper these efforts; with the unanimous accord of everyone, the Advisory Council should continue to make its useful contribution to the attainment of these aims. These are noble efforts and it is really an honour to be associated with them in any degree.

I should like on this occasion also to express the thanks of the Egyptian delegation for the sentiments which were expressed by many of the representatives here, and for their sympathy, for the loss that Egypt has sustained in the tragic death of the late Minister Kamal Eddin Salah. However, we look forward to, and hope to continue, doing the useful work which has been done and to add to it in the degree that is possible within our abilities.

With the President's permission, I would leave the final statement of the Advisory Council for our colleague, the representative of the Philippines.

Mr. BARADI (Philippines): The Philippine delegation appreciates the opportunity afforded it in participating in the deliberations of the Trusteeship Council. My statements during the various meetings of this twentieth session of the Council were made in the light of our appraisal of conditions obtaining in the Trust Territory of Somaliland.

The Philippine delegation believes that the Trust Territory has made notable advances since it was placed under the International Trusteeship System more than six years ago. Such progress was made possible owing to the efforts of the Government of Italy, as the Administering Authority, and the co-operation of the various organs of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, regional organizations and other entities. And, of course, an important factor in this regard is the willingness of the Somali people to prepare accordingly and to assume the responsibility of governing their own country.

In the opinion of my delegation, however, there yet remain important problems to be solved and various obstacles to be overcome, problems and obstacles which affect the inhabitants of the Territory. For instance, there are the problems dealing with the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the Somalis, the question of the frontier between the Trust Territory and Ethiopia, to which particular reference was made during the eighteenth session of the Trusteeship Council.

In speaking now on behalf of the United Nations Advisory Council, I wish to place on record our appreciation of the fact that our report to the Trusteeship Council covering the period 1 April 1956 to 31 March 1957, document T/1511, has been well received by the Trusteeship Council. Practically all the representatives on the Trusteeship Council have stated that they found the report informative, constructive and useful in presenting the problems of and assessing the conditions in Somaliland during the period under review. Of course this favourable reaction is considered a source of encouragement by the Advisory Council which is ever anxious to do its utmost to implement its terms of reference. It is also gratifying to the Advisory Council to hear from the representative of Italy and from the special representative of Italy as the Administering Authority that many of the opinions expressed by the Advisory Council coincide with those held by the Italian administration. Naturally there are bound to be certain -- perhaps minor -- differences of opinion, and this is to be expected in a democracy where persons can even agree to disagree. But when we find that there are large areas in our respective fields of endeavour affecting the Territory wherein the Administering Authority and the Advisory Council think alike, the Advisory Council believes that the right path along which the Somali people will travel towards independence has been found.

It is not our intention to summarize the substance of the Advisory Council's report or to restate our position. This has been made clear, we hope, in the course of the deliberations of the Trusteeship Council. We will only point out, among others, a matter of great importance which has been the subject of discussion and debate by the representatives of the Trusteeship Council. We refer to the relationship between the Advisory Council and the Administering Authority. In this connexion, we quote from the Advisory Council's report which is now under review. Paragraph 34 of that report reads as follows:

"In view of the new circumstances resulting from the establishment of the Somali Legislative Assembly responsible for the enactment of legislation and, assuming that the Advisory Council is to continue with no change in its terms of reference, the Council has given much thought as to the procedures, ways and means by which it may now continue to be of assistance to the Administering Authority and, through the latter, to aid Somaliland to become an independent nation in every sense of the word". (T/1311, p. 16)

The pertinent ensuing paragraphs of the report contain certain suggestions as to how the Advisory Council may continue to be of effective assistance to the Administering Authority.

At the 796th meeting of the Trusteeship Council, the special representative of the Administering Authority stated that the Administration is always prepared to co-operate with the Advisory Council, but that he did not think that the Advisory Council

"could cite one instance in which any information which was required was refused to the Advisory Council." (T/FV.796, p. 19-20)

That statement is correct, and again I wish to express, on behalf of the Advisory Council, our appreciation for the fact that the Administration did everything it could to give promptly to the Advisory Council whatever information it required. I must point out, however, that it was the Advisory Council which took the initiative and requested the information. The Advisory Council's report states that it was consulted concerning the Administering Authority's general plans for development in the various fields. For that, too, we have often expressed our sincere appreciation.

As the months passed, however, the Advisory Council did find itself in difficulties, as the general plan was being implemented, to know exactly what questions it should ask in order to fulfil its duties under paragraph 4 of resolution 755 (VIII) of the General Assembly. It is for that reason that the Advisory Council hopes that the Administering Authority will find it possible to help to enable the Advisory Council to be fully in the picture regarding the implementation of the general development plans for the Trust Territory of Somaliland. This hope is further strengthened when we take into consideration the first statement made by the representative of Italy when he submitted to the Trusteeship Council the annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of Somaliland for the year 1956 and the supplementary report. He said:

"The Administering Authority will explore new ways of profiting by the aid and advice of the Advisory Council, and will give careful consideration to any practical suggestions which may be made here and that will take into due account (a) the wishes of the Somali Government, and (b) the fact that the Italian administration wishes to interfere as little as possible in this field so that the Somalis may learn to accept the responsibility for their own legislative acts." (T/FV.795, p. 13-15)

He reiterated this statement as the final word on this matter at the 796th meeting of the Trusteeship Council.

The Advisory Council notes with satisfaction the statements of most of the representatives on this Council to the effect that the Advisory Council can continue to play a very useful role in the shaping of the future of the Territory. It might well be that out of the suggestions emanating from the Trusteeship Council some definite steps may be arrived at calculated to enrich further the co-operative and, we hope, more fruitful relationship between the Advisory Council and the Administering Authority.

In these circumstances, then, the Advisory Council reiterates its readiness to co-operate to the full with the Administering Authority and, through it, with the people of the Trust Territory for whom all of us so far have willingly accepted our responsibilities and faithfully performed our duties.

The PRESIDENT: This concludes the present stage of the general discussion on the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration. I anticipate that the Council will hear tomorrow the final statement of the representative of the Administering Authority.

Mr. GRILLO (Italy): Mr. President, as you and the Council will realize, it will be necessary for my delegation to study closely the statements made by the members of the Council on Friday and yesterday and by the Australian delegation today, as well as the one just made by the representative of the Philippines. The same does not apply to the statement we have heard from the Soviet representative. In the opinion of my delegation, that statement contains only generalities and no contribution whatsoever towards the solution of the main problem which confronts the Administering Authority and Somaliland today. We do not propose to answer generalities with generalities.

Almost all the statements contain many interesting proposals, some of which are of a financial character. As may be expected, before my delegation makes its position known in regard to these suggestions, it has to consider them carefully. My delegation will require some time to do so and consequently will not be able to make its statement before the day after tomorrow.

The PRESIDENT: Note will be taken of the statement of the representative of Italy.

EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS: 193RD, 194TH, 195TH AND 196TH REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (T/L.766, L.767, L.768, L.770) [Agenda item 5]

The PRESIDENT: We will now consider the 193rd report of the Standing Committee contained in document T/L.766. The report, as the Council will note, contains in its annex a series of eight draft resolutions proposed by the Committee. I intend to put these resolutions to the vote in order, and I come first to draft resolution I in the annex to document T/L.766.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution III was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I apologize for raising this point in connexion with draft resolution IV after the vote has been taken. Paragraph 2 of the operative part of the draft resolution reads:

"Regrets the formal accusation against the conduct of the Somali Police...".

In the main part of the report of the Standing Committee on Petitions we see, in paragraph 1, reference to an accusation made against the Somali Police but it appears that the accusation was unfounded. Therefore, I wonder whether an unfounded accusation is referred to here or whether it is a formal accusation. I wanted to ask for an explanation of this before the vote, but since I failed to do so I abstained in the vote on the draft resolution.

Draft resolution V was adopted by 8 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Draft resolution VI was adopted by 8 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Draft resolution VII was adopted by 8 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Draft resolution VIII was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: I now draw the attention of the Council to page 2, paragraph 3, of T/L.766, in the English text, where the Committee recommends, as the Council will note, "that the Council decide that no special information is required concerning the action taken on resolutions I-VIII", which have just been adopted by the Council.

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium)(interpretation from French): As Chairman of the Standing Committee, I should like to state that the reference is to resolutions I to VIII, and not I and VIII, as the hyphen employed might suggest. I wish to make this clarification.

The recommendation was adopted by 8 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the 194th report of the Standing Committee on Petitions, contained in document T/L.767. This report also contains in its Annex eight draft resolutions proposed by the Committee. I shall put each of these draft resolutions to the vote.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Council to paragraph 6 of the extract from the Standing Committee's 124th report to the Council (T/L.577, section VII), which is contained on page 3 of document T/L.767. This paragraph refers to the petitioner's application for the restoration of his claim to land he had used before the war. I wish to ask for a vote on this.

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium)(interpretation from French): The proposed amendment would suggest that the petitioner should be restored to his right to cultivate the land, but actually -- as can be noted in paragraph 3, on page 3 of the English text -- the petitioner has no right to this land. It is land which was granted to others, and the petitioner received 4,500 somalos in compensation for improvements he had made to the land during the term of his occupancy. This has been admitted by the petitioner himself, for we read in paragraph 6 of the extract from the 124th report to the Trusteeship Council (T/L.577, section VII) that:

"... on 7 February 1952 the petitioner concluded an agreement with Mr. Cerrati, the lessee of the farm, under which El Hajj Said ben Saad received the sum of 4,500 somalos in reimbursement of the expenditure incurred for improvements to the land during the war..."

The agreement was signed by the parties in the presence of the Chief Kadi of Margherita and of the local Arab chief. Therefore my delegation cannot vote in favour of the amendment proposed by the USSR.

Mr. BENDRYSHV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I thought the recommendation I made was very clear and did not require any clarification, but apparently other members of the Council deem it necessary to discuss this recommendation. I therefore wish to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that the petitioner is an indigenous inhabitant of the Trust Territory, and the indigenous inhabitants do, in fact, have a right to work on the land on which they live. It is true that this land was granted as a concession even before this Territory was placed under the

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Trusteeship System. Nevertheless, the petitioner was actually working on that land during the war, when the Italian administration had left the Territory, and continued to work on it after the war. But when the previous lessees returned, they took measures to evict this indigenous inhabitant from this land. My delegation feels that the indigenous inhabitant -- the petitioner -- has full rights to the cultivation of this land. As to the agreement referred to by the representative of Belgium, the petitioner himself mentions that agreement in the petition and states that he was forced to sign this agreement and to accept the payment in question. Therefore we cannot regard this as an agreement, since it was not made voluntarily by the petitioner. We cannot describe as an "agreement" one which was not entered upon voluntarily by both parties.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I entirely support what the representative of Belgium has already told the Council, and perhaps if I had had the opportunity of speaking earlier it would have been unnecessary for the representative of the Soviet Union to embark on this dissertation on the rights of the inhabitants, because the person involved is not a Somali. The petitioner is not a Somali. Therefore I need only add that the petitioner has been invited many times to address himself to the court if he had any rights to claim. He has not done this so far. For these reasons, my delegation will vote against the proposed amendment.

Mr. SMOIDEREN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I should like to offer some clarification. The question might be asked whether the Trusteeship Council can take any step other than merely to remind the petitioner of the supplementary information which has already been furnished by the Administering Authority. This is not a new petition; it is a petition which has already been examined and on which a recommendation has already been made in Trusteeship Council resolution 1309 (XVI). At the eighteenth session, the only question raised was that of reconsidering this petition in the light of the supplementary information supplied by the Administering Authority.

Mr. de CAMARET (France) (interpretation from French): The President has said that he intended to put an amendment to the vote. I question whether the Soviet Union proposal is an amendment; in my opinion, it is not.

The PRESIDENT: I consider this proposal to be in the form of an amendment, and in that case it is proper that it should be voted upon before the Council proceeds to a decision on the substantive draft resolution of the Committee. I shall now put the proposal in the name of the Soviet Union to the vote.

The USSR proposal was rejected by 8 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 10 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution III was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I voted in favour of this resolution on the assumption that our statement in no way commits the Somali Government in this case.

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: We come now to draft resolution V. Are there any observations on this draft resolution?

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to request the President to put to the vote, as an additional point, the paragraph contained in paragraph 4 of the explanatory part of the report, on page 11, in which the Council

"Reaffirms the hope that the Administering Authority will take the necessary steps to improve the economic situation in the area in order that the causes of disputes between the tribes may be averted". (T/L.767, p. 11)

As is well known, such a recommendation has already been adopted by the Committee, but the Administering Authority has taken no steps in that direction. Therefore, it is advisable at this time that the Council should express the hope that the Administering Authority will take measures to improve the economic situation in that region.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): This case involves an orderly dispute for land between two tribes, and it has been dealt with by the judicial authorities of the Territory. Under these circumstances, the only thing that the Administering Authority and the Government could say was that the petitioners, if they were dissatisfied with the decision already handed down by the courts of first and second degree, could appeal to the Court of Justice. I think this is a specific case which does not call for any comment on the general economic situation of the Territory. For this reason, my delegation will oppose the Soviet Union proposal.

The PRESIDENT: Since there are no further observations, I shall first put to the vote the proposal of the Soviet Union, which is contained in paragraph 4 on page 11 of the report of the Committee (T/L.767).

The USSR proposal was rejected by 7 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.

Draft resolution V was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Draft resolution VI was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Draft resolution VII was adopted by 13 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I have voted in favour of this resolution although I would have preferred that the second paragraph should read that "the Council takes note with appreciation of the fact that the matter has been settled to the satisfaction of all concerned" instead of "the petitioners" only.

Draft resolution VIII was adopted by 13 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT: Once again, I draw the attention of the Council to the report introducing these draft resolutions which have now been adopted, namely, to paragraph 3 on page 2 of the report, in which the Committee recommends that the Council decide that no special information is required concerning the action taken on resolutions I to VIII inclusive. I now put this recommendation to the vote.

The recommendation contained in paragraph 3, page 2, of document T/L.767 was adopted by 8 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: We shall now consider the 195th report of the Standing Committee on Petitions contained in document T/L.768. Here again we have, in the Annex, eight draft resolutions proposed by the Committee. I shall put these resolutions to the vote, in turn.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution II was adopted unanimously.

Draft resolution III was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 13 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Draft resolution V was adopted unanimously.

Draft resolution VI was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution VII was adopted by 8 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): With regard to draft resolution VIII, I would propose that an additional point be put to the vote, namely, the point contained in paragraph 8, on page 12 of the report, where the Council recommends to the Administering Authority to take

appropriate measures to establish welfare and rehabilitation services in the Territory for the physically handicapped persons, in order to make it possible for them to earn their living in an appropriate manner.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): This is a case similar to others which, in the opinion of my delegation, refers to a period previous to the Trusteeship administration of the Territory in so far as the petitioner claims some assistance for the services he rendered to the Italian Government prior to the setting up of the Trusteeship administration of the Territory. Therefore, my delegation feels that it is outside the province of the Council since it is a claim between the petitioner and the Italian Government as such. For this reason, I am not in a position to vote for the proposal put forward by the representative of the Soviet Union.

The USSR proposal was rejected by 7 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.

Draft resolution VIII was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Mr. ZADOMI (Italy): To the reservation I made before, I wish to add that my delegation abstained from voting on this resolution because it implies some sort of commitment on the part of the Somali Government.

The PRESIDENT: I refer the Council to the recommendation of the Standing Committee contained in paragraph 3, on page 2 of the Committee's report, document T/L.768.

The recommendation was adopted by 7 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: Finally, we come to the 196th report of the Standing Committee on Petitions contained in document T/L.770. This report contains; in its annex, twelve draft resolutions proposed by the Committee. I shall put these to the vote in turn.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to propose the addition of another point in draft resolution III, namely the addition of the paragraph contained on page 7, in paragraph 4, of this document, which reads:

"Recommends that the Administering Authority take the necessary measures to safeguard the lawful right of the petitioner to the land."

I draw attention to the fact that in the English text it must read "lawful right".

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I do not quite understand the expression "lawful right", especially in English; it is not strongly defined. In fact, the petitioner has no right to that land. On page 7, paragraph 2, we find the statement:

"... that the shamba of which Mr. Barzangi Magne Osman claims ownership is part of the land belonging to the Società Romana di Colonizzazione. This Company is in the habit of granting local cultivators temporary permits for

(Mr. Smolderen, Belgium)

the use of the land which it will not be cultivating for a certain length of time owing to the rotation of crops. It was on this basis that the Company granted Mr. Barzangi permission to cultivate a plot of land on which it later decided, at the end of the specified period, to grow bananas.

Thus, Mr. Barzangi Magne Osman cannot be considered to have any right of ownership over the land in question." (T/L.770, page 7)

Such being the case, my delegation will have to vote against the proposal submitted by the Soviet delegation.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I wish to add to the observation just made by the representative of Belgium, to which I entirely subscribe, one evident fact: that, if the petitioner has any right to the land, it is up to the court to enforce his right and he has to apply to the courts; the Administering Authority has no power whatsoever to intervene in the question. That is why, of course, I will not vote for the suggestion made by the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I merely wish to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the statements made by the petitioner, namely, that he had been growing bananas on land which has been in his family for at least sixty years. Thus, he has a full lawful right to that land.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I have only to add that if he feels that he has this right, the only thing that he has to do is to apply to the competent judge and have this right recognized by the court.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the vote the proposal submitted by the representative of the Soviet Union. This proposal is contained in paragraph 4, on page 7, of the report, document T/L.770.

The USSR proposal was rejected by 7 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.

Draft resolution III was adopted by 8 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 15 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to propose an addition to draft resolution V, namely, the paragraph contained in paragraph 7, on page 10 of document T/L.770, which reads:

"Expresses the hope that, as a result of an investigation, the legal rights of the indigenous inhabitants of the region to the land which they cultivated until August 1956 will be restored."

They cultivated this land until August 1956 and they were deprived of the right to continue cultivation.

In the Russian text, the formulation is not quite correct; the Russian translation needs to be corrected.

The PRESIDENT: That will be taken care of by the Secretariat.

I understand that the Soviet representative has submitted this proposal, and I should like to know if there are any observations on it.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): I think that the proposal submitted by the representative of the Soviet Union will convey to the people involved in this question a very wrong impression. The investigation carried out is just to register legal property -- property on which a title could be presented; it has no possibility whatsoever of changing legal rights on the property. If there is any question about the legal title of the property concerned, that is up to the court to decide who is right and who is wrong.

For this reason, I will vote against the suggestion.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): In this connexion, I must note that in this paragraph mention is made not of a mere investigation, but the hope is expressed that the Administering Authority will carry out an investigation and will restore -- not merely on paper -- the actual rights of the inhabitants of the region to cultivate the land which they had been cultivating until August 1956 when they were deprived of that right and of the fruits of their labour.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): Here again I must state that the Administering Authority has no such power. This is a power which falls within the province of the competent courts of the Territory, and I believe that this Council has been almost unanimous in recommending the complete separation of powers. We do not feel that we can interfere with judicial powers.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the Council the proposal of the representative of the Soviet Union, which is contained in paragraph 7 on page 10 of the Committee's report.

The USSR proposal was rejected by 7 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to draft resolution V proposed by the Standing Committee on Petitions.

Draft resolution V was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Draft resolution VI was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Draft resolution VII was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution VIII was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Mr. ZADOTTI (Italy): My delegation voted in favour of this resolution although we feel that the last part of the operative paragraph is somewhat redundant because I am fairly sure that the Somali people know very well what is within the powers of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I asked for the floor only to draw the attention of the Secretariat to the fact that the Russian text of this draft resolution says the very opposite. Mention is made here of the fact that the Somali Legislative Assembly has "no power to legislate", instead of "now power to legislate".

The PRESIDENT: That point will be noted. We pass now to draft resolution IX, contained on page 3 of the annex.

Draft resolution IX was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Draft resolution X was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Draft resolution XI was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Draft resolution XII was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: I invite the attention of the Council to page 2, paragraph 3, of the report of the Standing Committee on Petitions. That paragraph contains a recommendation of the Committee that the Council "decide that no special information is required concerning the action taken" on resolutions I-XII just adopted. I shall put this recommendation to the vote.

The recommendation was adopted by 8 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 4.50 p.m.

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS: ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
(T/1316; T/L.769) [Agenda item 4d]

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): This year I am particularly happy to be able to present to the Council the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Mr. Delmas H. Nucker. This is Mr. Nucker's third appearance before the Council and I think he enjoys the experience because in past years the Council has produced a number of good suggestions which have benefited the Islands.

Although the Council is well aware of the facts, I should like to repeat, as I have in the past, that according to the provisions of the United Nations Charter the Pacific Islands have been declared a strategic area. This means that, unlike other Trust Territories, the report on conditions in the Islands will be submitted not to the General Assembly but to the Security Council.

The outstanding feature of the Pacific Islands is that today, as for centuries, these varying island peoples have been largely self-governing and self-supporting. They have also had a more peaceful history than people in most other parts of the world, but the cultures and customs of the countless groups which inhabit these tiny islands differ as widely as the thousands of ocean miles which separate their many peoples. The task of the United States, therefore, is to span the ocean somehow so that communication may be established between the various island groups. It is the fact that these islands are scattered over tremendous stretches of ocean in the most uninhabited part of the earth's surface that makes this Trust Territory totally different from any other other territories which come under trusteeship supervision.

It is a pleasure to present our special representative, Mr. Nucker, and I ask you to invite him to the table.

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: The Council has heard the introductory statement of the representative of the United States. I myself would like to add a warm word of welcome to Mr. Nucker who comes to us not, indeed, as a stranger but as a known authority and a good colleague of the Council.

As the Council knows, Mr. Nucker has previously been Acting High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands until quite recently -- indeed, a few months ago -- when he was appointed High Commissioner. The Council will wish to congratulate, and does extend its congratulations, to Mr. Nucker on his appointment. We are sure that, as in the past, his presence here with us will be of the greatest assistance in our examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and I extend again a cordial welcome to Mr. Nucker.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under United States administration): It is a privilege to appear before you as special representative of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to report on the significant events that have occurred in the progress of our administration since 1 July 1956. This is the third time I have had the honour and pleasure of serving in this capacity and I look forward, as I have in the past, to receiving the benefit of the views and recommendations of the members of the Council.

My report this year has added significance. July 1957 will mark the completion of ten years of administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under the auspices of the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement and this affords me the opportunity to report briefly on the progress that has been made in this formative period of our administration.

Ten years ago, the area we call the Trust Territory of the Pacific had but recently emerged from the devastation and ravages of war. Although the area had been secured in 1956, it was a slow and hard struggle to repair the damages wrought by the war. The local economy, which had rested largely on copra, had been destroyed; the transportation system was almost non-existent; schooling had all but disappeared. In almost all areas of activity a fresh start had to be made.

(Mr. Nucker, Special representative)

To rebuild the shattered economy was not an easy task. The difficulties of reclamation, then as well as now, went hand in hand with a geographical handicap perhaps unparalleled elsewhere in the world -- that of a small population scattered on tiny islets spread over a segment of ocean surface as vast as the United States of America or the continent of Australia.

The progress achieved by the people of Micronesia in the past ten years takes on added significance in view of the handicaps faced.

Among the most important events of general administrative significance this past year was the completion of the conversion programme of our American employees to the competitive civil service. Headquarters staff was augmented during the year by appointment of a new Deputy High Commissioner, an internal auditor, and a general assistant to the Chief Counsel. Two new positions of considerable significance, that of a training supervisor and a full-time counsellor for our Micronesian students in Hawaii, were added to our staff as part of our programme of training Micronesians for responsible jobs in the administration of their area.

Our permanent Micronesian personnel increased somewhat during the year -- from 1,437 to 1,539 -- the increase being brought about by sizable additions to our agriculture, education and public health departments. In addition, 318 Micronesians were employed in our Special Construction Program.

During the year, two top administrative positions formerly filled by American staff members were taken over by Micronesians: these were the Finance Officer position in Palau District, and the Land Title Officer in Ponape District. A minor milestone also was reached in Palau where for the first time a senior secretarial position was filled with a qualified Micronesian clerk-typist. Within the next few months, it is anticipated that the position of Finance Officer in the Truk District will also be filled by a qualified Trukese applicant.

In the field of economic advancement we have continued to encourage the Micronesians to develop their natural resources within the limits of their own capabilities. We are giving encouragement by way of technical aid and advice, by providing substantial financial assistance to local concerns, and by sending qualified Micronesians abroad to acquire "know how" in the fields where economic development appears promising.

We have loaned close to \$400,000 to Micronesian-owned trading companies under a development loan programme and shall continue this process within our financial capabilities and the needs of the Micronesian companies. At the present time, some \$275,000 is invested in such development loans.

During the past year, two additional trading companies were chartered by the administration, making a total of nine such limited stock trading companies now in existence throughout the Territory. It is significant that these two new companies came into being in districts where there is stiff competition from large and well-established companies. This type of competition is to us a healthy sign, since by its existence prices of consumer goods will be kept at a reasonable level for the local population.

Copra remains the backbone of the economy of Micronesia and the major source of income for most of our Micronesians. The war completely shattered the copra industry throughout Micronesia and in 1946, after the area had been secured, only a few hundred tons of copra were exported. In 1956, 12,300 tons of copra were exported at a value in round figures of \$12,250,000. This year we expect to export an estimated 13,300 tons with a revenue return of \$1,500,000. The quality of our copra has continued to improve; 82 per cent of all copra sold this past fiscal year was grade one, 14 per cent was grade two, and only 4 per cent was grade three. Through our coconut technical expert, a training programme in better methods of processing copra was launched and we anticipate

that an even higher proportion of grade one copra should result in the future. By the institution of more regular field trip service, a better quality of copra also is resulting, since deterioration due to inadequate storage is being prevented.

In spite of the fluctuating world market for copra, we were able, through the Copra Stabilization Fund, to maintain a constant price of \$110 a ton to the producer for grade one copra during the year. During the year we also instituted a programme of regular and widespread reporting on the operation of the Copra Stabilization Fund, in line with a recommendation made by the 1956 United Nations Visiting Mission. These reports are translated into the various vernaculars, and are given wide distribution. The public reaction to this regular reporting has been intense, since it allows the small copra producer to anticipate his potential income at the time of harvest, and enables him to plan for his family needs more systematically.

Trochus production during the fiscal year 1956 rose to over 400 tons, producing an income of roughly \$350,000. While the tonnage of trochus shell harvested during the 1957 season dropped to approximately 350 tons, the season proved to be the most profitable one for the people of Micronesia. A top price of \$1,160 a short ton brought in a revenue of over \$388,000, or \$38,000 more than last year.

During the past fiscal year, handicraft income dropped somewhat. Uncertainty of supply and inadequate marketing has kept income from this source down. Currently, one of the largest trading companies is planning to open a Micronesian handicraft store in Guam as an outlet for handicraft from all over the Territory, and handicraft income is expected to increase with this new outlet.

An appreciable increase in the production of vegetable produce in the Rota and Saipan Districts came about during the past fiscal year. Income from this source rose to \$95,000 in 1956, an increase of about \$17,000 from the previous season. The forthcoming year should see an additional increase as the result of improved commercial shipping service by a Saipanese-owned shipping company. This regular service, plus better marketing arrangements, should stimulate the fresh vegetable produce business for the people of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

We have continued to strengthen our agricultural programmes, since agriculture is the chief economic activity of our people. In the last two years our American agricultural staff has been more than doubled and specialists in the fields of coconut development and marine biology have been employed. After a long search, we have been able to recruit a much-needed specialist in plant diseases; and we now have a plant pathologist on the staff. Our training programme for Micronesian agricultural assistants has been stepped up. We now have 178 Micronesians employed in this field, an increase of twenty-five over last year.

Two Micronesian students now are working for agricultural degrees at the College of Agriculture of the University of the Philippines, and several of our students in Hawaii are specializing in agricultural courses.

As part of our long-range programme to introduce new cash crops, three members of the Agriculture Department -- an American and two Micronesians -- spent part of this year studying cocoa planting, harvesting and processing methods in Costa Rica.

Our staff fisheries biologist continued to concentrate on the supervising of the trochus harvesting programme. Experimental work in trochus planting started, and better plans developed for the conservation of this valuable shell resource. The staff fisheries biologist also gave attention to the planning of a subsistence fisheries programme for the Territory. As a first step in the establishment of this inter-district programme in subsistence fishing, three young Micronesians -- one from Palau, one from Ponape, and one from Saipan -- participated in a special three-month fisheries training course at Noumea, New Caledonia, under the auspices of the South Pacific Commission. We plan to use Micronesians as the nucleus of an Inter-District Subsistence Fishing Demonstration Team, and are currently recruiting a qualified American fisheries staff man to head this team. Through the development of a programme of subsistence fishing, we hope to enable the Micronesians to better utilize the valuable resources of the area.

The improvement of subsistence crops has been accelerated. Each district centre has a functioning agricultural station, field nurseries, and an extension service in operation.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

Our animal improvement programme has as its goal the improvement of the quality of the present Micronesian animal strain. Purebred swine from Hawaii were introduced into each district this past year as breeding stock. In the higher islands where pasturage is available, cattle breeding for improvement of stock and production of meat is being stressed.

The work of the staff coconut expert has been concentrated on a coconut rehabilitation and replanting programme and a demonstration programme for better copra processing. Mother palms have been selected and coconut nurseries established in all districts. Supervised coconut plantings also have been started in each district and special demonstration plantings started in areas that need intensive copra rehabilitation work.

The cocoa plantation in Palau, the coconut plantation in Metalanim in Ponape and the experimental atoll research station in Jaluit in the Marshalls have expanded and increased their programmes.

Work continues in the battle against insect pests and diseases that attack the food and money crops of the area.

The first assignment of our new plant pathologist will be to investigate taro and breadfruit diseases in the Palau and Marshall Districts. The fight against the rhinoceros-beetle goes on in Palau. The Agriculture Department has intensified a clean-up programme and our entomologist continued experimental work with the predatory scolia wasp. The scolia wasp now appears to have successfully weathered its first stage, and in the past year we have been able to introduce the wasp in the larval stage to areas where coconut trees are still being damaged and killed by the coconut rhinoceros-beetle. Although elimination of the beetle has not yet been achieved, we have now progressed in its control and extermination to the point where large areas, formerly pest-ridden, have been effectively cleared. A large-scale programme of replanting of coconut trees in such pest-free areas is under way.

Our agricultural programme this year has been one of consolidation and of slow but forward expansion in extension and experimental agricultural work.

At long last we are able to report that appreciable progress was made in the settling of claims, particularly land claims in the Territory. All outstanding land claims in the Truk District were settled during May and June of last year. A property claim by a Belgian family in the Territory was brought successfully to conclusion and a mutually satisfactory settlement, both to the Administration and to the claimants, resulted.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

It is with great satisfaction that we can state that the settlement to the people of Bikini and Eniwetok has taken place, to both their complete satisfaction and ours. The people of Kili accepted the sum of \$325,000 and the use rights to the Island of Kili, and three islets in the Jaluit Atoll, and gave in return the indefinite use rights of the Atoll of Bikini to the Trust Territory Government. At the request of the Kili people, made through their elected council, a trust fund of \$300,000 was established in their name. The annual income of this trust fund will be equal to their present copra income, so that the Kilians henceforth can look forward to at least a doubling of their present yearly income. The first instalment of the interest from their trust fund will be ready for payment in July of this year.

The people of Eniwetok, now resident in Ujelang Atoll, accepted, in exchange for the indefinite use rights to Eniwetok, the sum of \$175,000 and the use rights to the Atoll of Ujelang. Again, as in Kili, the people, through their council, requested that \$150,000 of their money be placed in a trust fund. The first instalment of interest on this fund will be paid to the people of Ujelang in July.

Work leading towards the settlement of the remaining outstanding land claims continues. We hope to settle all remaining land claims which resulted from the Second World War in the Palau and Yap Districts this calendar year. In the Marshalls sizable claims of this nature still remain to be settled. Certain of these at the present time are being negotiated; others still need additional cadastral surveying to determine settlement. We are now in the process of carrying out such necessary surveying.

At last year's session I reported that it was my earnest hope to be able to settle, during this year, the Japanese bond and postal savings claims. We have now set aside money for the settlement of these claims, and plans are under way to effect its use to wipe out this small but important type of claim. When this is done, a source of irritation will have been removed from the minds of the Micronesians.

With the settlement of the land claims in Truk, the Etscheit claims in Truk and Ponape, and the settlement of the Bikini and Eniwetok land claims, most of the major land claims have been met. We shall continue to exert every effort to settle all remaining land claims in the near future.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

We have made progress also in releasing land to Micronesians. During the year the Administration received title to the Island of Ulul from a Belgian claimant, and plans are now under way to give the Trukese residents of the island title, through our homestead programme, to the land on which they live. The Island of Imiej in the Jaluit Atoll, which had become public property, was homesteaded to its former owners. In Palau over 1,300 acres of public land on the Island of Babelthaup was decided to one of the municipalities for its use. As mentioned before, the use rights to the Island of Kili, the islets of Jebet, Jar, Boklaplap, and to Ujelang Atoll were transferred from the Government to Micronesians during the year.

A most important event is to take place shortly within the Territory: that of the return of the Rongelapese to their home atoll of Rongelap. This is an event long looked forward to by the people of Rongelap and equally so by the Administration. Rongelap Atoll has been determined to be safe for habitation. This month a new and complete village is being constructed on Rongelap; houses, a school, a church, a community building, a dispensary, canoe sheds and cisterns are being built. Adequate financial resources have been set aside so that a gradual readjustment to their previous subsistence pattern of life will come about without any hardship to the Rongelapese people after their return to Rongelap. A voice-radio station will be established to permit ready contact with our Marshalls District radio network.

The last periodic annual medical re-examination of the Rongelapese and Utirikese, carried out only two months ago, demonstrated that they are in fine health and that no lasting effects of the radioactive fall-out can be perceived. In addition to the over-all medical check on the entire group, five representatives recently volunteered to undergo special refined testings at the Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago. These special tests supported the general examination results that the people had recovered fully and were in excellent health.

We have continued to give special aid to the economic, agricultural, social and political problems of the people of Kili and Ujelang through our special Kili and Ujelang projects. The former isolation of Kili has effectively been broken by the operation of the Kili boat, the "Libra", during the past year. This fifty-foot auxiliary schooner has accelerated the economic and social progress of the Kilians. Copra production has increased, the Jabor facilities on Jaluit are being utilized, and the islets of Jebet, Jar and Boklaplap are being cultivated. A truly integrated community is emerging on the Island of Kili.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

The people of Ujelang also have made an excellent adjustment to their new home. The outstanding success of the Marshallese project manager at Kili led, this past year, to the establishment of a similar post at Ujelang. Introduction of new food crops, the establishment of a coconut nursery and the upgrading of local animal stock were among the main activities of the Ujelang project manager during the year.

Better logistic support for Ujelang was achieved during the year through a more frequent field trip schedule. Field trip ships now regularly call at Ujelang once every three months. This coming year, the installation of a voice-radio link is planned so that emergency communication with the district centre at Majuro, or Ebeye, will be possible.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

One of the most outstanding developments in the past ten years in the Territory has been the growing consciousness on the part of the Micronesians as to what public education is about and their acceptance of responsibility in supporting such a programme. While the Japanese had instituted a limited public school system for island children, the war completely disrupted this school system, and few of the children of school age, in 1944, had had the opportunity of attending school for any appreciable length of time.

The first school in Micronesia was reopened in the Marshalls in 1944. Today there are 197 separate schools operating in the Trust Territory. Last year there were 10,835 children attending schools in the Trust Territory. Preliminary estimates for the past year indicate that the student enrolment has climbed to over 11,000 students this year.

Increasingly, Micronesians are taking over both the administration and the management of education. One Micronesian is District Director of Education and five Intermediate Schools now have Micronesian principals. Each of the main districts have Micronesian superintendents of schools. In the five districts which still have American directors of education, the role of these Americans largely has become that of advisors to the local school boards and the Micronesian superintendents and principals of the schools.

With the exception of the Pacific Islands Central School staff, we have continued to use our American teaching staff as teacher trainers. Each of our main districts has two or more teacher trainers who devote full time to teacher aid and training. It is our aim that at least one of these teacher trainers devote the major portion of his time to the improvement of education in the schools away from the district centre or on the remote off-islands.

Local community support of education has climbed steadily in the past year. In three districts now, the district legislative body has undertaken to pass legislation setting minimum salary standards for elementary school teachers and centralizing payment of all elementary school teachers. Every district now possesses functioning school boards which are playing active roles in determining educational policy for their respective communities.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

New elementary school buildings have been constructed. Some of these have been completely supported by the local community itself, others have been built through our grant-in-aid project. It can be reported in all sincerity that this Administration's oft-stated policy of turning over the main responsibility for elementary education to the local community is producing noticeable results. I will grant that elementary schools on our remote off-islands sometimes fall short of the goal we desire. By and large, the community-sponsored schools that have developed elsewhere reflect a degree of interest and participation in education that is true and strong for the reason that the community itself has underwritten the school, its teachers and its programme.

Through our programme of teacher-training, providing of more and better textbooks in the vernacular, the support of new school construction through our grant-in-aid programme, the Administration has continued to give every aid and encouragement to this truly "grass roots" system of elementary school education.

This past year has seen the planning of an additional public intermediate school. By next June, Kusaie Island of Ponape District will have a complete public intermediate school, the first such intermediate school to be established outside the district centre. We are supplying the materials for construction, the teaching staff, both American and Micronesian, and the upkeep of the school. The Kusaians, for their part, are supplying the land, part of the materials and all of the labour. Through joint enterprise, the seventh public intermediate school in the Territory will come into existence this coming year.

In 1956 the Pacific Islands Central School completed its first year as a full-fledged three-year secondary school. A completely revised curriculum more responsive to the needs and interests of Micronesian youth was instituted.

Building plans for the new Pacific Islands Central School plant on a large site in Ponape were prepared during the year and preliminary work started. The building site area was cleared, roads put in, water lines laid. Preliminary estimates are that at least three major buildings will be ready for occupancy by the fall of 1958 although it now appears that it will be 1959 before the new plant will be completely finished. When this new plant is opened, it will afford opportunities also for a more practical curriculum, especially in the fields of agriculture and technical training, as well as allowing us to increase measurably the over-all student enrolment.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

An ever-increasing number of students are going outside the Trust Territory for higher education. Ten years ago only a handful of students had managed to go outside the Territory for schooling. In 1956, 225 students were studying outside the Territory. While the majority, or 157, were attending secondary schools in Guam, 37 were studying in Hawaii, 16 in the Philippines, 11 in the United States and 2 in Suva. This number appreciably increased this current year. Six years ago, other than the medical and dental students at Suva, Fiji, only one Trust Territory scholarship was granted for higher education. Last year, 15 Trust Territory scholarships were granted. This forthcoming year we anticipate the starting of an additional scholarship programme designed to give full degree university training to a select group of outstanding students.

In all districts the Education Department and Health Department have joined forces in developing a broad programme of health education. A Trust Territory-wide Health Book is being planned for publication this next school year. A joint programme between the district Education and Agriculture Departments has been under way for the past several years.

The development of educational materials adapted to the local cultures and printed in the local vernaculars is being encouraged. Three of our districts have small printing presses for such purposes. So great is the demand for materials of this type that this past year we requested a specialist from the South Pacific Commission to make a survey of our local facilities for such reproduction work. It is anticipated that his report, which will be available within the next month, will be of significant value to us.

The safeguarding of the health of the Micronesians remains one of our primary concerns.

Tuberculosis continues to be a serious health problem and is receiving major attention. This past year a BCG vaccination programme was launched, and testing and vaccination is going on in all districts. The actual in-patient load of active tuberculosis is somewhat less than last year because of persistent treatment of cases at our hospitals and dispensaries. Fewer active cases of leprosy this past year confirm the value of the careful treatment now in process at the district hospital level. Continuous vaccination against smallpox and tetanus is carried on as a preventive medicine activity in all districts.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

The inclusion of better-trained Micronesians into the public health field remains the underlying and motivating factor of our over-all public health programme.

Ten years ago there were but two qualified Micronesian medical practitioners in all of Micronesia. Since that time we have produced through training programmes at Guam, Suva and Hawaii, twenty-six fully trained medical practitioners, so that today twenty-eight qualified practitioners are on the job throughout the area. In addition, seven medical students currently are at the Central Medical School in Suva. Three of our practitioners presently are getting advanced medical work in a hospital in Hilo, Hawaii, and a fourth will go later this year.

In 1947 there were no dental practitioners in the Territory. Today nineteen fully qualified Micronesian dentists handle all the dental work throughout the districts under the direction of an American inter-district supervisor.

All the Territory sanitation work now is done by qualified Micronesian sanitarians directed by an American inter-district supervisor. One of the outstanding Micronesian sanitarians last year was sent to Honolulu for specialized training and is slated to take over the inter-district sanitation position, now filled by an American, when he returns from training.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

For the last two years the Marshalls District has had a Micronesian director of public health and, for the past year, all medical services in Ponape District have been handled competently and completely by a Micronesian staff.

The two new hospitals at Ebeye and Kusaie will be headed by licensed Micronesian medical practitioners and supported by services staffed by qualified Micronesians.

Advanced training is being given in other fields. One laboratory technician is in training in Hawaii, as are two graduate nurses. Dental graduates are receiving advanced training through the Navy in Guam. This year, plans call for an advanced course in anesthesia for selected trainees at the Guam Naval Hospital. During the year, a refresher course in sanitation was completed for thirty-four employees.

We have increased our hospital units from seven to eight this past year and, by the end of the calendar year, anticipate that a ninth complete hospital unit will be in operation in Kusaie. A similar out-island hospital unit for Jaluit Atoll is in the planning stage and is scheduled to be in operation in Jabor by the end of 1958. New hospital construction has been completed at Rota, Truk and Yap. Partial construction has been completed at Koror, and construction is now being done at Ebeye and Kusaie.

The nursing school now is in its second year of operation in its new location in Palau and has intensified its basic training programme. Training continues for out-island health aides at the district hospitals.

A general improvement in health conditions can be reported.

Ten years ago, Micronesian participation in self-government had just begun. One advisory congress body had come into existence in July of 1947 in Palau, and a District Council had been organized and had held one meeting in the Southern Marshalls.

In the area of municipal government, half of all municipal magistrates in 1947 still held office by reason of hereditary position or by administrative appointment. Today, out of our 102 municipalities, 97 or 95 per cent now elect their magistrates, as well as other municipal officers. Only in five outlying islands of the Truk District do we still have magistrates that serve through hereditary status and, there, only because the conservatism of the island people still is strong enough for them to insist upon honouring their hereditary leader by conferring upon him the role of magistrate.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

A great stride in the sphere of municipal government this past year has been the planning of a systematic programme of chartering municipalities throughout the Territory. Two municipalities of the Saipan District already are chartered and four major municipalities in other districts are slated to receive charters by the end of June. Our target dates for chartering the remaining ninety-six municipalities are not completely determined, but according to our present programme nine additional major municipalities should be chartered by the end of this calendar year, at least sixteen additional ones by the end of June 1958, and five more by the end of fiscal year 1959.

The chartering of municipalities must of necessity be accompanied by an educational programme and, accordingly, the outlying islands will be brought slowly into the programme. We hope though that, by the end of 1960, most of our major municipalities will be operating under formal charters.

Today, the Palau Congress holds the distinction of being the most highly developed of all our District Congresses, having been the first to achieve full legislative powers. This past year, two regular sessions and one special session were held. Among the outstanding resolutions passed by the Palau Congress this year were a law governing inheritance procedures, a budget in which the District Congress will take over full cost of paying elementary school teachers, and the establishment of a special scholarship to train abroad a qualified Palauan in boat building.

In Truk District, the fifth annual Magistrates' Conference met last November and, amongst other acts, voted to establish a two-year district scholarship to be supported by district tax funds. These local government-sponsored scholarships are of great importance since they demonstrate the interest and concern of the older, elected officials to give modern education and training to their young people. The Magistrates' Conference also unanimously voted to set up a district-wide Congress with representatives elected directly by the people. Members of the Trusteeship Council who were present at last year's session may recall my statement that we hoped to have a district-wide Congress in Truk by 1960. I am most pleased to be able to announce at this session that I have been advised by my staff that an official charter for a Truk District Congress is almost ready for signature and that, if implementation goes according to schedule, the first session of the Truk District Congress should be held this autumn, three years ahead of our previous target date.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

In the Marshalls District, the former District Council long since has become a full-fledged bicameral Congress. Eleven resolutions of the sixth annual session received approval. These ranged from new taxation laws to a law subsidizing payment of out-island health aides.

In Ponape, the Ponape Island Congress held its fifth meeting passing resolutions on taxes, inheritance laws, trochus season, and other district affairs. This island congress also is studying ways and means to develop a true district-wide legislative body, the realization of which we hope may take place this forthcoming year.

The first chartered town in Micronesia -- Kolonia, in the Ponape District -- came into existence in April 1956. During the year, the town elected a council, a mayor, and other officers. The Town Council, in co-operation with an administration grant-in-aid programme is building a Town Council building. This will be the third such government building to be built in the Ponape District through such a joint pooling of administration and community resources.

In Yap, the Yap Island Council during the year met at regular intervals and established new taxes, raised salaries for Yap elementary school teachers, gave financial aid to a community-sponsored dormitory for the intermediate school male students.

In the Northern Marianas, an important event of the year was the first meeting of the newly-established Tinian Municipal Congress. On Saipan, the Saipan Municipal Congress met for its regularly scheduled sessions.

On a territory-wide scale, the political highlight of the year was the week-long Micronesian Leaders Conference held in Guam in August 1956. Delegates were elected by representative bodies in each district to attend this conference. The success of this conference, where common problems were discussed, led to the scheduling of a similar inter-district conference for this coming August. Already, in all of the Districts, congresses and councils have elected representatives for the forthcoming conference and, even now, each delegation is busy conferring with local groups on problems to be discussed. While the conference of last summer, and the forthcoming one this coming August, cannot as yet be described in terms of a territorial council, they nonetheless are a basic step in the development of inter-district political consciousness.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

The growing interest of districts in common problems was well demonstrated this past year by the increasing number of observers who attended congress sessions in districts other than their own. At each such session this past year, one to two observers from the other districts were in attendance. We are encouraging and aiding this pattern of exchanging observers within the limits of our transportation system.

A number of other joint conferences in Guam between administration staff and Micronesians occurred during the year. In September 1956, a Trust Territory Judicial Conference was held. Micronesian representatives, judges and clerks of courts from each district participated in the adoption of a series of resolutions making recommendations for improvements in the work of the courts.

The annual meeting between administration officials and managers of chartered trading companies included, for the first time, Micronesian delegates chosen by the Micronesian Board of Directors. These delegates took an active role in working out mutual problems faced by the trading companies and the administration.

During the most recent conference -- that of the Trust Territory agriculturists, held only last month in Guam -- two Micronesian agricultural project managers who were in attendance participated fully in all aspects of the conference.

We shall continue this policy of bringing representative Micronesians into Trust Territory conferences where problems that intimately concern the Micronesian people are under discussion.

/The Administering

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

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.

The improvement of logistic support to our district centres and within the district area remains one of our major concerns. The enormity of our area, the small and scattered land units, makes this is a logistic problem of considerable magnitude. We have attempted in the past few years to achieve this improvement through the accomplishment of these major goals: the placing of the total responsibility of providing service between the outside world and the Trust Territory in the hands of established shipping firms; the gradual turning over of intra-district shipping to qualified local companies or individuals; and, lastly, limiting the role of the Administration in the area of shipping to that of inter-district shipping operations.

The achievement of the first goal, the turning over of our outside shipping to established firms, is well on its way. Majuro, in the Marshalls, has been developed as a world port of call and a well-known commercial line has been loading and unloading cargo there since 1954. During the past year this commercial shipping service was regularized so that ships now call there at the rate of one ship approximately every two months.

The turning over of intra-district shipping to qualified Micronesian companies is of necessity a slow process. Through a loan policy we hope to enable qualified local companies gradually to move into such intra-district shipping. In two districts, that of the Marshalls and Saipan, significant progress has been made in this field by local companies. In the Marshalls the purchase of a station vessel, made possible by a loan from the Administration, augmented a local company's shipping service to the extent that it now handles 50 per cent of all intra-district shipping needs of the Marshalls area. Currently the Administration continues to furnish the remaining logistic support for this district, but this, we hope, can be reduced gradually as the local company is able to increase its service.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

In Saipan, local businessmen raised \$50,000 and the Administration advanced \$25,000 to organize a corporation which bought out an American-owned shipping company which has served the district for the past several years. Originally purchased to serve the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota from Guam, the ship owned by the Corporation has been chartered by the Administration for field trips to the northern islands to pick up copra. Commercial cargo between ports on Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan is carried on this vessel.

Our other districts have yet to move into this field of endeavour on any appreciable scale, but we shall continue to give every aid and encouragement to local desire to do so.

Through our fleet of amphibious SA 16 planes, we have continued to provide weekly air service to each of the five main district centres and regular monthly service with frequent extra flights to the district of Rota. These planes also are used from time to time on emergency medical flights between outlying islands and the district centre and between the district centre and Guam. Saipan is served by twice-weekly flights by Navy logistic aircraft.

We have continued to strengthen our radio communication system. This past year has seen the establishment of a Net Control Center at Truk District Center. From our Guam Headquarters, voice contact is maintained with each of our districts. Each district centre in turn is linked with a network of out-island stations. Four years ago only five such outer-island radio stations were in existence; currently, eighteen are in actual operation and four additional stations are scheduled for installation within the next few months. By the end of this calendar year, twenty-two out-island radio stations, manned and maintained by Micronesians themselves, will be in operation throughout the Trust Territory. Through such a network we are able to provide emergency medical aid, as well as to provide information to islanders concerning our field-trip ship movements.

Our training programme to equip Micronesians to take over the maintenance and operation positions of our communication system has been accelerated. Of the fifty-three persons regularly employed in our Communications Department, forty-two are Micronesians holding positions as qualified radio operators, radio mechanics, radio mechanic helpers and communication clerks. In each of the five districts the American communicator has a training programme for his Micronesian employees.

(Mr. Mucker,
Special representative)

In one of our district centres, the communication centre is being operated successfully on an interim basis by the Micronesian staff while the American supervisor is on a special assignment. For six months of the past year, all inter-district repairs of an electronic nature were carried out solely by our Micronesian staff. One of the Micronesian radio operators currently is receiving specialized training in Honolulu. Our American communicators now are used only where a position requires extensive training, education and experience not yet acquired by a Micronesian communicator. We are attempting to give our local communicators such training and education as rapidly as possible.

This past year we have carried out a complete reorganization of our Public Works Division, both on a district and Headquarters level. This reorganization has enabled us to eliminate a dual supply and maintenance set-up and will make for a more efficient construction operation.

While the achievement of an adequate physical plant will still require an intensive construction programme for the next six years or so, progress is being made in every district. Eight hundred thousand dollars was expended for new construction last year and a like amount will be used this present year. Work continues on permanent facilities such as power plants, new hospital construction, administrative housing, warehouses, harbour and dock installations in all districts. Road improvement is under way. This construction programme will be continued this coming year.

I have attempted in this report to sketch in broad strokes the significant progress made in the past ten years by the Administering Authority as well as to cite certain of the chief accomplishments of the past year. I shall endeavour to the best of my knowledge to clarify any details on aspects of our programme as may be requested during the question period.

Looking back over the ten years since the Trusteeship Agreement went into effect, I feel we have moved forward on all fronts; slower perhaps in some instances than might have been desired, but always towards one primary goal, that of making Micronesia a better place for people to live in as Micronesians.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special representative)

We have, at the same time, tried to equip them with the knowledge and skills that they will need to meet the inevitable change that contact with our modern Western world has brought about in their lives. The steady progress made in training Micronesians to take over positions of authority is seen in the ever-increasing number of top positions that are being filled by qualified Micronesians. We confidently look forward to a continuation of this programme.

The Micronesian leaders, both those schooled in the old traditional ways, and those emerging young leaders trained under our tutelage, deserve commendation for the manner in which they have absorbed and assimilated concepts of self-government, of economic and social advancement, and the way in which they have passed on these concepts to their people. Our task is made easier by the calibre of leaders with whom we work.

The Administering Authority has been guided always by the realization that the Micronesians have a heritage of old and tried traditions, and that they had developed a way of life that had served them well on their isolated islands long before we appeared on the scene. We shall continue to respect their way of life while aiding them to acquire the tools and techniques they must have to meet the changing conditions of the modern world.

I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to present this report. I will be pleased to receive the comments of the members of this Council, as well as to present any additional information the members may desire in connexion with this statement or our annual report.

The PRESIDENT: The Council will resume its consideration of this item tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.