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Twentieth Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHT HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 5 July 1957, at 2.30 p.m.

President:

Mr. HOOD

(Australia)

1. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands: report of the Drafting Committee [4d] (continued)
2. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Western Samoa: annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of Western Samoa [4f] (continued)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.834 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

AGENDA OF THE MEETING

The PRESIDENT: The Council will now continue the general debate on the Trust Territory of Western Samoa.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet Union delegation has unofficially requested that the Council should at the beginning of this meeting take up an item whose consideration it postponed on Wednesday -- that is, the Drafting Committee's report on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The Council might first examine that latter item and then proceed with the rest of its work for today.

The PRESIDENT: The Council should, of course, conclude the debate on the Territory of Western Samoa this afternoon, if possible. I am, however, perfectly willing to take into account the USSR representative's request. Does any member have any objection to that request?

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Of course, if there are some insurmountable obstacles in the way of proceeding in accordance with our proposal, we shall not insist upon it. If, however, there are no such obstacles, I think that the normal course of procedure would be to discuss first the Drafting Committee's report on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Our discussion of that report should not take too long.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): It appears that the remaining speakers on the question of Western Samoa are in a position to make their statements at this time. If we take up the item of Western Samoa immediately, we can be sure that we shall finish the general debate on that Territory this afternoon. If, however, we take up immediately the question of the Drafting Committee's report on the Pacific Islands, we cannot be sure that we shall conclude the general debate on Western Samoa. We do not know how long it would take to complete our consideration of the Drafting Committee's report on the Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(Mr. Hamilton, Australia)

It is not too urgent that the Council should complete its consideration of the Drafting Committee's report on the Territory of the Pacific Islands, whereas it is a matter of urgency, in our opinion, from the point of view of the Secretariat no less than from the point of view of the Council, that we should conclude the debate on Western Samoa so that the Drafting Committee on that Territory could start its work at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It seemed to me that, before we commenced discussing the report of the Drafting Committee on the Pacific Islands, that question was considered to be very urgent since it was taken up not in the order in which it had been placed on the agenda. It was on the basis of that point that I submitted a proposal to examine the question at the beginning of this meeting. However, if the representative of Australia believes that this matter is not urgent and the Council agrees with him, then I have no objection to examining the Drafting Committee's report on the Pacific Islands on Monday, 8 July. So far as I am concerned personally, I shall not be able to remain for the second part of this meeting on account of other matters; in particular, I must assist in completing the report of the Drafting Committee on Nauru.

The PRESIDENT: I think that we should take into account the considerations put by the representative of the Soviet Union. If he has reasons for requesting the consideration of this item now, these reasons should be taken account of by the Council.

Mr. THORP (New Zealand): May I mention the point made by the representative of Australia in this connexion? I think it should be possible to estimate how long the speakers who remain on the list with regard to Western Samoa will need to complete their statements in the debate. From the point of view of the New Zealand delegation, and particularly from the point of view of the special representative who, according to the time-table, will be required to reply on Monday morning, 8 July, it would be unfortunate if the general debate on Samoa were not to conclude this afternoon. Therefore, while I certainly believe that the Council should have regard for the personal position of the representative of the Soviet Union, who has important responsibilities in the Drafting Committee, could we not agree to keep an eye on the time in order to ensure that the debate on Western Samoa does fit into the time-table?

The PRESIDENT: I think that this is a matter in which our respective conveniences must be adjusted. It is the desire of the Chair that the debate on Western Samoa should be concluded this afternoon. At the same time, if the representative of the Soviet Union is unable to be present beyond a certain time,

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perhaps he could indicate the time that he has in mind. According to the estimate which I have, I think that we could conclude the general discussion on Western Samoa by approximately 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): In view of the President's explanation, there appears to be no obstacle in the way of the Council's discussion of the Drafting Committee's report on the Pacific Islands first, to be followed by the further consideration of Western Samoa. There will still be two hours at our disposal after 4 o'clock, and I think that the Drafting Committee's report on the Pacific Islands can be discussed in less time than that.

The PRESIDENT: I feel sure that representatives are anxious to meet, as far as they can, the convenience of any individual representative, and I have before me a request from the representative of the Soviet Union that we take, first, the item connected with the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Mr. FIELD (United States of America): I would request that discussion of the Drafting Committee's report on the Pacific Islands be deferred to a later time at this meeting.

The PRESIDENT: I think that the matter must be put to a vote. Has the representative of the Soviet Union presented a formal request for deferment of this item?

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I do not consider the matter to be urgent, and the representative of Australia has shown convincingly that it is not. Therefore, I have no objection to examining the report on the Pacific Islands on Monday, and I shall, hence, not insist on its being examined at the beginning of this meeting. Let us examine it on Monday.

The PRESIDENT: This suggestion may be acceptable to the members of the Council. It accords with my suggestion that we begin with the consideration of conditions in the Trust Territory of Western Samoa.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): Mr. President, without attempting to qualify in any way anything that you have said, I should like to make it very clear that I have not proposed in any sense that the question of the report of the Drafting Committee on the Pacific Islands should be deferred until Monday.

My delegation bears in mind that one of the speakers -- I believe this to be the case -- who has yet to intervene in connexion with the debate on Western Samoa is a member of the Drafting Committee on Nauru. Therefore, even if the Council were to deal immediately with the report of the Drafting Committee on the Pacific Islands, it would not follow that the Drafting Committee on Nauru would be able to convene immediately. But I have not suggested, nor would I necessarily support a proposal, to defer until Monday the debate on the question of the remainder of the report of the Drafting Committee on the Pacific Islands.

The PRESIDENT: Let us not become too involved. I have proposed myself that we should begin with the continuation of the general debate on Western Samoa. I understand that the representative of the Soviet Union does not object, and his proposal for the deferment of the subsequent item can be considered later.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I am only afraid that the result of this apparent unwillingness is going to be that we shall finish this debate well before six and should lose some time. Is it in fact impossible to start off with the Pacific Islands after all?

Mr. FELD (United States of America): In view of the very important consideration advanced by the representative of the United Kingdom, we will, in order to expedite the work of the Council, be prepared to take it up any time during this afternoon's meeting.

The PRESIDENT: Unless I hear further objection, we shall take first the item connected with the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We have apparently lost so much time in discussion only because the representative of the Soviet Union was the one who first made the proposal. The Soviet delegation has never objected to satisfying the wishes of any delegation represented in the Council, and it must express a certain astonishment that in the present case we did not find the same response from the other delegations.

The PRESIDENT: We shall now consider, which means deferring the continuation of the debate on Western Samoa, the examination of conditions in the Pacific Islands with reference to the report of the Drafting Committee.

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS: REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE (T/L.769 and Add.1, L.780, L.789) [Agenda item 4d/]
(continued)

The PRESIDENT: We take up this item with special reference to the decision on Annex II of this report which was deferred.

At its last meeting the Council adopted certain recommendations and conclusions contained in the report. All these were voted upon except one, namely, the separate section proposed by the Committee and contained in Annex II. Consideration of this proposal was postponed because certain members of the Council wished to have more time to study an amendment submitted by the delegation of India. This amendment is now before the Council in document T/L.789.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): As a result of studying the amendment to the report of the Drafting Committee, the Soviet delegation considers it necessary to submit the following addition without changing a single word in the amendment to be found in the document before the Council. We wish to add to it the following proposal:

"At the same time the Council, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1064 (XI) and General Assembly resolution 558 (VI),

recommends to the Administering Authority to determine the period of time which will be necessary for the attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and proposes to include the necessary request that the necessary information on this question should be included in the annual report."

The PRESIDENT: I understand that the representative of the Soviet Union is submitting a new amendment.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I am submitting an addition to the amendment which has been presented.

The PRESIDENT: In that case, I must point out to the representative of the Soviet Union that he has not made his request any easier of fulfilment by submitting a new amendment at this point because the Council has already asked for time to consider an amendment in the name of the delegation of India, and if a member now wishes to introduce a further amendment I think the same consideration must apply. I will consult the Council on this point.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Mr. President, you know very well that there was no other time at this Council's disposal when members of the Council could present amendments or express their attitude towards amendments which had already been presented because no meeting has been held since the Indian amendment was presented.

In conclusion, I should like to know whether this amendment is accepted by the author of the original amendment, the delegation of India.

Mr. FIELD (United States of America): From what I gathered from the Soviet representative's statement, he is in effect proposing an addition to the Indian amendment which incorporates basically the amendment which was defeated in the meeting held the day before yesterday. While we have no objection to considering the Soviet amendment at this time, I should like to request a separate vote on his addition. I should also like to state that our delegation will oppose the Soviet additional language.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I shall be very brief. The representative of the Soviet Union wanted to know whether his amendment was acceptable. It is.

The PRESIDENT: I think in these circumstances I can put the sub-amendment and the amendment to the text proposed by the Drafting Committee to the Council.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): The representative of the USSR, on Wednesday I believe it was, sought the adjournment of the Council until such time as the text submitted by the representative of India should be circulated to the Council in written form. I do hope that he will allow the Council to have the same opportunity to consult his own amendment in written form before it is studied. That being the case, it may be that he will agree that the Council might properly take up this amendment at the conclusion of the debate on another matter.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I am sorry to express a different view, but the amendment seems to be so simple that I cannot see any reason why we cannot consider it straight away.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation is so respectful of the opinions expressed by every delegation that it will never create any obstacle to the detailed study of any amendment by any delegation. Therefore, the Soviet delegation has no objection to the request of the representative of Australia being fulfilled.

The PRESIDENT: I think it would be in accordance with the practice of the Council if, at the request of a member, time is allowed for the consideration of an amendment which has only just been circulated.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): While I fully agree with the representative of the Soviet Union that every member of this Council should be accorded the necessary time to study any amendment submitted to this Council, yet at the same time I must state with all frankness that I cannot see what is to be studied in this new amendment, which is exactly similar to the one which we have already voted upon and which the representative of Australia has opposed at the last

(Mr. Rifai, Syria)

meeting. I think he can just go ahead and cast a similar vote, if he wishes, at the present time. I fully share the view of the United Kingdom representative that it is absolutely unnecessary for us to take further time in order to consider this point. I think it is a very simple matter and my colleague the representative of Australia knows very well that this is a very simple thing; it is an amendment which is very well known to all of us and we can very simply cast our votes and dispose of this item. I hope he will at least accede to the probably unanimous wish of the Council in this respect that we conclude our consideration of this point.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): If I am reluctant to vote upon the Soviet amendment immediately it is because I have not the text of it before me. That may not disqualify other delegations, but it certainly does disqualify my delegation from taking a firm position in respect of any text. Perhaps the matter could be solved by getting a precise translation of the USSR amendment from the interpreters, but there is in my memory a distinction between the translations which come to us over the facilities which we have and the texts which are subsequently circulated by the Secretariat; and this was evident only on Wednesday. However, I have not moved that any action be taken by the Council and I am quite prepared to proceed as though the USSR amendment were what I think it to be.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I have just a small procedural point. As far as I can see, there is no longer a Soviet amendment before us. It was accepted by me and it is now an integral part of the Indian amendment. As far as I can see, the representative of the United States has asked for a separate vote on the recent addition and that is the correct position as I see it.

The PRESIDENT: I think the representative of India is right.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): I suggest that the Soviet addition to the Indian amendment should be read out and then we should take the vote.

The PRESIDENT: As I understand the position the proposed amendment in the name of the representative of the Soviet Union is in fact known to members of the Council. If it has not been circulated this is due to the somewhat hasty method of procedure which we have followed since the opening of this meeting. It can now be circulated and at the request of any member it will be so circulated. At the same time, it can be read to the members of the Council and if this is agreeable to the representative of Australia, I will request the Secretary of the Council to do so in order that we can proceed to the vote.

The SECRETARY: The text of the Soviet amendment reads as follows:

"At the same time the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1064 (XI) and 855 (VIII) recommends to the Administering Authority that it should estimate the time required for the attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and suggest that it should include the relevant information on this question in its next annual report."

The PRESIDENT: Is it agreeable to the Council that we should now proceed to the vote on this text of Annex II? If so, the position is as follows: we have first an amendment in the name of the representative of India which is now supplemented by his acceptance of an amendment in the name of the representative of the Soviet Union. A separate vote has been requested by the representative of the United States on the Soviet addition to the Indian amendment.

If this is clear to the Council, I will put first to the vote separately the proposed addition to the Indian amendment which has been read out to the Council.

The proposed addition to the Indian amendment was rejected by 7 votes to 6, with 1 abstention.

Mr. KIANG (China): I really hesitate to take the time of the Council, but as I understand the President is going to proceed to a vote on the amendment in document T/L.789, I feel it necessary to say a word. In most cases I deem it absolutely unnecessary and superfluous to explain one's vote but in the present case I do feel the need to explain the vote which my delegation will cast on the amendment in document T/L.789.

(Mr. Kiang, China)

In order to complete my explanation, which I shall offer very shortly, I think I should explain also why we abstained on two amendments previously. One, of course, was on the day before yesterday. We abstained for the simple reason that we wanted to be consistent with the position we took at the Fourth Committee last year. At our last meeting I listened very carefully to the remarks made by the representative of Australia. Certainly I am not trying to assess to what extent or in what way his remarks have influenced the members of the Council or even the course of the debate on these amendments. However, those remarks did have the effect of prompting this new amendment, and I must say that this new amendment in document T/L.789 is very much in line with what was indicated by the representative of Australia himself. I would be inclined to think that this new amendment, couched in the words as they stand in the present text, is reasonable. In my opinion, this amendment is much more in line with what we usually have in this Council. So for this reason my delegation is prepared to vote for the new amendment in document T/L.789.

Mr. FIELD (United States of America): My delegation believes that the replacement of the operative section in annex II of document T/L.780, as proposed in the amendment offered by the representative of India in T/L.789, is an improvement on the original text of this section as submitted by the Drafting Committee, and we shall support the Indian amendment.

The PRESIDENT: I am not at all sure, as a matter of procedure.-- and I shall consult the Council on this -- whether we should not take first paragraph 1 of annex II contained in document T/L.780. I think this would be appropriate.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We have not yet finished voting on the amendment proposed by the delegation of India. We have voted only on one part, the second part of that amendment. We must now finish the voting on the amendment as a whole and then go to the other paragraphs of this annex. That is the normal procedure, and there can be no doubt as to what procedure should be followed.

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): It has been suggested that the modification of annex II which has been suggested by one delegation coincides with or brings the text of that annex very largely in conformity with the views which were expressed by my delegation on Wednesday. But that would hardly be the case. The modification that has taken place has taken place exclusively in connexion with paragraph 2 of that section, whereas the principal objective of my delegation on Wednesday was to point out that unless the facts themselves were clear no resolution at all would be useful. Unless, in other words, the facts are set out for the Council in paragraph 1, how can the Council adopt any resolution in paragraph 2 when that resolution depends upon paragraph 1? How can the Council, in point of fact, take note of something in paragraph 2 -- something new apparently -- when paragraph 1 states that there have been no new developments.

The amendment to the report of the Drafting Committee which has been submitted by the delegation of India unquestionably modifies to a major extent the provisions of paragraph 2 of annex II. But I repeat that the views of my delegation were directed to the facts and not the views of the Council, which appear to have been proposed without regard to the facts.

What is required essentially at this point is a modification of paragraph 1 of this text, and no effort whatsoever has been made to modify paragraph 1. If paragraph 1 is correct, and if the Administering Authority has given the Trusteeship Council no information whatsoever about its attitude towards the resolution adopted by the Trusteeship Council at its eighteenth session, then of course the Council must take account of this formally in its resolution, or presumably will wish to do so. But is paragraph 1 correct? Is it correct to state that no additional information is contained in the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year under review? I would submit that this is not in the least correct. Additional information is contained in the annual report. Not merely has the Administering Authority introduced what I believe to be a completely new section into the annual report, which deals with the policy the Administering Authority is adopting whereby it hopes to bring the Territory towards self-government, but also it has stated explicitly what its views are in respect of the resolution adopted by the Council. Yet neither of these statements which appear in different sections of the annual report are taken into account in any sense at all in the text of paragraph 1, upon which presumably the Council is basing the resolution which it is proposed should appear in paragraph 2.

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I should like to pursue this point a little further. Paragraph 2 as proposed by the representative of India would state that the Council "notes that the development of representative bodies, local government institutions and the participation of indigenous persons in the administration appear to be in conformity with the recommendation recalled above". One might well ask how it is that the Council, with all its wisdom, is capable of formulating and adopting, against the opposing votes of at least five administering delegations, the resolution which was adopted at the eighteenth session and of designing and defining a technique which was included in that resolution, and yet is now not capable, notwithstanding advice given formally in the annual report of the Administering Authority and advice given orally by the Administering Authority, of interpreting whether or not the recommendation it adopted has been accepted and applied in the Trust Territory concerned in the twelve months which have recently passed. Surely, if the majority of the members of the Council are capable of defining this technique, it would seem at least that they are capable of ascertaining, and stating indeed in their resolutions, whether the technique has or has not been applied. It would appear to be the merest equivocation to state that this technique "appears" to have been applied.

Two factors here are relevant. Firstly, what is the policy of the Administering Authority? Has that been placed before the Council or not? Secondly, how are we to interpret the provisions of the resolution adopted at the eighteenth session?

(Mr. Hamilton, Australia)

The Council has ample opportunity to consider what the policy of the Administering Authority is. The policy is to be found, indeed, on page 125 of the annual report of the Administering Authority, and I believe it has been supplemented by oral statements of the delegation of the United States. It is also to be found on page 16 of the annual report, where it is indicated quite clearly what policy the Administering Authority is adopting in bringing this Territory toward self-government. If, on page 16, in a definition of this policy, no regard whatsoever is paid to the question of target dates, then the Council has ample opportunity to investigate this question in the presence of the United States delegation and to clarify the situation. If it is unable to clarify the situation immediately, then the only call upon the Council would surely be to adopt a resolution asking the Administering Authority to clarify its position.

But this is not what is proposed in this resolution. We are not stating what is the position of the Administering Authority. Apparently we are studiously avoiding taking note of the position of the Administering Authority.

The PRESIDENT: May I interrupt the representative of Australia. We must be clear as to what we are discussing. We took first the proposed Indian amendment, and the proposed addition to that amendment offered by the Soviet Union, as amendments to the full text of annex II. I have not had a request for a separate vote on paragraph 1 of annex II. If I hear such a request, then paragraph 1 can be debated. But I think it would be disorderly to debate it without such a request. Otherwise, I would put the proposed Indian amendment as an amendment to the annex as a whole.

Mr. FELD (United States of America): In the interest of better procedure, I should like to request that paragraph 1 be voted on separately. I might say that we agree with the observations of the representative of Australia in regard to that paragraph. It is not quite an accurate reflection of the true situation. The second sentence --

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Point of order, Mr. President. I did not want to interrupt the statement by the representative of Australia, although I hoped that the President would take note of the fact that this was a transgression of the rules of procedure, which he quite correctly tried to enforce. When the voting has started on any document, we cannot continue the discussion. We have voted on half of the proposal submitted by the delegation of India -- and now, all of a sudden, we have a new discussion. That is a very extraordinary procedure and one which I have never before encountered in my experience here. We now have a discussion of a document on which we have not finished voting. We have even passed over to another part of that document. If we wish to follow the most elementary rules of procedure, I think that we should first finish the voting and then pass over to discussion if that is desired.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to make it clear that I am quite ready to put to the vote the amendment to annex II but, in the interests of procedure, I must be clear as to which part, if any, we are to vote on separately. I had previously had no request for a separate vote, but I have just heard such a request from the representative of the United States in regard to paragraph 1 of the annex.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I was trying to make the same point. I feel that the Indian amendment should be put to the vote first and that the voting should be completed, as I am sure the President intended. After the President has finished with this, I would be grateful if he were to put the word "No", at the beginning of the second sentence of paragraph 1, to a separate vote. If that word is voted on separately, I intend to vote against it.

The PRESIDENT: The representative of India surely desires the same orderly outcome that the Chair desires. If he has a proposed amendment to paragraph 1, then we must take paragraph 1 first and defer voting on his amendment to paragraph 2.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): What I was trying to say was this: We had begun to vote on paragraph 2. I had accepted the Soviet amendment, it had become an integral part of my amendment, and we had voted on one part of my amendment -- and then a general discussion ensued. I wish to suggest that we complete the voting on the Indian amendment and then go on to paragraph 1 -- and, when we come to that stage, I should like to have a separate vote on the word "No".

Mr. HAMILTON (Australia): The studious regard which is paid to the rules of procedure on Friday is quite the opposite of the attitude displayed on Wednesday. On Wednesday, the representative of the USSR moved an amendment to paragraph 2, and that was voted on. It was not until after the amendment itself had been voted on that an alternative text was put forward and indeed a general discussion on paragraph 2 itself ensued. If, therefore, we have voted upon an amendment to paragraph 2 itself today, and then proceeded to a new discussion, it is not unprecedented.

It has been suggested that we should proceed to a vote on paragraph 2, which constitutes a resolution in itself, and that thereafter we should proceed to a debate on the text of paragraph 1. This would seem to be an extraordinary procedure. Paragraph 2 depends upon the facts which are set out in paragraph 1. To adopt a resolution first, and subsequently to reverse the facts upon which the resolution depends, would seem to be an extraordinary procedure. It is a procedure which the Council may note is not impossible, because the representative of India, having proposed a text which depends upon the statement that no additional information is contained in the annual report of the Administering Authority, is quite prepared to see the same resolution depend upon the statement that some additional information is contained in the same report.

However, setting aside these comments, I should like quickly to conclude my statement. My delegation has not been impressed, and was not impressed at the eighteenth session, with the need for or the validity of the resolution which was adopted at that time, and even less are we impressed with the desirability of pursuing the question further at the present session. It would seem to my delegation to be a simple fact that, if the Administering Authority in respect of

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this Trust Territory has accepted the resolution which was adopted at that time, then no more need be done by the majority of the representatives on this Council than to take note of that fact. If that resolution was accepted, then there is no need to state that it appears to be accepted, and there is no need to express the hope that the rest of it, which has already been accepted, will be applied. On the other hand, if the Administering Authority has not accepted that resolution or if there is some doubt about whether that resolution has been accepted in toto, then it would seem to my delegation to be the only recourse of the Council to seek clarification rather than burdening the Administering Authority with additional recommendations which, to say the least, depend upon misunderstandings.

The PRESIDENT: Perhaps I may be allowed to clarify the position as far as I can. I accepted amendments to paragraph 2 of this Annex and put one amendment, which was accepted by the representative of India, to the vote as an amendment to Annex II as a whole. It would now appear that this may have been premature and that I should have allowed a discussion of the whole text of Annex II before voting on the amendment to paragraph 2. Since a separate vote has now been requested on paragraph 1, I must withdraw my proposal to put to the vote the amendment to paragraph 2 until paragraph 1 has been voted upon. Members of the Council may now, if they wish, discuss the Annex as a whole and paragraph 1 specifically before we vote on paragraph 1.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): First of all, I must reply to the representative of Australia who affirmed that on Wednesday we transgressed the rules of procedure. I must once again explain to the representative of Australia that even if anyone had requested an adjournment of the discussion or of the voting there would have been no violation of the rules of procedure, but in fact the representative of the Soviet Union did not request an adjournment of the voting. He simply stated that he was not able to vote because there was no text to vote upon, and the President took the decision to adjourn the voting. That is the factual account of what took place on Wednesday. As to the President's decision, I would remind him that voting on a text submitted by India -- on the Indian amendment -- has not been concluded, and if we commit such a violation of the rules of procedure -- the like of which has probably never been seen within the walls of this building -- nobody's authority will be enhanced. I do not think voting can be interrupted on any pretext whatever. We must conduct the voting, whether on separate points or not, as a whole and it must be completed before anything else is done.

The PRESIDENT: If the representative of the Soviet Union would care to refer to the second page of document T/L.780, he will see that in paragraph 6 "the Committee further recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the separate section set out in Annex II below and include it at the end of the chapter." Entirely in conformity with that recommendation, the Chair put to the Council the amendments -- one of which has been dealt with separately --

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to the Annex as a whole. I have now had a request from a member of the Council that paragraph 1 of the Annex be voted on separately. In accordance with that request, I must now allow discussion of paragraph 1 of Annex II before proceeding to the vote on paragraph 2.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): Since I am principally concerned with this, I feel I ought to say a few words. I raised this point of procedure because it seemed odd to my delegation that the voting on the paragraph should be interrupted. However, in the light of the President's explanation, we are prepared to agree to the procedure which he just outlined in order to speed up our work. I do not intend to reply to the representative of Australia, since I do not think that a reply is called for.

Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom): While I have some sympathy with the procedural view put forward by the representative of the Soviet Union, since some of us have co-operated in taking up this discussion at a time to suit him, in order that he may go away for other important work, I wonder whether he would agree -- since there appears to be no point of substance whatever involved and since, as the representative of Australia has said, it is certainly true that paragraph 1 comes logically before paragraph 2 -- that we should, without arguing this any more, proceed to discussion and vote on paragraph 1 and then, as the representative of India has suggested, go on to his amendment to paragraph 2? This will certainly save time and will, I believe, lead to the best results.

Mr. FELD (United States of America): If it is accepted that the Council will proceed to discuss paragraph 1, I should like to state very briefly that we feel that the suggestion made by the representative of India would clarify the situation with regard to the drafting of that paragraph and we would support it.

The PRESIDENT: In that case, I shall put to the Council the amendment which I heard orally from the representative of India to paragraph 1.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I did not move an amendment; I merely asked for a separate vote on the word "no". It was not an amendment, just a request for a separate vote on that one word.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no further discussion, I shall put paragraph 1 of Annex II to the vote separately. The representative of India has asked for a separate vote on the word "no" at the beginning of the second sentence. Does the representative of India propose the deletion of the word "no"? Otherwise I am not quite sure how to put it.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): Why not just first put to the vote the word "no" -- for and against.

The PRESIDENT: It would be simpler if the representative of India proposed an amendment to delete the word "no", but I shall do my best to put it to the Council. Those members who are in favour of the retention of the word "no" will vote "yes".

The word "no" was deleted by 8 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Perhaps because of difficulties of interpretation, or of the rapidity with which the voting was conducted, I heard the President's proposal in the absolutely contrary sense. I had no means of finding out the correct sense of this proposal and I should like it to be placed on record that the representative of the Soviet Union did not take part in the voting. I did not take part in the voting on this word.

The PRESIDENT: I think that the Council has reached a very unsatisfactory position and I appeal to the representative of India to move a clear amendment. I will reconsider the voting if he will do so.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): My request for a separate vote is perfectly in accordance with the rules of procedure.

The PRESIDENT: The representative of India is quite right, but apparently the representative of the Soviet Union did not understand, and I must take account of that.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): That may have been the fault of the interpretation, Sir; it had nothing to do with the nature of my proposal.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I do not insist on a second vote being taken, I only wish it to be noted in the record that the Soviet Union delegation did not take part in the voting. It seemed to me that the vote of the Soviet Union delegation was counted as in favour of the proposal to retain the word, but that was a mistake; the Soviet delegation did not take part in the vote. That is all I have to request.

The PRESIDENT: Does the Soviet Union representative wish to amend his vote?

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to ask the Secretary of the Council whether or not he counted a vote for the Soviet Union delegation.

The PRESIDENT: The Soviet Union representative has been counted as voting for the retention of the word "No". Does the Soviet Union representative wish to amend that vote?

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I request that it should be entered in the record of this meeting that the Soviet Union delegation did not take part in the vote which has just been held. The Secretary made an error in counting my vote. I did not understand what we were voting on, and I was asking to speak in order to seek some clarification. The Secretary counted that as my vote, whereas in fact I did not take part in the vote. In the United Nations we ask to speak by raising our hands, because we do not understand each other's language and therefore cannot make an oral request to speak. That is why I raised my hand in order to ask to speak. The Secretary counted that as a vote. I must say that I am very astonished at that fashion of counting votes.

The PRESIDENT: I am sorry if the Soviet Union representative was confused about the manner of voting. If he wishes, I shall take the vote again. If not, it will be recorded that the Soviet Union representative preferred not to vote.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I do not at all insist that the vote should be taken again. I only request that the misunderstanding about my vote should be eliminated, as it was created, by the Secretary. The Secretary should now state for the record that the Soviet Union representative did not take part in the vote which has just been held.

Mr. SMOLDENEN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I merely wish to state that my delegation really did not take part in the vote. The reasons are well known to the Council, and I need not repeat them.

Paragraph 1 of annex II, as amended, was adopted by 8 votes to 2, with 4 abstentions.

The Indian amendment (T/L.789) to paragraph 2 of annex II was adopted by 8 votes to 2, with 4 abstentions.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet Union delegation proposed an addition to the text of paragraph 2 suggested by the delegation of India. Had that addition been accepted by the Council, the Council's recommendation would have been in conformity with General Assembly resolutions on the question of the attainment by the Trust Territories of self-government or independence. Unfortunately, however, this addition was not accepted by the Council, and the Council's recommendation therefore does not reflect the substance of General Assembly resolutions 558 (VI) and 1064 (XI). For that reason, the Soviet Union delegation was unable to vote for the recommendation and abstained from the vote.

Annex II as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 8 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions.

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAMOA: ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAMOA (T/1330; T/L.781) [Agenda item 4f] (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. T.R. Smith, special representative of Western Samoa under New Zealand administration, took a place at the Council table.

General debate (continued)

Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): In considering conditions in the Trust Territory of Western Samoa under New Zealand administration, my delegation has followed with great interest the implementation of the plans for that Territory's constitutional development. The following

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observations result from our interest in that problem, and we hope that they will be received by the Administering Authority as evidence of our desire to collaborate in the Council's work in a constructive way.

There is no doubt that the plans to which I have just referred are introducing very important changes in the Territory's constitutional regime. With the inauguration on 14 September 1956 of the member system, the Executive Council has passed through one more stage in the process leading to its final transformation into a cabinet presided over by the Prime Minister of Samoa. The fact that the High Commissioner has handed over the administration of the departments of government to those persons elected by the Legislative Assembly who are members of the Executive Council means that these members will have to explain and justify the policies of their own departments to the Assembly. Thus, they will be made responsible for the operation of their departments, just as they would be if they were the heads of ministries.

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Moreover, during the next phase of transformation which is to be initiated next year, according to the information given by the special representative, the official member who acts as a secretary for the Government will be withdrawn from the Council, and the Treasurer and Attorney-General will remain in the Council as long as necessary as official members of the Council itself and of the Legislative Assembly. As of September 1956, when the Samoa Amendment Act 1956 entered into force, the High Commissioner, as Chief of the Executive Branch, was compelled, in accordance with that Act, to act in conformity with the wishes of the Executive Council and upon its advice, except in matters which he considers either of minor importance or too urgent to wait for the intervention of the Council. I make this point because the special representative, during the question period, dispelled our doubts about the use which the High Commissioner may make of the discretionary powers entrusted to him in determining whether or not a matter is either urgent or of little importance, particularly since, in so doing, he will have to report to the Council at its next session, and the Council is always free to take any action which it considers necessary in relation to the decisions which he has taken.

These changes undoubtedly represent a step forward in the institutional machinery of the Government of the Territory. By means of them, not only will the activities of the High Commissioner be limited, but the powers of the Executive Council will be broadened and the control of the Government passed over, in a larger measure, to the hands of the locally elected members of the Assembly, who are also members of the aforesaid Council. To this must be added the fact that this represents an opportunity for the members of the Executive Council to perfect their political training as well as their administrative training, so that they may later effectively discharge their functions in public affairs.

Nevertheless, as a result of such transformations, it becomes necessary to eliminate many questions and matters which are reserved since, as we noted last year, otherwise a contradiction would arise between the law which subjects the powers of the High Commissioner to the will of the Council and those other laws which grant him powers beyond the control of the Council in the many matters which are reserved.

In accordance with the plan for the constitutional development of the Territory, a single Legislature will replace the present Legislative Assembly and

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the Fono of Faipule, and this will be elected in November 1957 on the expiry of the term of office of the Fono of Faipule. The members of the Legislative Council will hold office for three years, so that further elections will have to be held in 1960. The Legislature elected in 1957 will have the same powers as the present Legislative Assembly; in other words, the powers which are set forth in the Samoa Amendment Act 1947, and which in essence are reduced to approval of the annual budget and of Ordinances governing peace, order and the proper government of Western Samoa, as well as the putting of questions, consideration of petitions, enactment of resolutions, and discussion and investigation, through select committees if necessary, of conditions in the Territory.

In our opinion, once the Legislative Council has been set up, its task will be to prepare to take over full legislative powers by 1960. With this in mind, and in view of the fact that the date has not been fixed for the conclusion of a full review of the so-called reserved matters, we consider it appropriate that the Administering Authority should do away with all those reserved matters and enactments between 1957 and 1960 which are not within the competence of the Chief of State or which derive from the special relationship that finally will be set up between Western Samoa and New Zealand. At any rate, more precise information in this connexion would be very useful for a better appraisal of the political future of the Territory.

In accordance with the foregoing observations, it is important to stress the advisability of ensuring that reserved laws are eliminated as soon as possible, so that when 1960 arrives the Legislative Council of Samoa will be able to assume its full legislative powers with no difficulty and will be able to act efficiently in all those matters within its jurisdiction.

In this connexion, it may perhaps be worth while to recall that, in accordance with the Samoa Amendment Act 1949 and the Samoa Reserved Enactments Ordinance 1954, the reserved laws are fairly numerous and constitute an important body of restrictions on the authority of the Legislative Assembly to make laws in the Territory.

In his opening statement, the special representative told us that, in line with the wishes of the Trusteeship Council and the policy of the Administering Authority, steps had been taken to increase the competence of the legislative and executive bodies of Samoa in respect of these reserved matters. Without

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referring to the cases which he cited as included in recently enacted legislation by the Parliament of New Zealand, we shall confine our comments to pointing out the importance of such a measure to the future of the people of Western Samoa inasmuch as, in giving them broader powers, their sense of responsibility in the management of their own affairs becomes even stronger.

In connexion with the setting up of a single Legislature, there arises the much discussed problem of universal suffrage, which has been a matter of concern to this Council on so many occasions. In his opening statement, the special representative told us that the five European members would be elected by all the residents classified as Europeans in the usual way. The fourteen Samoan members will be elected by the Matai in the various districts and, for this purpose, a list has been prepared of the names of all those who bear the title of Matai. Although not failing to recognize the reasons of the Administering Authority for failing to take steps which might lead to the imposition of electoral systems contrary to the wishes expressed by the spokesmen of the people of the Territory, we would take the liberty of viewing the advisability of making use of the elections to be held in the near future, as well as in 1960, for representatives to the Legislative Assembly as a suitable occasion on which to hold a popular referendum in order to dissipate all possible doubts about the form of voting which the people of Samoa would like to adopt, particularly as these people as a whole have not yet spoken out clearly as to whether, upon entering on the exercise of their own self-government, they would wish to express their political mandate through the vote of the Matai or by means of universal suffrage.

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Inasmuch as the special representative told us during the question period that the Administering Authority is not prepared at present to go beyond the recommendation of the Constituent Convention of 1954 and consequently could not agree now as to the value of a referendum or plebiscite, we nevertheless would now take the liberty of stressing this suggestion. We trust that the Administering Authority will continue to pay due attention to this matter. It is superfluous to say that our attitude is based on the practical and political advantages which would derive from constituting the electoral system of two stages, which it is proposed to follow by a system of direct and universal suffrage which is no doubt more in accordance with the principles of a democratic system.

With regard to the judiciary, we regret that its members do not enjoy the full guarantees of independence inasmuch as they are appointed and as they retain their office at the discretion of the Minister of Island Territories and the High Commissioner, depending on their classification or rank. We consider that if this situation were remedied, it would be a valuable contribution to the future consolidation of political and social stability in the Territory.

As regards public servants, the Administering Authority tells us that the problems relating to salaries, conditions of work and so on come under the responsibility of a Public Service Commissioner, an independent man who is assisted by two deputy commissioners. One of these is a Samoan who is appointed by the Governor-General of New Zealand upon the nomination of the Council of State. We are told that the policy of ensuring the freedom of this public service from all interference or political influence is being maintained. We are told that the total number of persons in this service amounts to 1,300 of whom only seventy are officials from abroad. We are told that during the year under review a staff training officer with a number of years of experience in other New Zealand territories was appointed. We are told that appropriate steps were taken to fill vacancies in the service this year, particularly vacancies occurring in branches of labour and agriculture. We are told that the medical staff of the Department of Health has been increased and that two officials of Samoan ancestry have been appointed to head the Department of Radio and the Police Force. These are all undoubtedly important measures, and we consider that the efforts of the Administering Authority to promote the welfare of the indigenous inhabitants should be recognized.

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Nevertheless, we consider that these measures could be put into effect with a greater sense of urgency, particularly as regards the preparation of Samoan staff which one day will have to assume high administrative posts and posts of technical responsibility. It is well known that there is a lack of sufficiently well-trained Samoans to take over higher posts in the Administration, that there is no Samoan who is now pursuing studies in law although there are a number of young people prepared to start such a course of study, as the special representative himself has said. The same comment could be made about the other branches of professional and technical studies. We trust that the Administering Authority will continue to give consideration to the possibility of increasing its training programme in the near future, apart from the efforts that are already under way to meet the needs in the distant future. In respect of this delicate problem we said last year:

"We are convinced that the Administering Authority will continue to provide assistance to the Territory of Western Samoa and that, as in the past, this assistance will include administrative and technical staff, but we are also convinced that there cannot be any possibility of full self-government within the genuine meaning of the term if there is a lack of the local human elements to assume the leading positions in the Administration and its vital departments. The Administering Authority has repeatedly demonstrated that it wishes faithfully to discharge its obligations as a trustee so that Western Samoa may attain full self-government without delay or setbacks. But for this endeavour to be crowned with success it seems to us that renewed consideration should be given to the need of urgently preparing the cadres of administrative and technical staff which are required." (T/PV.729, p. 57)

It is our opinion that these words are still valid today and that the Administering Authority will continue to pay due attention to these comments.

With regard to local political development, it appears that in the traditional institutions, particularly in the towns and villages located in districts far removed from the larger centres, certain projects of collective benefit are being carried out. This fact leads us to think of the advisability of keeping these projects under constant revision and support so that they can be incorporated into a general community development plan.

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We have taken note with satisfaction of the report that the Local Government Board has held debates in various districts as a preliminary step to preparing the formation of a body of public opinion favourable to the formation of regional or district councils, and we have also noted with satisfaction that administrative districts based primarily on the geographical regions of the Territory were set up towards the end of 1956. Although these new districts, in the words of the Administering Authority, only relate to the operations of the Government departments and are primarily designed to co-ordinate Government services such as education, health, agriculture and police in outlying districts, they are also designed to provide the basis for the organization of future District Councils. We share the view of the Administering Authority that the experience gained in the administration of these districts will show the extent to which public opinion is prepared for the creation of regional or district councils, and we believe that the efforts which are being made along these lines deserve recognition. It may be noted that all the changes that we have tried to describe briefly which relate to the political development of the Territory are characterized not only by a greater differential in institutions but also by a wider participation of the Samoans in public affairs. However, we cannot be charged with excessive optimism if we state that within a short period of time these changes must lead the Territory to a state of self-government or independence.

It should be added, moreover, that this opinion is confirmed by the words of the special representative of the Administering Authority who, in his opening statement, told us that although New Zealand is the Administering Authority and is submitting its report as such, constitutional changes have gone forward to such an extent that many aspects of government are already completely in the hands of the inhabitants of the Island and that consequently policy and activities over a broad area in the field of government are already the subject chiefly for local decision and the role of New Zealand is becoming progressively that of a guide and counsellor.

Before leaving the political field, with regard to this problem of the attainment of self-government or independence, our delegation would like to re-state the position that it has maintained unchanged with respect to other Territories. We should like to express our conviction that the Drafting Committee which will be appointed for this Territory will give due consideration to this problem, particularly as it is a question which derives from the application of decisive resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council.

I shall now turn to a few comments on economic advancement. As part of an evolutionary process which may take on greater impetus and vigour in the future, we feel it is appropriate to draw attention to a number of facts the full meaning of which perhaps cannot be understood in the light of our knowledge of the Territory but a body of facts, nevertheless, which produces a favourable impression in so far as they seem to reflect an approach which is beneficial to the inhabitants of the Territory. In the new constitution of the Executive Council we find that two Samoan members participate and that they have specific functions in matters which relate to the economy of the Territory. These two members are the Director of the Department of Agriculture and the Director of the Department of Land. Without attempting to assess the degree of authority with which they discharge their functions, the satisfactory development to which we wish to draw attention is the fact that persons representative of the indigenous inhabitants are already dealing with concrete problems affecting the Territory's economy in fields which affect the life of the great majority of the

inhabitants. This step seems a good start in the inevitable process towards the assumption of full responsibility in these and other branches of government by the Samoans.

The Administering Authority reports that the Executive Council as it was organized in 1956 now has a wider measure of control over public expenditure. This measure would appear to offer a good opportunity to the Samoan members of this council to the extent that this body acts as a joint body to participate in the discussion and examination of financial problems from which they may gain valuable experience which will be very useful to them for the future.

Another meaningful development is the establishment of a company known as the Western Samoa Trust Estates Corporation. The formation of this enterprise is the result of the transfer to the people of Samoa of the ownership of the former enterprise known as New Zealand Reparation Estates which belonged to the Government of New Zealand from the time of the confiscation of the German plantations. On this point the Administering Authority has told us of its proposal to organize the new enterprise as an autonomous body and to appoint for the management of its affairs a board of seven members, three of them to be high Samoan chiefs. One of the Samoan members was appointed President of the Corporation. This Corporation is the principal producer of copra, cocoa, beef and timber. Its annual income is approximately £90,000 and this income has constituted the principal source of capital for the Territory because it has been devoted to economic and social development projects. It therefore cannot be denied that this transfer to the people of Samoa of all the assets of this Corporation is of transcendental importance because these assets now form part of the national patrimony. Funds deriving from the earnings of this enterprise are placed in a special account and a decision of the Legislative Assembly is required for them to be used for the benefit of the inhabitants.

We also note with interest the information given concerning the research on the use of land. We are glad to learn that useful data are now being derived from this research. This is useful for the improvement of agriculture and this research will be supplemented by geological and soil studies.

We also take note of the fact that this research will give special attention to the finding of subterranean sources of sweet water, because if such water were found it would be possible to extend agriculture to the central part of the Island which now cannot be brought under cultivation.

We have made special mention of developments in the economic and political fields because we feel that these developments represent a course of action in which representative members of the local population are called upon to play an increasingly important role. It is also the administration of matters concerning finance and the general question of the economics of the Territory which we feel should be maintained and amplified by the Administering Authority by granting greater responsibility in the management of the business to members who are most qualified amongst the indigenous inhabitants.

We note that the close of the current fiscal year for 1956 in the Territory, apart from Government subsidies and expenditure on economic development, has shown a deficit of £14,000. This fact is not of particular importance inasmuch as the whole of the plantations and other assets of the former New Zealand Reparation Estates have been incorporated into the territorial patrimony and inasmuch as the profits of this enterprise are now in the nature of fiscal income under the control of the Legislative Assembly. It would seem logical that this income should form part of the budget. Nevertheless, this is not the case. For reasons unknown to us, it has been found preferable to maintain the practice of diverting these monies into a special account out of which those projects which it is felt would have the most beneficial influence on the welfare of the people are financed.

It is important to point out the fact that the earnings of this enterprise constitute a factor of equilibrium in the budget, in addition to the fact that they help to finance projects of economic development. This, however, does not mean that the function of direct grants by the Government of New Zealand as the Administering Authority of the Territory has been assigned a secondary role. On the contrary, we consider that these grants will have to be increased if there is a real desire to accelerate the economic and social development of Samoa.

(Mr. Kestler, Guatemala)

In order to give an illustration of this greater need for financial resources we will mention the basic project of building a modern port in Samoa. On the basis of information given by the special representative during the question period, it would appear that the principal obstacle to the building of this port is a financial one. There is a fear of undertaking a project which requires so much capital.

(Mr. Kestler, Guatemala)

If the economy of the Territory requires the development of modern port facilities -- and it is to be assumed that this is the case in view of the close relationship between foreign trade and a good modern port -- a solution to this problem must be found somehow or other. The magnitude of the problem is such that it would not be reasonable to entrust its solution entirely to the Samoans. The Administering Authority has a responsibility in this case to assist the people of Samoa to make the project of building a port a reality.

As regards the question of land, we consider that the recommendation of the Trusteeship Council adopted at its eighteenth session is still valid. We are awaiting with interest information concerning the work that is being carried out by the committee concerned with this problem of land. We know that some results of this work are beginning to come to light, but no details are available which would make it possible to evaluate what these results are, how they will benefit the inhabitants and to what extent they will contribute to the formulation of long-range plans. It would appear that the small farm constitutes a problem which deserves a great deal of attention. The 1956 Visiting Mission set forth the need for regrouping dispersed parcels of land in order to create more efficient production units. All this leads us to the conviction that it is urgent to show in detail the system of land ownership in order to be able to evaluate and appraise the agrarian problems of the Territory.

In 1956 signs were noted of a falling off in the foreign trade of the Territory as a consequence of declines in the values of exports of cocoa, copra and bananas. We cannot but express our concern over these developments inasmuch as these products represent 90 per cent of the value of the exports of the Territory. It is therefore to be assumed that downward movements in prices of these products affect broad sectors of the population and probably also affect fiscal income. As is well known, prices on the international market lie outside the control of the Territories which produce raw materials. Therefore, in the case of Western Samoa, serious thought should be given to the development of other sources of production. It is true that such other sources of production are limited, and the only one that seems to offer good prospects for success is the development of fishing on a commercial scale. In connexion with this question, the FAO representative, in his interesting statement on economic conditions in the Territory, referred to the problem in terms which implied a recognition of the existing possibilities for

encouraging a fishing industry. My delegation expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will do everything in its power to place the exploitation of the fishing resources in such a position that they can become an important source of revenue.

Finally, we should like to express our keen interest in the project to set up a currency unit for Samoa. At this moment, we cannot recall any other Trust Territory proposing to have its own currency or monetary unit in the immediate future, and this fact lends greater importance to the proposal for Samoa. My delegation hopes that favourable results will be obtained in the implementation of this proposal.

Turning to the social field, we note with satisfaction that the Samoa Amendment Act 1956, promulgated in October last, contains new provisions for the control and sale of intoxicating beverages in the Territory. We trust that this legislative action will be supplemented by an attitude of continuing vigilance on the part of the Administering Authority, to the direct benefit of the indigenous inhabitants.

In the field of labour, the Administering Authority tells us that, owing to the peculiar social structure of the Territory, which is characterized by the absence of a working class in the commonly accepted sense of that term, there has been no need to promulgate labour legislation but that it is hoped that some steps in this direction will be taken in 1957. Further, the special representative has told us in his opening statement that at its second session in 1956 the Legislative Assembly appointed a select committee of seven members to consider the provisions of labour legislation recommending the action that should be taken for the conciliation and arbitration of labour disputes and for the fixing of minimum wages and salaries. The special representative added that, in conformity with these recommendations, a wages or salaries council ordinance was prepared and adopted by the Assembly in May last. This ordinance provides for the establishment of councils made up of an equal number of representatives of employees and employers, with the addition of three independent members. As these councils, the duty of which will be to establish wages and salaries and working hours, have not been created, we trust that the Administering Authority will maintain a vigilant attitude to ensure effective representation of the interests of the Samoan workers.

(Mr. Kestler, Guatemala)

In our statement last year we expressed our concern at the position of Samoan medical practitioners, who had expressed their dissatisfaction with various aspects of their work in the Territory. Now the special representative has told us during the question period that these causes of dissatisfaction have disappeared inasmuch as the former Director of the Department of Health has left the Territory at the beginning of this year and that certain adjustments have been made in the conditions affecting these medical practitioners, including an improvement in their salaries for certain positions and including facilities for carrying on studies outside the Territory, particularly in the field of surgery -- so much so that at the present time there is a complete staff of physicians who have good co-operation with the Samoan medical practitioners.

(Mr. Kestler, Guatemala)

These measures are a source of deep satisfaction to my delegation.

Nevertheless, we regret that the proposal to establish a professional college in Samoa under the jurisdiction of the Director of the Department of Health and with representatives of Samoan medical practitioners, so that they might engage in certain consultative and study courses, has been abandoned. We trust that the Administering Authority will keep the project in mind, particularly as it would give these practitioners an opportunity to participate directly in the progress of matters which are of direct concern to them.

Moreover, the Administering Authority tells us that the administration of public health has improved. Two courses in environmental sanitation have been set up with the assistance of WHO, and Samoan medical practitioners are now pursuing courses outside of the Territory. One of these Samoan practitioners is following a course of six months' study in public health in Otago University in New Zealand, and the other is pursuing a shorter course given by the South Pacific Commission in New Caledonia on health education. In addition, a Samoan nurse has just completed a course of instruction in dietetics in Fiji, and another nurse is pursuing a course of study on health education given by the South Pacific Commission.

No one can deny the importance of these steps. Nevertheless, they should be considered as minimal measures in view of the urgent needs of the Territory. We therefore trust that the Administering Authority will intensify these efforts, providing greater facilities for complete studies in medicine to Samoans, so that later they can hold posts of responsibility in the Territory.

We have noted with satisfaction that most of the work in the anti-yaws campaign conducted under the auspices of WHO and UNICEF has met with success; that the first new examination, covering 91,394 persons, was completed in April of this year; and that the next project to be carried out by the Department of Health is a large-scale campaign against tuberculosis. We also note that the assistance of WHO has been requested for this project in 1959.

It should be noted nevertheless that the efforts of the Administering Authority in the matter of providing beds in hospitals and dispensaries, and in the matter of furnishing equipment, utensils and medicines in the health stations and clinics of the various districts and towns, fall far short of the needs of the Territory.

(Mr. Kestler, Guatemala)

The policy in education followed by the Administering Authority seems to us in principle to be appropriate in view of the particular conditions obtaining in the Territory. Moreover, we note with satisfaction that Samoans are participating in the formulation of this policy through the posts that they occupy in the Department of Education. We regret that primary education is not compulsory and completely free throughout the Territory. The payments which, as a result of a decision taken by the local populations, are used for defraying the costs of some features of the schools cannot perhaps be considered as a measure which will stimulate attendance by very poor children, such as the children of the local populations, at centres of learning. We trust that the new Education Act which is to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly in the near future will introduce a system of compulsory primary education and will create sufficient incentives so that all sectors of the population will have the benefit of education.

We also regret that so far the Territory does not have schools which provide a complete course of secondary education suitable for direct entry by students to centres of higher education such as universities. Although the Administering Authority has told us of the existence of a system of fellowships which facilitates study by Samoan students in secondary schools in New Zealand, the satisfaction of the future needs of the population requires the creation of centres of this type to be set up in a permanent fashion within the Territory itself. We therefore trust that the plans to ensure that Samoan students may complete their courses of study in the Samoa College will continue to be the subject of decisive action on the part of the Administering Authority.

In the field of vocational education, the Administering Authority has reported the existence of two training schools at a semi-primary level, one school for the training of teachers and the other for the training of nurses. We are also told that plans are being developed to enlarge the Avele agricultural school in order to raise it to the status of a regional college for agriculture, which would serve not only Samoa but also the Cook and Tokelau islands, and possibly Tonga and American Samoa. We are told that classes are being given in general engineering, in motors, in plumbing and in carpentry. Finally, we are told that two vocational schools at the secondary level are directed by the missions: one is the commercial school for girls, which provides instruction

(Mr. Kestler, Guatemala)

in shorthand, typing and commercial practice, and the other is a small school in agriculture for boys who have graduated from the primary school of the mission.

All of these efforts, in our opinion, deserve our commendation and deserve to be recognized. We are convinced that the Administering Authority will maintain its interest in raising education to this level, which is of such benefit to the population.

There is still no higher education institution in the Territory. The Suva Medical School in Fiji seems to be the nearest institution of this type to Western Samoa, and the Administering Authority tells us that fellowships are given to the most highly qualified students, both from Government schools and the mission schools, in order to provide them with medical training.

Elsewhere in this statement, we have drawn attention to the urgent necessity for extending these fellowship programmes to other sectors of university training. In order not to repeat what we have already said, we will merely state that we hope that the Administering Authority, recognizing the importance of training Samoans for posts of responsibility, will give due consideration to these questions.

(Mr. Kestler, Guatemala)

It appears that there is little illiteracy in the Territory and moreover the Administering Authority has told us that adult education courses are being given in Apia. We should, however, like to draw attention to the necessity of intensifying these adult education courses, particularly with a view to achieving the progressive adaptation of the members of the community to a modern system of democratic life. Finally, we should recognize the efforts that have been made by the Administering Authority in the field of research. There is no doubt that the studies undertaken of the soil, geological and medical problems of the Territory are very beneficial for the people, although we regret that as of now no consideration has been given to a direct programme of action for the development of popular arts and culture through the establishment of institutions suitable for this purpose.

Before concluding these comments I should like to record our satisfaction at the way in which the special representative and the representative of New Zealand have helped to dispel the doubts and answer the questions which have been put to them by amplifying the information, which in itself was fairly complete, contained in the annual report on the activities carried on in the Territory during the year under review.

U PAW HTIN (Burma): The report of the Administering Authority for the year 1956 and the subsequent statement and replies given by the special representative during the question period have impressed my delegation with the fact that the year under review has indeed witnessed significant progress in the constitutional development of the Territory. The gradual transfer of powers to the Samoan people by the New Zealand authorities, we observe, is progressing harmoniously and effectively. The progress made, and the pace of the advancement brought about, should be maintained in order that the object of self-government may be achieved for the people of Samoa within the proposed time fixed by the Administering Authority. We hope that by 1960 the object of the Trusteeship Agreement will be finally achieved.

During the year 1956 the devolution of powers upon the Executive Council has been considerable, and the unofficial members of that Council have now authority to administer their departments and have been made responsible for them. The

(U Paw Htin, Burma)

executive power, which had previously resided with the High Commissioner, is now gradually being transferred in stages to the members of the Executive Council. The Samoan Amendment Act of 1956 has now reduced the power of independent action of the High Commissioner and has increased the powers of the Executive Council accordingly.

The introduction of the member system is therefore a happy phase in the transition towards the eventual establishment of the ministerial system of government in the Territory. So far as the legislature is concerned, we are glad to note the major changes scheduled to take place after the general election, which it is planned to hold in November of this year. The Legislative Assembly will thereby enjoy a larger competence as a result of a considerable reduction in the scope of reserved subjects and enactments which previously had limited its authority. What is more important to us is that such constitutional changes have been brought about with the consent of the Samoans and on the basis of consultation with them.

The general election which will take place this year will, it seems, be held on a restricted franchise based on the Matai system, despite the fact that in about 1960 the Territory will gain the status of self-government. No doubt it is understandable that the present members of the Legislative Assembly are against the idea of a democratic system of franchise but it is to be hoped that in future tradition and custom will give way to modern and democratic methods of voting. If Western Samoa is to be developed into a democratic state, future electoral legislation should therefore provide for an extension of the franchise. It is hoped that with the development of the political consciousness of the Samoan people the principle of universal adult suffrage will be applied when the people eventually go to the polls in 1960.

With regard to the issue of common domestic status for the people of Western Samoa, it appears to us that the Select Committee has not been able to proceed any further with the problem and no permanent solution seems to be in sight. It has, however, recommended that the question be deferred for consideration by the new Legislative Assembly. This question is indeed a complicated one since it involves many problems relating to titles and land ownership under legal rights. However, a solution should be found before the Territory achieves self-government or independence.

The training of Samoans for responsible positions in the public service during the period of transition to self-government is of urgent importance. While commending the Administering Authority for the present programme and for its organization of training courses for public service personnel, there is still a need for expansion of the Samoan Civil Service.

I now come to my observations in the economic field. The economy of Western Samoa has often been described as primarily a subsistence economy of abundance, with its exports confined entirely to agricultural products such as cocoa, copra and bananas, of which the first two are subject to severe price fluctuations. The output of copra has increased slightly during 1956 but the output of cocoa and bananas has fallen considerably. Coffee is now being grown as an alternative to cocoa, but apart from this no other possibilities of diversifying exports are readily apparent.

Land, it seems, is somewhat limited and primarily patterned according to the customary system of land tenure. A recent soil survey has disclosed that the soil of the Territory is not as fertile as it was previously thought to be, and it seems that most of the better soil is under cultivation. Moreover, it appears that the extension of agriculture inland is restricted by lack of adequate water supplies. The increasing population of Western Samoa and its pressure on land have indeed posed a problem. The special representative has actually observed that "the main problem, therefore, was the development of the country and of its production to make them adequate for the increasing population."

Bearing in mind that in a few years the Territory will be self-governing, it seems that far-sighted economic planning, development of better resources and better husbanding of all resources are necessary. For that matter, the Administration is no doubt taking the initiative and planning the development of the Territory for the future. However, such responsibility should also be increasingly shared by the Samoans, and more opportunity should therefore be given to them for the direction and planning of their own economy. It is hoped that the recent aerial survey and the preparation of a land use map will enable the land development and land use committees to formulate new plans and policies.

We are also glad to note that an extensive survey of soil and soil types has been carried out, and it is our hope that with the use of proper fertilizer and growing tests the agricultural productivity of fertile land will increase tremendously.

It is also encouraging to note that the Department of Agriculture now has a staff of trained specialists and has started on a programme of demonstration, inspection, crop improvement and pest control. We hope that agriculture can be expanded as a result of an extensive study of the geological structure of the islands with the object of obtaining possible underground stream flows and of bringing water to the surface in useful quantities. We shall be glad if the report of the two geologists can be made available at the next session.

It is indeed gratifying to note that the newly established Western Samoa Trust Estates Corporation has taken over the assets and undertakings of the New Zealand Reparation Estates. We hope that the new corporation will be successful in showing more profits which can be applied increasingly to the economic and social advancement of the Territory.

It appears to my delegation that the Territory lacks a properly balanced programme of careful investment and savings. Local financial institutions, as pointed out by the special representative, have not yet been able to secure sufficient investments. It is hoped that the three-man financial survey team which was appointed to examine that aspect of the economy will find it possible to recommend that the Administration establish a Samoan bank. This is indeed essential for the development of the Territory's economic resources. It is hoped that a final decision in the matter will be taken without delay.

An increase in the number of co-operatives and, especially, the introduction of a plantation co-operative are essential to the long-term agricultural development programme. In this respect the Administering Authority should be commended. Fishing is truly essential to an island population. The Administering Authority should therefore explore the possibility of establishing a fishing industry, which would be invaluable to the Samoans not only as an additional food source, but also, on a large commercial scale, for export purposes.

The Administering Authority's efforts in the social and cultural fields are encouraging. My delegation welcomes the introduction of the Wage Councils Ordinance, which would provide for the setting up of a wage scale. But we hope that these councils will be established without delay.

There has seemed to be a considerable improvement in the Territory's health and medical position since last year. The conditions affecting the administration of public health in the Territory have improved, and there is now a full staff of qualified medical officers. I should like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the World Health Organization for the assistance provided through training courses in environmental sanitation. We should also like to extend our appreciation to UNICEF for its campaign against yaws. We hope that these organizations will continue to provide the necessary assistance to the people of Western Samoa.

As Western Samoa approaches self-government, the Territory's educational system acquires special significance. In this field perhaps the most significant feature is the new educational law which has been drafted for the Legislative Assembly and which would provide free, compulsory primary education. However, there should be no delay in the adoption of such a measure, in order that the level of primary education in districts and villages may encourage students to take up secondary schooling. As regards secondary education, it appears to my delegation that there are still no secondary schools in the Territory offering a complete secondary school education, adequate to train students for higher institutions of learning at the university level. If the Administration accepts the responsibility of providing schooling for the Samoans, it is only natural that it should also provide higher educational facilities for the Samoan students, not only in New Zealand but in their own Territory. If the Samoans are to be prepared for self-government in about three years' time, special attention should be given to the expansion of secondary education and the vision of higher educational institutions.

Before I conclude, I should like to thank the representative of New Zealand and the special representative for their kind replies to my questions and for the information which they have given me and which has enabled me to make a thorough evaluation of the conditions in this Trust Territory.

Mr. CHACKO (India): Before I proceed to make my brief statement on the administration of the Trust Territory of Western Samoa I should like to make a few remarks on a matter raised this morning by the representative of Australia.

(Mr. Chacko, India)

Although I do not have before me the text of the Australian representative's statement to which I am referring, the substance, as I understood it, was that because some members of the Trusteeship Council were not permanent members they sometimes regretfully had to approve decisions taken before their periods of membership. I do not wish to enter into a discussion of the matter, but I would say for the record that my delegation is in total disagreement with the implications contained in that statement. The Trusteeship Council is constituted in terms of the Charter of the United Nations, and its decisions are taken in accordance with the provisions thereof. So far as my delegation is concerned, we take decisions on the basis of what we believe to be the right course, and not on the basis of the considerations advanced by the representative of Australia.

I turn now to a consideration of the Administration of the Trust Territory of Western Samoa.

The delegation of India has on previous occasions welcomed the Administering Authority's constitutional plans for promoting the development of the Trust Territory of Western Samoa towards the goal envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations, and the orderly manner in which those plans were being implemented in consultation with the people of Samoa.

We are happy to note that during the year under review another important step has been taken in the development of the Territory's political institutions with the coming into force of the Samoa Amendment Act of 1956, by which the Executive Council has been reconstituted and made "the principal instrument of policy of the High Commissioner in his administration of the executive government of Western Samoa". The new Executive Council consists of the High Commissioner, the two Fautua, three official members, and four Samoans and two European elected members of the Legislative Assembly. All except the High Commissioner and the two Fautua are made responsible for the administration of one or more departments placed under their charge. The four Samoan members have been allotted the portfolios of agriculture, lands, education and health. In addition, one of them is an associate member with the Secretary to the Government. Although this associate membership does not mean any sharing of responsibility with the Secretary, we welcome this arrangement because of the opportunity it affords to

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the Samoan member to acquaint himself with the problems connected with the departments under the charge of the Secretary. We should like to suggest that this arrangement be extended in regard to the work of the Financial Secretary, also.

Another important development during the year under review was the transfer of the New Zealand Reparation Estates to Samoan control, and we should like to congratulate the Administering Authority for this action. The administration of the Estates is now vested in the Western Samoa Trust Estates Corporation. The Corporation has a directorate of seven: the High Commissioner, three Samoan High Chiefs, two local planters of European status and the European General Manager of the Estates. My delegation was gratified to hear from the special representative that the directors were appointed in consultation with the Executive Council, and that the General Manager is appointed by the Public Service Commissioner of Samoa and is removable by the Commissioner.

The profits of the Estates, which, according to the special representative, will be roughly of the order of eighty to ninety thousand pounds, will be paid into a special fund to be used for the welfare and the economic and social benefit of the inhabitants of Western Samoa.

(Mr. Chacko, India)

We have noted that arrangements are being made for election to the new Legislative Assembly to be held in November of this year and that the new Assembly is instructed to meet in December. With the establishment of the new Assembly, which would replace the present Assembly and the Fono of Faipule, another important step in the Territory's march towards the ultimate goal will have been taken.

Some concern has been expressed in this Council regarding the limited nature of the franchise. At present only Matai or family heads are eligible to vote and to be elected to the Legislative Assembly. The 1956 Visiting Mission examined this matter carefully and its comments thereon are contained in paragraph 31 of its report. My delegation has given serious consideration to this issue and, while hoping that the Samoans themselves will in due course accept universal adult suffrage, we would not like to suggest that any arrangement should be imposed on them against their wishes. We would, therefore, once again endorse the conclusions arrived at in this regard by the Trusteeship Council at its eighteenth session.

We have taken note that a citizenship law will be enacted soon. We should like to express the hope that the question of domestic status would also be resolved soon to the satisfaction of all concerned.

With regard to Public Service, we see in the annual report that the heads of seven Departments or sub-Departments are locally born officers. We have also noted that, during the year under review, a staff training officer has been appointed in the Territory for providing training to the Samoans. However, while the Territory is expected to have a cabinet system of government by 1960, the majority of the responsible positions in the Public Service of the Territory still continue to be held by seconded officers. It is, therefore, necessary that there should be a planned programme of training Samoans for taking up positions which are at present filled by seconded officers. It may be useful in this regard to examine the cases of Samoans who are now in the employ of the Administration to see if any one of them, with some further training, could be entrusted with higher responsibilities, as well as the record of all students who are now undergoing higher education. In this way, it might be possible to have some idea of the time it will take for most, if not all, of the senior positions to be filled by the Samoans themselves.

(Mr. Chacko, India)

Coming to economic matters, we note that the budget of the Territory continues to show a deficit and that the cash surplus which stood at £781,000 in 1951 has now been reduced to £443,000. We trust that the Administration will continue to look for ways and means of reversing this trend.

It is a matter for satisfaction that the number of registered co-operative societies has increased from seven to twenty-nine during the last year and a half, and we welcome the statement of the special representative that negotiations are going on for the formation of a plantation co-operative in Savri. The establishment of a plantation co-operative is of special interest since, according to the special representative, it is expected to overcome certain land tenure difficulties in the way of plantation development. We have also taken note of the further expansion in communication facilities, particularly in the construction of roads.

The three major cash producing items in the Territory are copra, cocoa and bananas. While the output of copra increased in 1956, the output of cocoa and bananas has fallen. Considerable losses occur as a result of insect pests and diseases. According to the annual report, the loss in the case of bananas is as high as 25 per cent, and for copra and cocoa, 20 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. Although the capacity of the Department of Agriculture to combat these pests and diseases has been increased and several measures have already been taken in that direction, intensive efforts are needed to eradicate them. The production of rubber, a new cash crop, has considerably increased, and we note that possibilities exist for still further increase.

While we fully recognize the efforts of the Administering Authority in improving the economic conditions of the Territory, we cannot but express some concern at the lack of an over-all long-term development plan for the Territory based on its needs as a self-governing unit, which it will be in the near future, and the needs of a growing population. Such long-term planning should take into account all the potential resources of the Territory as well as all avenues of obtaining necessary financial and technical resources. Some of the ground work for preparing such a plan has already been done by the Administration. However, the initiative for evaluating the results of the various surveys so far carried out, to analyse the possibilities of development and to evaluate the immediate and long-term needs of the Territory cannot be left

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to the Samoans, who are not equipped for it. Neither can this work be postponed. My delegation would, therefore, venture to suggest the establishment of a special committee for planning and development. The members of such a committee might include some of the present members of the Executive Council, some of the heads of Departments and one or two experts from New Zealand. One of those experts could act as secretary to this committee. It may be asked whether the Samoans would be able to provide the necessary finance to implement any such plan. My delegation would suggest that, first of all, the profits from the Trust Estates should be earmarked for meeting part of the costs of any development plan. Secondly, efforts should be made to find necessary finances from other sources by way of grants or loans. In this connexion, the Administering Authority would no doubt consider the possibilities of obtaining assistance from the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration, as well as from the specialized agencies.

Samoans who are disposed to invest in developmental projects of their own should be encouraged to do so. To such persons it will be necessary to give financial assistance by way of loans and technical advice. My delegation was glad to hear from the special representative that the three-man financial survey team which recently visited the Territory, and whose report is expected soon, has already taken this matter into consideration. The Administration has already approved in principle the establishment of a separate Samoan currency. This proposal and the proposal for the provision of banking facilities in Samoa will we hope, be implemented when the survey team's report is taken up for implementation.

My delegation does not wish to offer any detailed comments in regard to social and educational matters. We are happy to note that the Medical Department has been strengthened and that the grievances of the Samoan medical practitioners, which were brought to the attention of the 1956 Visiting Mission, have been looked into and, for the most part, have been satisfactorily resolved. We have no doubt that the Administration will look into the provision of necessary equipment and medicines and hospitals in the various areas where such equipment and medicines are lacking.

With regard to higher education, my delegation notes that the Samoan College still does not provide complete pre-university education. We believe that it would

be possible and necessary to provide such education in Samoa itself, and we are inclined to disagree with the view that it would be better for every Samoan student to spend one or two years outside the Territory before he can enter a university. Our own experience does not support this view. My delegation would express the hope that the Samoan College will soon be provided with the required standard of education.

Before concluding, I should like to congratulate the Administering Authority for the progress so far achieved in the development of Western Samoa towards its ultimate goal and, in particular, for the manner in which this has been carried out in progressive stages, in consultation with the people of Samoa and in accordance with a time-table laid down by the Administering Authority itself. I should also like to congratulate the Samoans for their own efforts and for their active co-operation with the Administering Authority.

I wish also to thank the representative of New Zealand and the special representative for their assistance in our consideration of this annual report.

Mr. MUFTI (Syria) (interpretation from French): Examination of conditions in Western Samoa, according to the information which the Administering Authority has been good enough to present to the Council, allows us to draw the following conclusions.

In the political field, the measures which have been taken and which are to be taken by the Administering Authority, inspired by the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory, are of such a nature as to contribute to the development of the political institutions of this Territory according to democratic conceptions.

(Mr. Mufti, Syria)

It is thus that the elections are planned by the Administering Authority for November of this year to replace the present Legislative Assembly and the Fono of Taipule by a single chamber of forty-eight members, of which five members are Europeans elected by European residents, forty-one Samoan members elected by the natai and two official members, namely, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance whose portfolios are presently in the hands of New Zealand citizens.

Moreover, the modifications introduced by the Administering Authority to the provisions relative to reserved questions and to restrictions concerning certain legislative acts will permit the Assembly of the Territory from now on to take decisions in two very important matters, namely, the local defence force and the question of land not belonging to the Crown. The Assembly will certainly enjoy, because of this fact, relatively more extended legislative powers.

On the other hand, the enlarging of the Executive Council by the addition of two elected members and the new responsibility given to the elected members of this Council in the direction of the affairs of their respective ministerial departments will transform this council into a body which one day will play the role of a cabinet in the parliamentary regime of self-government which is planned for the Territory in 1960.

Moreover, the obligation by which the High Commissioner has to act in conformity with the opinion of the Executive Council every time that such a consultation is provided for by law obviously contributes to reducing the scope of independent action by the High Commissioner and, by the same token, to enlarging the powers of the Executive Council. These different measures, however, do not exhaust the political reforms that the Administering Authority could introduce in the future in the Trust Territory.

We must recognize that these different measures which have been taken or planned only constitute temporary arrangements which pay homage to this Administering Authority. Thus we have good reason to hope that these transition measures will be followed in a little while by other more radical measures to remedy the defects which have been pointed out and which the Administering Authority itself has noted in the present political structure of the Territory. These faults have been pointed out during previous sessions of the Trusteeship Council

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and have also been repeated at the present session. Furthermore, they have also been the subject of consultations between the Administering Authority and the local authorities. Therefore, we shall content ourselves with pointing out the most important of these so that they shall not be relegated to the background or submerged in the deluge of partial measures of lesser importance prescribed in this field.

We shall try at the same time to draw the attention of the Administering Authority to some suggestions which might be rapidly achieved and which might, we think, contribute to the improvement of the political situation in the Territory under review.

First of all, concerning the electoral regime in the Territory, we consider that the right to vote must be liberalized in such a manner as to permit the progressive transition of the traditional Samoan system at present in force to modern democratic methods and the substitution of the present limited suffrage by universal suffrage of adults for all other territories. Such a transition would be facilitated by legal provisions which would permit the granting of the right to vote to other Samoan persons in all the circscriptions where the majority of the inhabitants would claim it. The fact of attacking the system of the matai would thus allow this system to pass to a system of direct elections by which the Samoans could elect their representatives to the Legislative Assembly.

As regards this Assembly, we think that the elected members of the Legislative Assembly should not be appointed in the future by the High Commissioner. The Legislative Assembly should be able to elect its president and also to form its own committees and commissions. It should not have among its members officials of the Administration. It should be empowered to take, at a stage which would be fixed at the present time, constitutional decisions. Obviously this Assembly would not be given such constitutional powers before it had received, on the basis of reforms to the electoral system, a truly representative character.

Concerning the powers of the Executive Council, we consider that the power of decision reserved to the High Commissioner in connexion with important or urgent questions seriously limits the powers of the Council. Such a discretionary power as regards a decision should, in our opinion, be limited either by the

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establishment of a limited list of questions which cannot be considered as important or, inversely, by establishing a list of important questions on which the High Commissioner would not be empowered to take an independent decision.

As to the question of urgency, a strict criterion should be established, and the decisions taken in cases of urgency should be possible where revisions of such cases of urgency and such important questions are concerned.

We also think that the powers which the Secretary to the Government is endowed with -- and this person is really a Minister -- should be limited. We consider that the Ministerial portfolios at present in the hands of New Zealand officials should gradually be given to Samoans enjoying the confidence of the Legislative Assembly and who are called on to exercise the powers of a Minister in the cabinet in a parliamentary form of government.

We also would wish that the Administering Authority would continue its efforts to resolve the difficulties which exist at the present time in connexion with the functions of the Chief of State. We continue to believe that such efforts should demonstrate to the Samoans the inconvenience of a solution carried out by two or more persons. Furthermore, we think that the suppression of the Council of State, which at present consists of the High Commissioner and of the two Fautua, and which has the power to take over certain questions from the competency of the Executive Council, would contribute to the elimination of the confusion which seems to reign at the present time in the distribution of competency between the various organs of government.

Concerning the status of the inhabitants of the Territory, we hope that the Committee of Samoan Status will continue to explore the possibilities of introducing a common citizenship, a unique status for all the inhabitants of the Territory without distinction as to race, blood or descentance. Such a common status would endow all the inhabitants with the same rights and would impose on them the same obligations. We are confident of the ability of the Administering Authority in this field, a field which is complex and important at the same time, a field which demands enlightened, sincere and sustained efforts on the part of those who are confronted daily with the problems of the Territory.

(Mr. Mufti, Syria)

We should not wish to conclude the examination of the political situation in the Territory without stressing that the important partial reforms introduced or planned by the Administering Authority should make possible the fixing of a time-limit for self-government or independence in conformity with the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Trusteeship Council concerning this question of vital importance. The fixing of such a time-limit, in our opinion, does not run counter to the recommendation of the Trusteeship Council which foresees the fixing of intermediate stages, but it confirms, happily, this recommendation and contributes to its aims as it stresses the essential goals of the Trusteeship System.

(Mr. Mufti, Syria)

In the judicial field, we do not have the impression that the separation of the judicial from the executive power is satisfactory. We continue to think that the power of nomination and revocation being in the hands of the High Commissioner -- especially as this concerns decisions of the Supreme Court -- does not give judges sufficient independence in the exercise of their functions.

In the field of administration, the responsible executive posts are still occupied by New Zealanders. We think that there still exists in the Territory a programme for the preparation of Samoan officials and civil servants who could gradually relieve New Zealanders in these posts. Such a programme, in our view, is very important and it should aid the Samoan Government to establish the aims that should be attained in this important question. Such a programme would concern the future of the functions of public servants and the conditions of nominations of high officials. This might lead to the creation of a committee on public service where the parties concerned would be adequately represented.

In the economic field, we are favourably impressed by the formation of a corporation to replace the New Zealand Reparation Estates and the creation of a special fund which will regulate the finances. We think that the representation of Samoan in this corporation is not sufficient and should be enlarged. One could not say, from the participation of the indigenous inhabitants in that corporation at the present time that the New Zealand Reparation Estates has been given to the local authorities fully. We therefore consider that the Samoan authorities should have sufficient power to decide as to the employment of the funds thus received. This might be done by enlarging the power given to the Executive Council and the Legislative Assembly concerning the utilization of these funds.

In addition, the interest of the Administering Authority in the industrialization of the Territory does not seem to be sufficient. This interest is shown by what is stated in the annual report, but further information in the annual report would allow us to get a clearer picture of this important question and would help in the realization of a serious programme of industrialization.

(Mr. Mufti, Syria)

In the fields of education and health, we have not many observations to add to those which have already been expressed by members of the Council. We would like to stress, however, that the measures taken by the Administering Authority, in consultation with the local authority, in the field of labour should be more radical. Labour legislation, if it were sufficiently worked out, would fill out the laws which at present exist and elaborate them. The carrying out of these laws should be insured by the appointment of suitable inspectors.

In the field of health, an active campaign for implementing the fight against tuberculosis seems to us to be extremely urgent. The existence of such a large number of cases of tuberculosis in this Territory indicates a protein deficiency. This deficiency might be combatted by the development of a food industry and a programme of food education. A plan of distribution of powdered milk would include the schools in this work of developing a programme. The appointment of local medical personnel which has already been undertaken by the Administration does not seem to us to be sufficient. We feel that efforts should be doubled in this respect, both to ensure the rapid formation of this kind of personnel and also to obtain the necessary sanitary equipment.

We think that exploitation of the Territory and the Reparation Estates will help to correct the lack of funds which exists in the Territory at the present time for this purpose.

In the domain of education, the principle of free and compulsory education should be universally recognized and applied. Schools for secondary education should be increased so that scholars who have finished their primary education could attend secondary schools.

These are the remarks we wish to make today in the limited time at the disposal of the Council, which does not allow enough time for the examination of the situation in the Territory for us to elaborate in more detail.

Before concluding, we would like to thank the Administering Authority for the efforts it has made for the progress of the Territory towards independence or self-government and to its distinguished special representative for the clarity and precision with which he has replied to our questions. We cannot

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remain silent on the excellent contributions made by the representatives of the specialized agencies during our discussions.

The PRESIDENT: The Council will hold one meeting on Monday at 2.30, when it is proposed that we shall hear the closing statement on behalf of the Administering Authority of Western Samoa.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.