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Twenty-second Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHT HUNDRED AND NINETY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 12 June 1958, at 2.30 p.m.

President:

Mr. CLAEYS BOUJAERT (Vice-President)

(Belgium)

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Nauru: annual
report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1957

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Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record,
will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol
T/SP.892 and will be subject to representatives' corrections.
It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

AGENDA ITEM 3c

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF NAURU: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1957 (T/1374, 1379; T/L.849)
(continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Jones, Special Representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Nauru, took a place at the Council table.

Investment
(sum)
Mr. JONES (Special Representative): There is one question to which I did not complete a reply, a question put by the representative of the Soviet Union. He asked what interest rate is being paid on the monies held in the Nauru Community Long-Term Investment Fund. I regret that I do not have the precise information, but it will be seen from Table F on page 61 of the annual report that the interest for the year under review on this particular Fund was £7,675. The "Royalties received during 1956-57", the second item in that particular Table, was £28,957. However, the amount of interest earned on that sum for the year would be a very, very small percentage of the total. We can therefore say that almost the entire interest which has accrued during the year was on the sum of £175,000, which was the "Balance at 30th June, 1956". This would indicate that the interest payable on that Fund is about $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. I think that is correct because that is about the usual bank rate which is paid on Government loans. I think we can say that it is approximately $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): In our statement made last year, we expressed regret that the Council did not have the necessary information concerning the internal functioning and activities of the British Phosphate Commissioners. We expressed this regret because that is the only industrial activity of the Territory and it is a rather large enterprise.

We note from appendix XIII, page 67 of the annual report before us, that the information supplied consists merely of a balance sheet. Are there any insurmountable technical difficulties which prevent the Administering Authority from supplying this information?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): The information given in appendix XIII, plus the information given in other parts of the report, appendix VII, tables C and D, show the exports and value of phosphate for the last five years.

Appendix XIII, which is the balance sheet, includes other than Nauruan phosphate; it includes phosphate from Ocean Island and some phosphate from Christmas Island.

The Administering Authority considers that the information contained in this report generally, and in the balance sheet of the British Phosphate Commissioners, is quite adequate to enable the Trusteeship Council to decide whether or not the Administering Authority is carrying out its obligations and responsibilities to the Nauruan people. We fail to see how any additional information would assist this Council in assessing whether or not the Administering Authority was carrying out its responsibilities. On many previous occasions the Council has been told of the difficulties that would have to be overcome to supply a separate account for the phosphate extracted in Nauru. It has been pointed out that the British Phosphate Commissioners are also responsible for the phosphate industry in Ocean Island and Christmas Island. They have their own vessels and also charter quite a number of vessels which carry phosphate from all these various places. Very often the stores which are carried in the vessels are not only those for Nauru. They carry stores for Nauru and Ocean Island. Half the phosphate in a shipload might come from Ocean Island and the other half might come from Nauru. It would be very, very difficult to make that change. It would mean the complete reorganization of the bookkeeping and accounting methods of the British Phosphate Commissioners.

*B. PhC.
Separate
Account*

(Mr. Jones, Special representative)

As I have said before, the Administering Authority has given considerable thought to this matter. There have been three or four resolutions on this subject, which have been replied to after due thought by the Administering Authority.

I have pointed out to this Council, as the special representative of the Administering Authority, that if the Council can show quite clearly that by providing separate accounts the Council would be assisted in assessing whether or not the Administering Authority is satisfactorily carrying out its functions or that it would in any way benefit the Nauruan people, then perhaps the matter could be re-examined.

I should like to state in this connexion that the price of phosphate does not in any way influence the amount of royalties or other benefits which are made available to the Nauruan community.

Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to ask the special representative how it is possible for this Council to follow the way in which the internal activities of the phosphate enterprise are conducted. How can we judge the ability of the Nauruans to assume important posts in the phosphate enterprise? How can we acquire any knowledge of the internal operations of the enterprise, the functions of its employees and so forth? How can we determine whether the Nauruans are actually being trained to take over posts in the enterprise?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): That appears more like a statement than a question. I do want to assist the representative of Guatemala, but I am not exactly sure of what information he is seeking. Does his question still relate to appendix XIII and the information provided in regard to the internal operation of the British Phosphate Commissioners, or is this now a completely new question in connexion with whether or not there is sufficient information in the report to assess the employment conditions of the Nauruans who are working for the British Phosphate Commissioners and other related matters?

Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I know that I have asked a rather broad question, but I believe that it has a very clear meaning.

What we wish to have is some information about the internal functioning of this enterprise. On many occasions, the Trusteeship Council has sought information on the participation of Nauruans in the phosphate enterprise, and the same reply has always been given -- namely, that the Nauruans are not sufficiently developed, do not have sufficient training, and so forth, to participate to any degree in the enterprise. For that reason, I think that it would be useful to have some information on the way in which the phosphate enterprise functions, on its structure, and so on. How can we obtain such information?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): I think that I now follow the question contained in the statement of the representative of Guatemala. I am still somewhat at a loss, however, to know why he considers it necessary to have information on the internal functioning of a business concern in order to ascertain whether or not that concern is capable of employing Nauruans; the representative may also be asking why Nauruans are not employed by the British Phosphate Commissioners in executive capacities.

The report now before the Trusteeship Council contains a chapter on labour. Reference is made in that chapter to the recruitment of workers by the British Phosphate Commissioners. The conditions of employment are set out. Mention is made of the training of workers, particularly by the British Phosphate Commissioners; of the provision of apprenticeship training by the Phosphate Commissioners; and of the number of persons employed by that enterprise. I think that the report makes clear the positions occupied by Nauruans both in the Administration and with the British Phosphate Commissioners.

It is not usual for a special representative to be asked for information concerning the internal functioning of any particular business firm or industry in a Trust Territory. It happens that the phosphate industry is the only one in Nauru. I would suggest, however, that one might as well ask for information on the internal functioning of the Nauru Co-operative Society, in order to ascertain whether or not that Society is employing a sufficient number of Nauruans. I really do not see the basis of the question.

(Mr. Jones, Special Representative)

I do wish to help the representative of Guatemala. I would, however, point out that in replies I have already given to questions on educational advancement and in my opening statement I have made it quite clear that we are now training Nauruans and giving them every possible opportunity to qualify for skilled positions -- and even for professional posts, if they are capable of holding them. I have given the assurance that every Nauruan who qualifies will be employed either by the Administration or by the British Phosphate Commissioners. That is an assurance of the Administering Authority. I really would suggest that the Trusteeship Council can accept this as a genuine assurance that Nauruans who qualify will be employed.

I fail to see how the Trusteeship Council will be assisted if I furnish details on the internal functioning of the British Phosphate Commissioners. I really do not see how such information will help the Council to assess the position with regard to employment of Nauruans by the British Phosphate Commissioners. I should have to describe the entire structure of the British Phosphate Commissioners -- the three Commissioners, the field managers, the divisional managers, the managers of the staff, and so forth. I could give this information if necessary, but what purpose would it serve?

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Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): The special representative has said that it is not customary for information to be asked concerning the internal functioning of a private enterprise. I agree with him. The phosphate enterprise, however, constitutes almost the entire industrial activity of Nauru. It would therefore seem to me that my question has justification. We regret that no study has been made in this respect. Such studies have been published with regard to important enterprises in other Territories. I shall, however, proceed to another question.

fish
Last year, reference was made to the possibility of establishing a fishing industry in the Territory. On page 21 of the annual report now before the Trusteeship Council, we read:

"A proposal to develop a fishing industry ... is still under consideration by a committee of the Nauru Local Government Council".

(Mr. Kestler, Guatemala)

I should like to ask the special representative whether the Administering Authority has considered the possibility of extending technical assistance to the Nauruans in developing a fishing industry. Has any investment budget been drawn up to assist in organizing this industry?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): In reply to a question on this same subject yesterday, I gave details on the steps so far taken with respect to the establishment of a fishing industry. This reply is to be found on page 32 of document T/PV.391, and I shall not repeat it.

The representative of Guatemala mentioned two specific points. As regards technical assistance, I can assure the representative of Guatemala that any such assistance that may be required will be provided. The same is true of the funds. Once the plans have been drawn up and a decision has been taken, the funds necessary to implement the decision will be provided. In fact, I understand from my discussions with the Administrator, funds are about to be made available to blast a passage through the reef in order to make a suitable harbour for the fishing boats. That is one of the first steps being taken.

Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): Last year, in connexion with public finances, we pointed out that a change had been made in the method of financing the budget for the year 1952-1953 -- that is, that funds were being provided directly by the British Phosphate Commissioners; previously, a fixed rate had been established for each ton of phosphate exported. We said that, although this operation seemed to simplify matters, it had not greatly improved the Territory's position. Could the special representative comment on this question?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): This is also a subject which is raised each year in the Council. I am not suggesting that it should not be raised. I am merely saying that it has come up from year to year. I have answered it fully from year to year, explaining the reasons, and stating that we have from time to time given consideration to the suggestions of this Council in regard to the new method of financing the Administration. We are still firmly of the opinion that the new method is much better than the old, serves the purpose, and does not in any way lead to the exercise of any influence over the budget or expenditure by the Administration on the part of the British Phosphate Commissioners.

I would also draw attention to the fact that this very question formed the subject of a resolution last year by this Council, which appears on page 42 of the annual report, and the considered opinion of the Administering Authority appears on that page in answer to that particular resolution.

Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): In justification of my question, I must point out that in effect this is indeed a problem which has been of constant concern to the Council because, from the point of view of my delegation, this procedure requires a previous knowledge of the budget on the part of the directors of the enterprise. This involves the risk of submitting the budget to influence by the enterprise. But, with the additional comments given by the special representative, my delegation, after careful study, will present the comments which we deem necessary and pertinent.

Mr. YANG (China): In his opening statement, the special representative *heard* told the Council that a tuberculosis survey conducted by a New South Wales anti-tuberculosis team had been completed in May 1957. With the full co-operation of the Nauru Local Government Council and of the British Phosphate Commissioners, every person in Nauru's population of 3,600 was X-rayed and skin-tested. The result of this survey was that, out of 3,600 persons examined, 136 were found to be suffering from tuberculosis. Among these 136 cases, 89 were migrants who were non-permanent residents. The special representative also told us:

"All active cases, other than migrants who wished to return to their own countries, have been admitted to hospitals, and six Nauruan patients requiring surgery have been sent to Australia." (T/PV.890, p.33-35)

I should like to ask the special representative to tell the Council whether there are active cases among the 89 non-Nauruan tuberculosis patients. If so, how many of them have requested to be sent back to their own countries? Finally, I shall be greatly obliged to the special representative if he can tell the Council whether the 89 non-Nauruan tuberculosis patients, or some of them, contracted the disease after their arrival in the Territory.

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): I regret that I do not have the information with regard to the number of active cases or with regard to the number who returned to their own countries. I take it that some of the Chinese who are affected may have returned home. I do not know -- I rather doubt it. -- it is possible that some of the Gilbert and Ellice Islanders would be returned to hospitals in their own Territory.

As to the treatment of the various cases, the Chinese employed by the , for example, are being treated at the hospital; they have their own hospital for the Chinese workers. And any who happen to be -- if there are any, and, of course, I am not sure -- would be treated at the Administration General Hospital.

The third part of the question referred to the number who had contracted the disease after arrival in the Territory. Of course, there is no way of ascertaining that because, prior to the restrictions and regulations which have now come into force, no thorough examination, I think, as far as tuberculosis is concerned, was ever carried out. I think the examination was mainly a sort of

(Mr. Jones, Special Representative)


general examination as to physical fitness, not involving any obvious disease. I doubt very much whether any of the migrant workers had chest X-rays or were examined in any other way to see whether or not they were suffering from tuberculosis before they entered the Territory. Of course, that has now all been changed, and all people proceeding to the Territory are examined before they leave their home country or within twenty-four hours after arrival in Nauru.

Q Mr. YANG (China): I appreciate the effort made by the special representative to answer the questions I put to him. In the case of some of the points which he is unable to answer right now, my delegation would appreciate it if, perhaps on some future occasion, such information could be made available.

While I am on the subject, I wish to add that I was very glad indeed to hear from Mr. Jones that, as a preventive measure, arrangements have been made for all persons other than permanent residents to have chest X-rays before their arrival in the Territory or, where that is impracticable, within twenty-four hours after their arrival. I was particularly happy to learn that an ordinance to provide for and regulate the examination of persons who are supposed to be suffering from tuberculosis, and for the prevention and eradication of tuberculosis, had come into effect on 29 August 1957. I hope I may be permitted to commend the Administering Authority for these measures.

Labour I now come to my second question. One of the important events which took place in the field of labour during the year under review was the entry into force, on 17 September 1956, of the Workers' Compensation Ordinance, which provides for the payment of compensation to workers for injuries arising out of or in the course of their employment. I should like to ask the special representative whether tuberculosis patients, for example, if they contracted the disease in the course of their employment, could claim compensation under the relevant portions of the Workers' Compensation Ordinance, and whether he has heard of any cases in which workers have actually claimed compensation for injuries arising out of or in the course of their employment since the Workers' Compensation Ordinance came into force on 17 September 1956.

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): The ordinance does provide that any disability arising from or as a result of his employment would make the worker eligible for compensation. That applies to both the medical and the surgical side -- that is to accidents or to sickness. I have no particulars of the several cases in which, I understand, compensation has been claimed under this particular ordinance, but I believe that there have been three or four such cases already and that they have been settled. I understand that in all these instances the workers concerned were employed by the British Phosphate Commissioners. However, we have no particulars available at the moment, although I would be only too happy to arrange for details of claims under this ordinance to be included, perhaps, in the next annual report.

Mr. YANG (China): The Council certainly would welcome further information on this matter when the Administering Authority submits future annual reports. 

I have one question in the social field. It relates to a survey which was, I understand, conducted by a senior nutritionist from the Commonwealth Department of Health who paid a visit to the Territory recently for the purpose of carrying out a study of the dietetic habits of the Nauruans. I should like to know from the special representative whether that survey has been completed. I notice that he is indicating a negative answer to my question, and in that case perhaps I may ask him whether it would be possible to include in future annual reports the results of the survey and any recommendations made in connexion with it. *unlike*

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): I shall certainly take note of that request and submit it to the Administering Authority, which will, I have no doubt, be willing to publish the results of the survey.

Mr. YANG (China): My last question relates to the field of education. We note from paragraph 38 of the working paper (T/L.849) prepared by the Secretariat that: *see also*

(Mr. Yang, China)

"Education is at present provided only up to the secondary (intermediate) level and Nauruans desiring higher or vocational training proceed overseas. At 30 June 1957 there were thirty-four Nauruans studying in Australia, of whom thirty-one were at the secondary stage, one was receiving teacher training and two were administration cadets."

On this point my delegation has read with appreciation the comments made by UNESCO in its written observations, wherein it is stated:

"The continued increase in enrolment at the primary stage is offset by the falling off of secondary school enrolment. The principal cause of this is the low war-time birth rate. It is to be noted that this trend will be reversed by 1960-1961 when the pupils in grade V of the primary school during the current year move up into the secondary level. It should be necessary now to plan for increased resources at the secondary level for that year either locally or in the form of scholarships for overseas study. It would be of interest to know what plans the Administration has made in this regard." (T/1379, para. 10)

I would welcome some comment by the special representative on these remarks by UNESCO.

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): The new secondary school in Nauru, which was completed two years ago, was designed to provide accommodation to meet the population needs for secondary education of the Nauruan people, so the position now is that so far as classrooms and so on are concerned there is adequate accommodation for the purpose. It is true that at the present time the school provides secondary education only up to the intermediate standard, but as soon as student numbers are sufficient to justify the employment of additional staff and the extensive capital expenditure which would be involved the school will be extended to take students up to the matriculation standard. In the meantime scholarships will continue to be provided to enable Nauruans who obtain the intermediate certificate in Nauru to continue their secondary education in Australia. The Administering Authority has this matter continually in mind and will take steps to meet the need when it does actually arise and when it considers the numbers sufficient to warrant the establishment of school training in the Territory up to matriculation standard.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom): My first question relates very closely to that which has just been asked by the representative of China and very fully answered by the special representative, but there are just one or two small points I should like to raise with a view to obtaining further clarification. First, are we to understand from the special representative's answer that it is the policy of the Administering Authority eventually to provide all secondary education for Nauruans in Nauru -- as soon as the numbers justify doing that -- so that it will no longer be necessary for Nauruans to go to Australia or elsewhere overseas for education at the secondary level?

Second, are the facilities at present available to Nauruans to go overseas for secondary education above the intermediate level equally available to members of the Gilbertese and Chinese communities in Nauru? I notice from the annual report that there is one other Pacific Islander studying away from Nauru at the moment, and I would like to know if we may assume from that that these facilities are available to all sections of the community in Nauru.

Third, it is stated on page 37 of the annual report that the decline in the enrolment in the Administration secondary school is attributable chiefly to the low war-time birth rate -- which is the point taken up in the UNESCO observations -- but also partly to the fact that students proceed to Australia. I am sure the special representative will be able to clear that up for me, but it has led me to think that there may be some cases in which students are going to Australia now rather than going to school in Nauru for courses which are available there.

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): I will try to remember them all; if I forget part of the question, perhaps the United Kingdom representative will remind me. The first, I think, related to whether it was the policy of the Administering Authority to provide full secondary facilities within the Territory so that there will be no need for students to proceed to Australia for their secondary education. The reply to that is: Yes, that is the policy. Nevertheless, there will be nothing to prevent a Nauruan student from proceeding to Australia as a private student for his secondary education, should he so desire.

The next question was whether scholarships were available to members of all the various racial groups on the island. Now, originally the scholarship system was designed for the Nauruan community. The reason for that, I think, will be perhaps obvious to members of the community that all other members of all the other racial groups are migrants to Nauru and they do not stay there for long periods. For instance, the Chinese children, the longest period that they are there is three years. By special arrangement they are permitted to enter the Territory and to remain for three years with their parents. When the Chinese married people came to Nauru they bring only the younger children with them; the older children are usually left in China. The result is that the occasion does not arise where a Chinese child would become eligible for a scholarship by virtue of the fact that he had reached the required intermediate standard. The same applies, of course, to the Gilbert and the Ellice islanders -- exactly the same. So far as the European children are concerned it is the practice usually for the parents to send their children to Australia for their secondary education -- for climatic and other reasons apparently -- and the Administering Authority assists by way of a grant, which is referred to somewhere in the report, of £145 a year towards the cost of their school. But there again, the secondary school is open to children of all races, and there has been the occasion when one European child attended and at the present time, in the lower classes, I think, there are one or two Chinese children; I do not think there are any Gilbert or Ellice islanders. But usually before they reach the intermediate standard they return to China. Now, there is nothing in the provisions which says that the scheme is for Nauruans only and that it would not apply to other children; but in practice

(Mr. Jones, Special Representative)

the situation has not arisen. Therefore I am unable to give a straight-out reply whether it does apply to children of other races. But I will certainly make inquiries in that regard, and information on the scholarship system will be given in more detail. I will suggest that it be given in more detail in next year's report.

Does this cover what you asked?

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom): There was one other point which was the elucidation of the sentence on page 57 of the report that the decline in enrolment of the Administration's secondary school was partly due to students going to Australia instead. *decline in enrolment*

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): Yes, that is quite true, quite a number. First, may I say that last year the system of scholarships was changed. Prior to last year, Nauruan children were granted scholarships before they reached the intermediate standard. Then, with the building and staffing of the new secondary school providing education up to the intermediate standard, it was considered by the Administering Authority that the Nauruan children should take advantage of their own schools; they therefore changed the conditions of the scholarships which now provide that a Nauruan must have reached and passed the intermediate examination at the school before he is eligible for the scholarship. But there are at the present time twelve Nauruans studying in Australia as private students. They are not assisted by the Administering Authority; but two, I think, are assisted by the Roman Catholic Mission.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom): I have one other question relating to social conditions, and that also concerns the immigrant community in Nauru. It seems from the figures given on page 25 of the report that a very small proportion of the Chinese, Gilbert and Ellice islanders who come from Nauru to work for the phosphate commissioners bring their family with them: thirty-three out of some six hundred and forty Chinese, and sixty-five out of seven hundred and seventy Gilbert and Ellice islanders. I wonder if the *immigrant community*

(Mr. Gaston, United Kingdom)

special representative could tell us whether that was because these were mostly young men who were unmarried and probably did not have families to bring with them or whether the shortage of accommodation on the island -- to which the special representative did refer in answering a question on another point -- in fact acted as a deterrent to bringing their families along with them.

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): The shortage of suitable accommodation for married workers is the main cause why there are so few at the present time. The British Phosphate Commissioners would be quite willing to permit their employees to bring more of their wives and families to the island if they could provide the accommodation. I think I did mention earlier that they have made several efforts to obtain more land, on lease, from the Nauruan people on which to build accommodations for married people. I would add, also in connexion with this subject, that by re-designing the roads and other services within the area already leased to the British Phosphate Commissioners, they have been able to make land available for the building of extra accommodations for workers who have been brought in, in connexion with the extra work undertaken for the erection of the new cantilever and other buildings. When that work has been completed and certain mechanization of the industry is carried out, the number of employees of the BPC will decrease, and they intend to place the accommodation, which will then become available, at the disposal of the married workers.

Mr. FELD (United States of America): I have a question in the social field and a question in the educational field.

With regard to the social field, in his opening statement, the special representative said that the Nauru Local Government Council has thus far not agreed on how the Social Services Ordinance, which is mentioned on page 27 of the annual report and which was promulgated in 1956, is to be financed, although the Nauru Local Government Council has been granted the power to impose and collect rates and taxes in order to finance this social service scheme and it had been expected that it would use that power to finance the scheme. Could the special representative tell the Council what considerations regarding financing this scheme may be conditioning the views of the members of the Local Government Council in question? In other words, is there some particular element in this matter which appears to inhibit them? For instance, would the incidence of the rates and taxes be fairly broad? Or would they fall on a relatively small number of taxpayers and be used primarily for those who pay less taxes? *See Sec.*

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): I am not aware of any particular details in regard to the reason for their objection to financing this scheme by way of a local tax, nor have I any information as to whether they have given consideration to ways and means of imposing a tax for that particular purpose -- whether it would be based on income or whether it would be a per capita tax. The whole point is that they object in principle to the Nauruan people paying for the cost of a social service scheme.

Mr. FELD (United States of America): I thank the special representative for that answer. I now have a question in the educational field.

We are glad to note on page 39 of the annual report that during the course of the year under review eight Nauruan primary school teachers travelled to Australia to observe teaching methods and techniques in certain Melbourne schools. We also note that as a result of this visit when the teachers returned to Nauru they showed that they were teaching more vigorously and with more economical *teaching*

use of their time in the Nauruan primary school. Could the special representative tell the Council, in view of this beneficial result, if the Administering Authority plans to have more Nauruan teachers travel to Australia for similar courses and for similar purposes?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): I have no information that there are any plans in the immediate future to send more of the Nauruan teachers to Australia, but I feel very confident that in view of the success resulting from this particular visit plans will be made for other Nauruan teachers to be taken on a similar tour.

PHANT (Burma): First of all, let me seek clarification in respect The second paragraph on page 37 of the report, which relates to advancement, states:

rinted school text-books in the Nauruan tongue do not exist, literature as is available in Nauruan being mostly religious. y is therefore taught to all children on the island in English."

From this, I was wondering whether there was a Nauruan written script in existence. I was led to ask this question by the statement that "such literature as is available in Nauruan being mostly religious."

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): The Nauruan language is a spoken language and has never been printed in any way or reduced to writing by the Nauruan people. At the present time, there are no textbooks used in the schools by the Administration. The Nauruan people use the language in their homes and their children, when they first commence school, know very little of the English language. However, the Nauruan teachers use Nauruan as a language of oral instruction not only in the teaching of English, but also in other subjects. English from the start is a major subject and after a few years they are able to instruct the Nauruan children in the English language. Special textbooks have been designed by the Education Department of Nauru. Fortunately,

(Mr. Jones,
Special Representative)

the Director of Education is a recognized expert in the teaching of English as a foreign language and also the Headmistress of the primary school has special qualifications in that direction. Between them they have designed and had printed textbooks which are eminently suitable for the conditions of the Nauruan children on Nauru.

The only case where the Nauruan language has been reduced to writing is a dictionary -- I think you can refer to it as a dictionary -- which was prepared by the head of the Roman Catholic Mission over many, many years. It is possible, although I have no knowledge of this, that the Mission may have a few textbooks which they use themselves for their religious instruction.

U THANT (Burma): I am grateful to the special representative for his explanation. In the light of that explanation, I think that the statement "such literature as is available in Nauruan being mostly religious" is misleading.

I come to the next question. In relation to the admission of Nauruan students to European schools, the first paragraph on page 33 of the report states:

"The qualification for entry of Chinese into the European school is knowledge of English sufficient not to interfere with the normal speed of the classes there."

Well, this is perfectly understandable, but there is no such reference in regard to the admission of Nauruan students to European schools. I was wondering whether the same principle applied both to the Nauruan students and to the Chinese students, because it is obvious from this that the Chinese students are not admitted to European schools because of their deficiency in English. Is it true that the Nauruan students are also not admitted to European schools for the same deficiency or for other racial reasons?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): Firstly, I would like to make it quite clear that there is no racial discrimination within the school system. Such racial nomenclature as is used in the report reflects the attempt by the Administration to meet the technical requirements of realistic education. To permit efficient teaching, classes must be, as far as possible, homogeneous. That is now an accepted principle. Groups of children with differing linguistic and cultural backgrounds are difficult to teach. The entire modern trend in teaching is to create special schools for special groups, because only in this way can teaching be effective.

At the present time, in the kindergarten on Nauru, the children of all races mix together. At one stage the number of Nauruan children in that school predominated, with the result that the main effort was given to those children, and the other children, to some extent, suffered by the attention which had to be given to the Nauruan children. It was hoped and thought that during the kindergarten stage, the Nauruan children would acquire sufficient English to enable them to be of a standard similar to European children on reaching the primary stage. But when it is realized that the European children enter that school with a knowledge of English -- that is their language -- and can understand certain sentence structures before they enter kindergarten, whereas the Nauruan children have no knowledge whatsoever of English, it can be understood that when they reach the primary stage there is still a very big gap, and for the benefit of all the children concerned, they then go to the schools that are most suitable for their further advancement.

As they go through their primary education, it will be noted from the statistics that there is a certain amount of retardation of the Nauruan children, of some of the Chinese children, and of all the Gilbert and Ellice Island children. But the standard of schools and the standard of teaching in the schools is equal in all schools, and the policy is that all the children, when they reach secondary education, will be able to go to the one school, which is the Administration secondary school. I do notice that in parts of this report it mentions the Nauruan secondary school. I would like to point out that that is not correct. It must be a typing error, and it is described in the beginning correctly. It is the Administration secondary school and it is open to pupils and students from every racial group.

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Special Representative)

Therefore, I would like to make the point clear that there is no discrimination on racial grounds. It is purely and simply on linguistic grounds. The schools that are provided in the Territory are to meet the needs of the children of all the races and finally bring them up to the secondary stage where they will be able to be educated together. But there again I would remind the members of the Council that so far as the Chinese children are concerned and the Gilbert and Ellice Islanders, most of them, if not all, leave the Territory before they reach the secondary standard.

U THANT (Burma): I am grateful to the special representative for his very lucid explanation. I hope it will be relevant to the subject under discussion if I make a very brief statement on this subject. It has been our experience in Burma during the British time -- that is, before the war -- that quite a substantial number of Burmese students studied in European schools where the medium of instruction was purely English. It has been our experience in Burma, for about seventy or seventy-five years, that most of these Burmese students who studied in European schools could catch up with the European students in all subjects, including English. So that if the fact is that the Nauruan students are debarred from the European schools not on racial grounds but on linguistic grounds, I should think that the Administering Authority would study the British system which prevailed in Burma before the war, that is, should take a lesson out of the British practice in Burma before the war and try to achieve a certain standard of integration, which is, of course, commensurate with the modern practice in all advanced countries.

When I say that quite a substantial number of Burmese students in European schools could catch up with the European students in all subjects, including English, I think I am voicing the very universally accepted educational principle that in all communities there are quite a substantial number of people with distinct linguistic aptitudes. Therefore, I should be grateful if the special representative could make a brief statement on this point, as to whether it is worthwhile experimenting in European schools in Nauru.

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): I cannot very well make any statement which would commit the Administering Authority, but I will make a note of the remarks of the representative of Burma and bring them to the notice of my Government.

U THANT (Burma): I am grateful to the special representative for his assurance. My whole purpose in raising this point is to achieve a higher standard of integration in schools in Nauru, which, I am sure, is the desire of the Administering Authority. I have no more questions to put.

Labour
Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My first question relates to labour. What legislation governs or should govern the policies of the Phosphate Commissioners with regard to the working conditions of employees in that industry?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): All labour employed on Nauru comes under the provisions of the Chinese and Native Labour Ordinance.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have two further questions in connexion with this answer. First of all, are the working conditions of European employees also subject to these provisions? This is my first additional question. ~~The second additional question is the following:~~ Who issued the legislation covering the working conditions of Chinese and indigenous workers, and what was the role of the indigenous population and of other people who work in the extraction of phosphates in the Territory? What part did they take in the enactment of this legislation or of these provisions?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): This ordinance does not apply to anyone except the Chinese and native labour workers. That is, it applies to the Chinese, the Nauruans and the Gilbert and Ellis Islanders. All other workers on the island -- that is, the Europeans -- are employed under agreements which they enter into, in the case of the British Phosphate Commissioners, of course; and in the case of the Administering Authority or the Administration they enter into agreements and also come under the provisions of the Public Service Ordinance. This particular ordinance which regulates the employment of Chinese, Nauruan and Gilbert and Ellis Island workers was drawn up by the Administrator of the island under the powers conferred upon him. I have no knowledge as to whether or not the terms and conditions were discussed with the workers who are affected by it. I should say that, while it is possible, and perhaps even probable -- particularly with regard to any amendments to the ordinance -- that they would be discussed with the Nauruan Workers' Association, I am doubtful whether any consultation was held with representatives of the Chinese or Gilbert and Ellis Island workers.

I might also add -- and I think that this is relevant to this particular question -- that although the ordinance provides for conditions of employment, it makes no provisions for wages. They are decided by agreement between the workers and the employers concerned.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Could the special representative account for this difference between the status of workers of European descent, on the one hand, and the other workers in the British Phosphate Company, on the other? What accounts for the difference in legislative ordinance provisions governing labour conditions between these two groups of people?

Secondly, what considerations underlay the Chinese and Native Labour Ordinance? Was it some Australian law which was suitably adapted, or was it some ILO conventions or model laws, or some foreign legislation? What is it that underlay this ordinance, and why is it that it only applies to Chinese and indigenous workers?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): That is a rather difficult question to answer. I would take it that the need for an over-all ordinance to control and regulate and protect Chinese and indigenous workers was considered necessary and that, for that reason, this ordinance was prepared; whereas, in the case of European workers -- and I refer particularly to those in the British Phosphate Commissioners -- they are quite capable and intelligent enough to enter into agreements which are suitable to them and the contents of which they fully understand. For that reason, I assume that they are employed under agreements and not under an over-all ordinance.

So far as the employees of the Administration are concerned, as I have said, they are employed under the provisions of the Public Service Ordinance, with supplementary agreements with regard to terms of employment, periods of employment and pay, payment of passage, and such things.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I must say that, on the whole, the special representative's answer fails to carry conviction. He suggested that European workers were more intelligent and that that accounted for special legislation or conditions to cover the employment of workers of Asian or Oceanic origin. But why did not the Administration seek to protect their rights, if such protection was required, on the same basis as the rights of European workers? Moreover, the working conditions for the European workers have been uniformly more favourable than those of the Chinese and Nauruan workers or those who migrated from other Pacific islands. Therefore, I wish to repeat that the explanation given by the special representative is unconvincing.

Could the special representative tell us whether the discrepancy in wage scales as between persons belonging to different ethnic groups has been abolished? Has a unified wage scale been instituted?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): No; the combined wage scale has not yet been drawn up. The wages which are paid to the various workers are in accordance with their skill and their work output. It will be noted that, so far as the Chinese, Nauruan and Gilbertese workers are concerned, there again

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there is a difference in the wage scales. Mechanics and skilled workers, for instance, are paid more than the labourers. The same applies so far as the European workers and employees are concerned. In all cases there are fully qualified skilled workers and professional people, and they are paid the same wages which are paid in their own countries and which are the recognized wages paid to fully skilled workers in whatever occupations they may be.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): As is well known, when this question was considered at last year's session of the Council, the Council recommended the establishment of unified pay scales. A year has elapsed since that time. Could the special representative explain why such a simple recommendation of the Trusteeship Council has remained unimplemented? The special representative spoke of a necessary distinction between the pay of a mechanic or skilled worker and that of an unskilled worker and similar categories. But it is well known that such a differentiated system is in no way incompatible with a unified scale. A unified scale does not mean that all categories have to be paid the same. Far from it. A unified scale is designed to cover differences in pay between different grades of skill and different occupational categories, but it would be unified in respect of racial groups. That is where distinctions would be abolished.

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A year has elapsed since the adoption of the Trusteeship Council recommendation. Nevertheless, there still exist different pay scales for workers of European extraction, for the Chinese and for Nauruans. Could the special representative explain the difficulties which hamper the establishment of a unified pay scale?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): The matter now referred to by the representative of the Soviet Union was the subject of a resolution of this Council at last year's meeting and the reply of the Administering Authority appears on page 42 of the annual report. I have no information as to why there has been any delay. The Administering Authority has noted that the practicability of providing a single list to cover all members of the Administration staff and the various designations will be examined. It is being examined at the present time.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I take note of the statement of the special representative, which boils down to his being unable to account for the failure to institute a unified pay scale. In fact, it would be a rather difficult problem to excuse such failure if one adheres to the premise of equal pay for equal work regardless of racial origin. One principle is accepted, reasons for different pay scales become rather difficult to find. What are the reasons for the increased incidence of tuberculosis in the Territory? I understand that there has been a survey made of conditions in the Territory in this respect, and I wonder whether this survey has ascertained the reasons for the increase of tuberculosis with every passing year, a fact to which attention has been drawn in this Council in years past.

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): No particular reasons have been discovered for the increase in tuberculosis which has occurred over the last two or three years. But steps are now being taken which, we are confident, will result in freeing the Territory completely of this disease.

Mr. BENDRYSHIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Have attempts been made to ascertain the causes of this increase in incidence of tuberculosis? The special representative has expressed his confidence that tuberculosis will be eliminated in the Territory. In order to eliminate something you must find out what caused its existence to begin with, or certainly what caused the increase of its incidence. For example, does the extraction of phosphates have anything to do with that, or are there some other factors which have been discovered?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): I have no information on the subject which has been raised by the representative of the Soviet Union. Tuberculosis is common to all countries, and the most common known cause of the spread of the disease is contact and the failure of persons to be examined for the disease. The steps that have now been taken by the Administering Authority will certainly eliminate those possibilities and any other possibilities regarding sanitation and hygiene, which may possibly have had some effect.

So far as the phosphate is concerned, I have no information on that point. There has been no suggestion from the visiting specialists that this was a cause of the disease. Had it been so -- and I am sure that they explored every aspect of the disease -- it would have formed part of their report.

Mr. BENDRYSHIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): As is well known, the incidence of tuberculosis depends directly on the living and working conditions of the population. However, as the special representative has indicated, there has not even been an attempt to ascertain the factors causing the increased incidence of tuberculosis in the Territory.

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): I did not say that there had been no attempt to discover the cause. I said that I had no information as to whether or not the causes referred to by the representative of the Soviet Union had any effect on the incidence of tuberculosis. I said that I felt quite sure that the specialists, who explored every avenue of the causes of tuberculosis, would have mentioned it in their report if they had found that phosphate dust

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or anything else was the cause. As they did not do so, we take it that the causes are the normal causes which are found in other parts of the world where tuberculosis is present and spreading.

*Equal
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labour
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Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The report of the Administering Authority suggests that a substantial number of indigenous inhabitants and the residents of the Territory who migrated from other parts of the Pacific had been tried, indicted, convicted and condemned to forced labour. The tables indicate that not one European has been condemned to imprisonment, let alone to forced labour. Who judges Europeans in the Territory and under what legislation are they judged? Are indigenous inhabitants appointed to membership in the courts in which Europeans are judged?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): The laws of the Territory apply to all persons equally, except for special ordinances, such as the Nauruan Housing Ordinance, which deals with a particular aspect of administration. Laws referring to law and order cover all sections of the community.

If the representative of the Soviet Union has discovered that no Europeans have been convicted during the year, it would indicate that the Europeans constitute a peaceful and a law-abiding community and have not contravened the law.

As regards the courts of the Territory, all persons in the Territory, regardless of their racial group, appear before the same courts. The magistrates of those courts include two Nauruans.

*higher
schooling*

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have some questions on education. How many Nauruans have received higher education? How many Nauruans now attend institutions of higher learning? How many Nauruans have completed secondary school?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): I should like to revert for a moment to the previous question. The Soviet Union representative said that persons in the Territory had been sentenced to forced labour. I think that that is a very misleading term, and I object to it very strongly. In some cases, persons are sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour. I think that such a provision is to be found in the laws of almost every country in the world for the punishment of offenders. But imprisonment with hard labour cannot be classified as forced labour, and I really think that the statement made by the Soviet Union representative was very misleading.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I would suggest that the special representative should address his protest to the interpreter. In my question, I referred to "hard labour" and not to "forced labour".

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): I wish to thank the Soviet Union representative for that clarification.

As regards the last question put by the Soviet Union representative, I do not feel that there is anything I can add to the reply I gave yesterday to the representative of France in this respect. I gave full details then concerning Nauruan students who had been sent to Australia for secondary education and other special courses. I indicated how many certificates had been granted. I also said that, whether or not the students had been successful in their examinations, they had all been employed on their return to the Territory, either by the Administration or by the British Phosphate Commissioners.

The Soviet Union representative may have something further in mind when he uses the term "higher education". I take it that in using the term he is referring to tertiary education or training for professional qualifications -- such as medical courses or law courses. I am not too clear as to what the representative means by "higher education".

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I remember the answer given yesterday by the special representative to questions in this respect asked by other members of the Trusteeship Council. I am interested in three figures. First, how many Nauruans have completed university

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education? Second, how many students are now attending university-type institutions? Third, how many Nauruans have completed secondary school -- in other words, the kind of education which is necessary for admission to a university?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): At present, there is no Nauruan who has completed university education. There are now a number of students attending a teachers' college. If they pass their examinations, they will be given certificates as fully qualified teachers. Two Nauruans are studying civil engineering; one is taking a course in electrical engineering; one is taking a course in building construction; one is studying dentistry at Fiji; some Nauruans are at Fiji taking a medical course; and three Nauruan girls are studying nursing. I have given those figures from memory, but I believe that that completes the list.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I do not quite understand the reply given by the special representative. I am not quite convinced that the persons whom he mentioned are actually receiving a university type of education. Is the education he mentioned actually of the university type?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): That is rather difficult to say. These technical colleges are of a university standard. The students do not obtain degrees on completion of these courses in civil engineering, building construction and electrical engineering. They obtain diplomas. Their status is not equal, as it were, to that of a student who has attended a university and obtained the degree of Bachelor of Engineering, for instance. The diploma in engineering is perhaps not quite up to that standard, but the Nauruans are sent to these colleges for courses leading to this diploma because they have not matriculated and are not eligible for admission to a university. When some Nauruans have matriculated, they will have an opportunity of going to a university and taking courses leading to degrees. Until that time, however, the Administering Authority believes that it is best to give Nauruans technical courses leading to diplomas.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am grateful for that clarification, since it indicates that the persons in question have not received a full secondary education of the type that would entitle them to admission to a university. Thus, it seems that no Nauruans are attending institutions of the university type and receiving higher education.

I should like to have a reply to my third question: How many Nauruans have now completed secondary education of the type that would entitle them to matriculation in a university, and how many are already matriculated?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): Not one Nauruan has yet matriculated.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My next question relates to a problem already referred to by the representative of Burma. The Administering Authority's report and the special representative's reply to the question put by the representative of Burma indicate that religious missions have tried to publish some kinds of documents -- religious, I assume -- in the Nauruan vernacular. What is the Administering Authority doing under this heading? Is it seeking to publish textbooks or other books in the Nauruan language, or are the religious missions in advance in this respect?

Language

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): The Nauruan people express no desire whatsoever to use the Nauruan language or to perpetuate their own language. They have one desire only, and that is to learn and become competent in the English language. They appreciate that their language is spoken by their own community, that nowhere else in the Pacific is there a language akin to this particular language, and that continuing the use of the Nauruan language would serve no good purpose and that for their future it is essential that they adopt a lingua franca, and they have chosen English and desire only English.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): The answer given by the special representative would sound more convincing if it came from the lips of the Nauruan themselves. It is difficult to imagine that any people should willingly forswear their own native tongue.

ann I should like to ask another question: What accounts for the fact that only Nauruans and Gilbert and Ellice Islanders are educated in missionary schools? Why are there no children of European extraction in the mission schools? Is this due to the programmes or curricula which are peculiar to those schools or to any other factors?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): The curriculum is just the same in the mission schools as in the Administration schools. I know of no reason why there are no European children in the mission schools. No doubt, it is the choice of the parents, who prefer to send them to the Administration schools. I do not know; I have no information on the matter.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): My last question is this: What is the cause of the reduction in the number of students in the incomplete secondary school? In one year, the number of students in this school has been reduced from sixty-one to fifty-one. In other words, instead of going up, the number of students has gone down by a rather substantial percentage. Can the special representative tell us why?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): I think the reason is well expressed by UNESCO in the report submitted to this Council.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I noticed the explanation given by UNESCO in its report, which indicates that there are fewer children because of war-time birth rates and so forth. But, if we compare the figures relating to primary schools, it will be noted that there is only a small percentage of primary school students who ever get into secondary schools. In other words, there are reserves, there are human materials, available for secondary schooling despite any possible changes in birth rates some time ago. Therefore, I do not think that the UNESCO point is quite relevant, and I wonder whether the special representative could give us some other reasons to account for this phenomenon.

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): The reason for the reduction is given by the Administering Authority on page 37 of the annual report, as follows:

"These enrolments compare with 61 and 22 respectively at 30 June 1956. The decline in the enrolment of the Administration secondary school is attributable chiefly to the low war-time birth rate, and students proceeding to Australia."

It is natural, with the low war-time birth rate, that the number of students coming up from the lower school is not equal to the number who complete their schooling at the secondary level, either by the fact of having reached the age limit or having received scholarships and proceeded to Australia.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): From a reading of the report of the Administering Authority and from the answers of the special representative, I have gained the impression that it is now the policy of the Administration not to send to Australia children who can be instructed in the incomplete secondary school in the Territory. How, then, can one invoke the fact of students proceeding to Australia if at the present time students are sent to Australia only if they have completed the secondary school that exists in the Territory?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): I thought that had been made quite clear: that the students at the secondary school who obtained the intermediate certificate were eligible to proceed to Australia -- and a number did so. Other students had reached the age limit of 17 -- some were even kept at the school until they were 18, and no further purpose would be served by keeping them at the school any longer -- and they left the school and were given employment either with the Administration or with the BPC. The number who left the school for employment, plus those who had attained the intermediate certificate and proceeded to Australia, was greater than the intake from the primary school.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I am grateful to the special representative for his answers to my questions, although I must say that the answers to my last question have not quite clarified in my mind the causes of this reduction in the number of students in the secondary school. Nevertheless, I am grateful to the special representative.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I should like to add one or two points which may be helpful to the representative of the Soviet Union. The Nauruan education system is, in fact, based on the educational system of my own home state, the state of Victoria, and one concludes one's course of secondary education in that state either by taking the school leaving certificate or by taking a matriculation examination. If one does not wish to go on to a university one takes the school leaving certificate; if one does want to go on to a university one must matriculate; but in practice there is no very great difference between the school leaving certificate and the matriculation certificate.

It has been emphasized before that the Administration makes the education of Nauruans compulsory up to the age of seventeen. In my home state of Victoria the school leaving certificate is usually taken at the age of sixteen. The Council has already been informed by the special representative that Nauruan scholars sent to Australia on Australian Government scholarships are enabled to sit for the intermediate or school leaving certificate examination not once but twice or thrice. In other words, the Administration has made every effort and is making every effort to ensure that as many Nauruans as possible are kept at school not merely until the age of seventeen but until the stage at which they are enabled to qualify either for the school leaving certificate or for matriculation.

In the circumstances, I think it is almost an impropriety to suggest that there has been any neglect of education for the Nauruan people. It is true that no Nauruan has in fact taken a university degree, but in my home state in the field of technical sciences all the superior work on the technical side is done at a school of mines, not at a university. In the state of New South Wales, on the other hand, there is a University of Technology which takes the place of the superior technical schools of my home state of Victoria.

One final point. I think we ought never to forget in discussing the progress of the Nauruans that we are discussing the progress of a small village community in the middle of the Pacific. We are not discussing the number of university graduates emerging from a population of 20 million persons. These things, I think, must be viewed with a certain sense of proportion which, I am afraid, has not always been present in the course of the discussion this afternoon.

The meeting was suspended at 4.35 p.m. and resumed at 4.55 p.m.

Health

Mr. JEAN-LOUIS (Haiti) (interpretation from French): I have only two questions. My first question is: we noted that the Administration hospital has only twenty-nine beds, and the sanitarium has twenty-four beds; whereas the Chinese employees and the workers of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands have something like 140 beds. Could the special representative tell us about this curious proportion of beds with regard to the total number of the various elements of the population? I refer you to paragraph 30 of the working paper (T/L.849) prepared by the Secretariat.

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): I think the figure of twenty-nine beds is not quite correct. I am trying to check on the report itself. There is mentioned in paragraph 29 of this report prepared by the Secretariat that there are "twenty-nine beds and separate wards for children, maternity, surgical infections and mental cases." I am just wondering whether they mean twenty-nine beds plus the separate wards. I am trying to find the particulars in the report itself, because I inspected the hospital myself when I recently visited the new hospital, and there appeared to be many more than twenty-nine beds in it.

I have now found the particulars. There are twenty-nine beds in the main section of the hospital. There are ten beds in the section of the hospital which is isolated from the main hospital and is used for hansenide cases. There are twenty-four beds in another section of the hospital which is set aside for tuberculosis cases. That would make a total of sixty-three beds altogether available in the hospital; that number of beds is considered to be adequate to meet the needs of the Nauruan population and employees of the Administration. The reason for the British Phosphate Commissioners having the number of beds which they have -- which totals 140 -- is, of course, to cover their employees who number approximately 2,000.

Mr. JEAN-LOUIS (Haiti)(interpretation from French): I pass to the second question. The report states that six Nauruans requiring surgical care were sent to Australia. For the convenience of these people, could not the Administration, in the opinion of the special representative, get the necessary specialists in order to avoid the necessity of transport?

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): The Administration considered that these six Nauruans required the treatment of a specialist in thoracic surgery. It was for that reason that they were sent to Australia for this treatment which, of course, was not available on the island. All the costs incurred with regard to their transport to and from Australia and the cost incurred during their stay in Australia were met by the Administration.

Mr. OSMAN (United Arab Republic)(interpretation from French): The special representative said that the Administration is stepping up its efforts to find a practical solution to the problem of the future of the Nauruan people in view of the fact that the education and so forth of the Nauruans will have the greatest influence upon their material, moral and psychological development. My delegation has noted that in the annual report and in the UNESCO report emphasis was laid upon the fact that plans will be drawn up to adapt the Nauruans to their new life. We would like to know whether the system in its present form, in the way it is being carried out, indeed is designed to lead toward the adaptation of the Nauruan population.

Mr. JONES (Special Representative): Yes, the whole of the educational system, in particular during the last four years, has been designed to meet the possible needs of the Nauruan people if and when they have to leave the island and seek a new home elsewhere. As mentioned in the report, there is in Nauru an Education Advisory Committee which was set up in 1953 and which acts as the liaison between the Nauru Local Government Council and the Education Department on educational matters. The composition of this committee includes senior European and Nauruan teachers and three representatives of the Council. During the year under review, there were seven meetings. At these meetings, particular attention is now given to the future needs of the Nauruan people. At every

(Mr. Jones,
Special Representative)

meeting, discussions are held and the progress of the Nauruan students, in Australia in particular, are studied with a view to improving or taking any other steps that may be necessary to give effect to the higher educational policy.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I have no further speakers for the question and answer period. The detailed examination of the situation in the Trust Territory will therefore be postponed.

General debate

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall now commence the general debate. I have two speakers on my list for this afternoon.

Mr. MITRA (India): On the opening day of this session of the Trusteeship Council, the leader of the Indian delegation, in the course of his intervention, had occasion to state that it appeared to be a fairly unanimous desire of the Council to accede to a request made by our colleague from the Soviet Union, which was to have a debate on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands as early as possible. The leader of my delegation also stated that in view of the practical difficulties pointed out by the representative of the United States it would perhaps not be possible for the Council to have before it a special representative from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands until early next week. For this reason and this reason alone, in spite of what one may read in a completely inaccurate and tendentious report in a certain newspaper, the Indian delegation had suggested that the Council attempt to complete its discussion on the Trust Territory of Nauru as early as possible. It is in view of this suggestion that was made by our own delegation and accepted by all our colleagues that I am very happy to initiate the general debate on the Trust Territory of Nauru today.

It is rather difficult to consider the problems of Nauru in the same way that one considers the problems of any other Trust Territory with which this Council deals. Here is an island tiny in size, comprising only some 50,000 acres, with just 1,000 acres fit for cultivation, for even the growing of coconut trees. The total population of the island is just 4,300, out of whom a little over 2,000 are Nauruans.

(Mr. Mitra, India)

It is far away from any other major land mass, and even its people and their language are not very closely related to the people of neighbouring islands. The major portion of the income of the people derives from the exploitation of the phosphates in the Territory, and this exploitation is carried out by an organization which is composed of representatives of the Governments of three members of this Council, that is, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. It is interesting, when one reads the Trusteeship Agreement about the Territory of Nauru, that article 2 of the Agreement states the following:

"The Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom (hereinafter called the 'Administering Authority') are hereby designated as the joint Authority which will exercise the administration of the Territory."

So we are really faced with a situation where there is a joint administering authority composed of three Governments, and representatives of the same three Governments run the organization -- to which the special representative from the Territory referred to as a private business organization -- which is responsible for exploiting the major economic resource of the Territory. I use the word "exploit" here in the good sense of the term, not in any derogatory sense whatever. Instead of the word "exploit" one could use the word "utilizing". However, this is the situation. There is a joint Administering Authority and the same Governments which comprise the joint Administering Authority also run the private organization which is responsible for taking care of the major natural resource of the Territory.

The phosphate deposits will probably be exhausted in forty years and it will then not be possible for the Nauruans to subsist at their present economic level on this tiny island any more. The basic problem then of the Nauruans is this: Where are they to go forty years from now? Forty years may appear a long time, but when you are dealing with changing entirely the environment, of bodily uprooting a people from one part of the world to another, it is not such a long time. Unfortunately, in my part of the world we have seen the consequences of the bodily uprooting of people. It is for this reason that we tend to pay particular attention to this question of making arrangements well in advance for this problem of resettlement.

(Mr. Mitra, India)

In a situation like this, it is really difficult to talk in terms of political advances and the attainment of self-government of a people whose entire future is so uncertain. It is for this reason that on previous occasions the delegation of India has asked the Administering Authority to provide the fullest possible information regarding the actual steps being taken for the relocation of the population in some other area.

This is a question which is dealt with year after year by the Council. Quite naturally, it is really the basic question of the Nauruan people. Recommendations are made year after year to the effect that every possible attempt should be made to find a suitable place where the Nauruan people can be relocated once the phosphate deposits are exhausted. It is therefore with some regret that we note that the report on the Territory contains the bland statement that the Administering Authority takes note of the Council's recommendation and is continuing its efforts to find a practical solution and will report its proposals as soon as possible.

In answer to a question which I had the honour to ask, and after giving a very detailed reply about the difficulties which face the Administering Authority in trying to find an alternative location for the Nauruan people, the special representative informed us that the Administering Authority was intensifying its efforts and was looking at the problem from every angle and exploring every possible avenue.

I can understand the angles, but what are the avenues? Would we perhaps be told that Island X was visited and surveyed and was not found suitable for reasons Y and Z? Could we perhaps be told that consideration was given to the location of the Nauruans in country C and for reasons A and B it was not possible to think of implementing the proposal? I for one do not see any particular reason why this information should not be available to the Council, because, quite frankly, without any idea of what we are looking for, it is difficult to comment intelligently on the situation of the Nauruans.

The special representative pointed out that there are some major difficulties in this question: there should be employment opportunities to enable the Nauruans to maintain at least their present standard of living; there is the question of finding a community which will accept the Nauruans, etc. There

(Mr. Mitra, India)

is also the very major question of the wishes of the Nauruans themselves. We have, of course, heard from the special representative and noted from the report that there seems to be a certain lethargy on the part of local organizations in Nauru which deal with these very practical problems of administration. There may be various reasons for this, but perhaps one reason may also be the psychological rootlessness of a small people living on a fast-petering-out natural resource and wishing not to think of tomorrow, for they feel lost and completely insecure. This is an age of psychiatry and psychology and perhaps that impels this remark by me.

I can easily imagine what I would feel like if I were a Nauruan and found that I lived in an area where, whatever happens, my children would not be able to live their lives, because the major natural resource on which their livelihood depends would be exhausted in forty years. From the statements of the Administering Authority and the replies of the special representative, it would appear that the Administering Authority feels that it has to take a number of decisions about Nauruan affairs because the Nauruans are themselves not at a relatively advanced stage of development where they can take such decisions. If this is the case, I would suggest that the Administering Authority could perhaps examine this basic problem of Nauru, the problem of Nauruan resettlement by itself, make concrete proposals, and at least let this Council know about those proposals.

The general statement that every effort is being made gives no information to us. An eighty-eight page report is devoted by the Administering Authority to the problem of this very small community, and in this entire report the only remark made by the Administering Authority regarding this very essential problem is a sentence of four lines; and this after the Council has made successive recommendations regarding this problem and almost every member of this Council has at some time or other in the last few years asked many questions about this basic problem. I would therefore suggest to the special representative and, if I may say, to the representatives of the Administering Authority that in future their report should contain full and detailed information regarding the places visited, the consultations carried out with the Nauruan people, the tentative plans and projects prepared for the resettlement of these people, for whose welfare the United Nations has also some responsibility.

(Mr. Mitra, India)

I would also suggest that the Administering Authority attempt to launch a campaign to bring to the attention of the Nauruan people their need to consider all these problems with a certain degree of urgency, as well as their need to save considerable sums of money to help them in their rehabilitation at a future date. It would not be difficult, nor too expensive, to undertake to disseminate, as widely as possible, information regarding this problem of resettlement in the Nauruan population, which is only 2,000 and a few hundred, and I would certainly be quite sure that the Administering Authority, with its vast experience in these matters, is in a position to try and make the population think seriously about these problems and help in finding solutions.

Whatever solution may be found at a later date for the resettlement of the Nauruan people, it will be necessary to finance the transfer of the population and it will also be necessary to set up a community or communities capable of existing at the economic level -- a reasonable one though by no manner of means a very luxurious one -- the economic level which they know.

(Mr. Mitra, India)

My delegation is aware that the Administering Authority has already assured this Council previously that expenses of resettlement will be borne by the Administering Authority. I also gather that some money to help in this task is being kept in a fund which is known as the Nauruan Community Long-Term Investment Fund.

From the replies given by the special representative to questions asked by the representative of the Soviet Union, it is clear that the sum of 19-1/2d. per ton, which was being paid in order to refund certain advances, will very soon cease to be a charge that will be incorporated in the price of phosphates. I do not see any reason why, instead of levying a royalty of 5d. per ton to invest in the future of the Nauruan people, this additional sum of 19-1/2d. also could not be added in order to make the fund as large as possible and enable the Nauruans to have some security in their future.

In the course of the replies given to me by the special representative, he agreed with me that only 19 per cent of the price of phosphates was being paid in some form or another to the Nauruan people, including the costs of administration. Nineteen per cent is not too high a figure, as I already stated.

It has also been stated by the special representative that the British Phosphate Commissioners is a non-profit-making organization. I presume that what is meant by this is that the price of the phosphates is fixed in accordance with the amount spent on administration costs, on payments to the Nauruans, and other payments for freight, etc. But the phosphates are not used by the Nauruans. They are used by people who are foreign to the Territory of Nauru. As far as I can make out, they are used primarily by the citizens of two countries, both of which are members of the Trusteeship Council and the Administering Authority for this Territory. The third member of the Council who is connected with the Phosphate Commissioners -- that is the United Kingdom -- also has an interest in the price of the phosphates because, naturally, on these prices depends the price of varying food products produced in Australia and New Zealand. In view of the fact that the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand are jointly the Administering Authority, and the British Phosphate Commissioners is an organization formed by these three Governments -- and these three Governments are well known for their interest in the welfare of the people

(Mr. Mitra, India)

of the Trust Territory -- I should think that the Administering Authority would have little trouble in convincing the British Phosphate Commissioners that it was essential to invest a little more in the future of the Nauruan people. This would be rather like convincing in one's own delegation -- it is done very often; it is not too difficult. These are two organizations formed by the same people. It would mean, of course, increasing the price of phosphates available to farmers in Australia and New Zealand by some amount, but I am sure that the future of the people of the Trust Territory is of considerable interest.

My delegation would, therefore, commend to the Administering Authority the proposal that it might be desirable to give more detailed information regarding the negotiations in progress between the Nauruan people and the British Phosphate Commissioners regarding an increase in the royalty rates. We have also noted that the landowners are pressing to have the royalty rates for direct payments increased. We can understand that. Anybody who can get money today would prefer to have it today rather than to invest it in the future, particularly if he is not alert to the problems of the future. But here I think it is for the Administering Authority to carry out a programme of educating the Nauruans in this respect, of telling them what the position is, telling them that forty years from now they will have to depend partly on what they are earning today. I am sure that the Administering Authority, with its great resources and its ability in these matters, could do a great deal in this field, and we would suggest that some such programme be implemented by the Administering Authority.

My delegation is also unhappy about the fact that, in spite of the specific suggestions of this Council regarding the financing of the budget of the Territory, the Administering Authority, unfortunately, cannot find it possible to change the system whereby the Administrator more or less presents a bill to the British Phosphate Commissioners for the cost of administration and the latter pays the bill. The Council noted last year that this system might lead to the exercise of undue influence by the Commissioners over the budget of the Territory.

(Mr. Mitra, India)

The Administering Authority and the special representative this year repeat their previous assurances. These assurances did not suffice last year to remove the recommendation from the Council's resolutions -- assurances that the Commissioners would not exercise any form of budget control over the Territory. We are informed that this system is better suited than the previous system, but a suggestion was made by our delegation that the territorial revenues could be raised by a tax on the export of phosphates and by a share in the profits from the sale of the phosphates. Most Governments in the world exist on taxes, export duties and exploitation of natural resources. Even though this is a small island, we cannot understand why a special system must be applied which is practically unique. If this were the common thing and we were suggesting something unknown, we could understand the practical difficulties. What is actually happening is that a quite unknown method is being used for financing the budget of the Territory, and the commonly known methods are being called impractical. This we find very difficult to understand. We cannot see the difficulty in raising the revenue by means of a tax. Budgeting for a colony of 4,000 people could not possibly be so uncertain that the exact tax could not be calculated. If there were some surplus, or even a deficit, the Government of Australia, from its vast and varied resources, undoubtedly could cover the deficit until the next year or keep the surplus for a future deficit. This is indeed a matter to which we should like attention to be paid by the Administering Authority, as well as by the Council, as we are not entirely convinced about the impracticability of our suggestion.

My delegation has noted with regret that even now the Nauruan people do not participate directly in the administration of the Phosphate Commissioners, the organization which exploits the only natural resource of the Territory, the resource on which every Nauruan is finally dependent. It is perhaps true that, even after nearly forty years of benevolent foreign rule, no Nauruan has so far reached a standard of education and administrative ability necessary to enable him to participate directly in the higher echelon of administration of his own country's only natural resource. Nevertheless, perhaps some system of consultation could be worked out between

(Mr. Mitra, India)

the local Council and the British Phosphate Commissioners which would permit the Nauruans to play an active and positive role in the administration of the Phosphate Commissioners.

In this connexion my delegation has noted the statement of the special representative this afternoon to the effect that it is not normal for a special representative to be asked questions about the workings of a specific business organization in the Territory. But, as I pointed out in the very beginning, this is a most unspecific business organization since it is composed of the very Governments which constitute the Administering Authority under the terms of the Charter. My delegation is particularly interested in this problem because we feel that Article 76 (b) of the Charter makes it absolutely incumbent on the Administering Authority to promote the economic advancement of the people of a Trust Territory and to utilize the natural resources of the Territory exclusively for the well-being of the people who inhabit it.

These observations which I have made about the future of the Nauruan people and their economic well-being are not made in a spirit of criticism just for the sake of criticizing, but they are made on my part in a constructive spirit and in the belief that the Administering Authority itself will agree with the viewpoint expressed by my delegation and will see its way to accept some of our suggestions.

As far as the actual administration of the Territory is concerned, we cannot but commend the Government of Australia for the able and conscientious manner in which it has discharged its responsibilities. As usual, expenditure on social services continues to be very high, and this is something for which the Administering Authority should be commended.

It also appears from the report, as well as from such other explanatory information which we have received, that the Administering Authority is making considerable effort in the field of education. In this field we must commend UNESCO for its very complete report to the Administering Authority. For all these efforts, the Administering Authority has our sincere commendation.

In the social field the only comment which we have to make is that we feel very strongly that discriminatory work and wage scales based on racial differences should be abolished.

(Mr. Mitra, India)

Here again I feel that the Administering Authority could perhaps convince the British Phosphate Commissioners to accept an end to such discrimination, which is contrary to the spirit and the letter of the Charter.

On the problem of land tenure, my delegation is somewhat unhappy about the fact that 10 per cent of the land available in the Territory which can be used for cultivation, or even for the growing of coconuts, is being used for an airstrip. We would be particularly happy to have information as to whether it would be possible to use some other land or to think of relocating the airfield elsewhere. We do feel this is rather an unhappy situation and we are not completely convinced that this sort of an airfield is entirely necessary. However, I was very grateful indeed for the special representative's clarification on certain other questions regarding the airfield which I had had in mind.

We would once again urge that more and more work should be given to the Local Government Council and they should be consulted actively on all problems related to their resettlement and their economic well-being. My delegation would be particularly happy if details of such consultations could be provided to us in what is otherwise a highly detailed report.

We would again draw attention to the fact that in higher administrative posts there is still a remarkable dearth of Nauruans, whether in the administration itself or in the administration of the twin body, the British Phosphate Commissioners. We would be grateful if the Administering Authority could intensify its efforts to increase participation by Nauruans in both these bodies.

Finally, I would like to thank the special representative for the considerable assistance he has given to this Council in the consideration of this problem and to reassure him that the remarks made by our delegation are only calculated to help in what we know is a very difficult task for the Administering Authority.

Mr. PRESTON (United States): The United States delegation has read with considerable interest the various documents submitted to the Trusteeship Council this year on the Trust Territory of Nauru, and has closely followed the valuable statements made by the other members of the Council and by the special representative, Mr. Jones.

(Mr. Preston, United States)

Although the situation in Nauru has not changed considerably during the period under review, there have been several developments worthy of note. Unquestionably, the paramount problem facing the Administering Authority with respect to the Trust Territory is the future of the Nauruan community. We were therefore very gratified to learn in this regard that the Administering Authority is continuing its efforts to find a suitable locale for the eventual resettlement of the people of the Trust Territory, and we hope that these efforts will be continued vigorously in the future, bearing in mind the complexities involved in finding a resettlement area which would meet the major requirements of the people to be resettled, as envisaged by the Administering Authority and by the Nauruan people.

The United States delegation notes with satisfaction that the Administering Authority is in continuous consultation with the Nauru Local Government Council concerning this problem. We trust the Administering Authority will keep the Trusteeship Council similarly informed, and might see fit to include in its annual report a detailed review of the progress achieved toward the solution of this all-important problem.

With respect to the Nauru Local Government Council, my delegation notes that that body shows rather limited initiative in exercising the authority which has been granted it by the Administrator, and would urge the Administering Authority to continue to encourage the Council to utilize the power at its disposal. Since to date the Local Government Council has apparently not responded as much as it might to the urgings of the Administering Authority to assume the initiative in local matters, the Administering Authority might consider what other ways there are to dramatize to the councillors the importance of their exercising greater responsibility.

We were very gratified to learn that the new Judiciary Ordinance discussed at the twentieth session of the Trusteeship Council came into force last December. The separation of the Executive from the Judiciary, which resulted from this Ordinance, is certainly an encouraging step forward in the political development of the Trust Territory of Nauru. I might also add at this point that the United States delegation is appreciative of the special representative's detailed explanation of the provisions of the Ordinance.

(Mr. Preston, United States)

We also note with satisfaction and commend the Administering Authority on the large number of Nauruan personnel employed by the administration. We were gratified to learn that the Administering Authority is continuing its excellent training scheme for Nauruan civil servants and hope that this programme will be continued and expanded in the years to come.

My delegation notes that the Administering Authority's search for a suitable permanent supply of water for irrigation purposes met with no success and that the project was of necessity abandoned in December 1957. We commend the Administering Authority for having so diligently pursued the search for a suitable water supply for several years even though its endeavours did not prove fruitful.

The opening, during the course of the year under review, of the new Administration General Hospital is encouraging news. The United States delegation commends the Administering Authority on providing the Nauruans with the most modern and advanced medical facilities. Similarly, we were pleased to learn that the extensive tuberculosis survey proposed by the New South Wales Anti-Tuberculosis Association was completed during 1956-57 and that every inhabitant of Nauru was X-rayed and skin-tested with the help of the British Phosphate Commissioners and the Nauru Local Government Council. It is to be hoped that as a result of this survey tuberculosis will soon be eradicated, or nearly so, in the Trust Territory.

We also note with satisfaction that during the course of the year under review the Administering Authority gave a group of eight Nauruan primary school teachers the opportunity to travel to Australia to observe educational practices and techniques. We hope that in the future other Nauruan teachers will have a similar opportunity. We also note in the educational field that no Nauruan is at present studying at university level. We endorse the recommendation of UNESCO that the Administering Authority continue its efforts to enable Nauruan students to have the possibility to undertake full university-level courses. We would also encourage the Administering Authority to give consideration to the establishment of an institution of higher learning in the Trust Territory in the near future.

(Mr. Preston, United States)

My delegation, finally, wishes to express its utmost appreciation to the special representative for Nauru, Mr. Jones, and to the representative of Australia, for so courteously and co-operatively assisting the Trusteeship Council in its discussion of the conditions in the Trust Territory. We look forward to a series of valuable and useful recommendations arising out of the general debate.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

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Trusteeship Council
22nd Session
4th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1393
12 June 1958

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 1

The Trusteeship Council this afternoon continued the questioning of John H. Jones, Australia's special representative, on conditions in Nauru. The Council at present is examining conditions in that trust territory, administered by Australia.

HSI-KUN YANG (China) noted from the opening statement of the special representative that, following the completion in May 1957 of a tuberculosis survey, all of Nauru's population of 3,600 was X-rayed and skin tested. Of these, 136 persons were found to be suffering from the disease. Those afflicted consisted of 47 Nauruans, 21 Gilbert and Ellis islanders and 68 Chinese.

Mr. YANG asked whether there were any active cases among the 89 non-Nauruan patients, how many of these had asked to be sent back to their own country and how many had contracted TB after their arrival in Nauru.

Mr. JONES regretted that he did not have on hand information concerning the first and second points. There was no way of ascertaining when the patients had contracted TB, since no chest X-ray examinations were made at the time the migrants were admitted to the territory.

In reply to another question, the special representative promised to provide later fuller information on the payment of compensation claims for injuries received, made under the new workers' compensation ordinance which came into force in September 1956.

G.K. CASTON (United Kingdom) noted that only a small proportion of the migrants -- Gilbertese and Chinese workers -- who came to Nauru to work for the phosphate industry had brought along their wives and families with them. He wanted to know the reason for this.

Mr. JONES said that the main reason was the shortage of suitable accommodations for married workers. The British Phosphate Commissioners, he added, were quite willing to have the workers bring their families provided accommodation could be found for them. Efforts were being made to tackle the problem.

(more)

U. THANT (Burma) noted that the qualification required for the admission of Chinese students to the European schools was a sufficient knowledge of English. This qualification, however, was not expressly stated in the case of the admission of Nauruan students. It was obvious from this requirement, he said, that the reason Chinese students were not admitted was because of the language factor. But what was the reason in the case of Nauruan students? he asked.

The special representative emphasized that there was no racial discrimination within the school system in the territory. However, for teaching to be efficient, classes should as far as possible be homogeneous, he said. A class composed of children with different linguistic and cultural backgrounds was difficult to teach.

The different schools provided in the territory were designed to meet the needs of the different races. The differences were purely linguistic not racial, he declared.

VLADIMIR N. BENDRYSHEV (USSR) asked why there were different pay scales for workers in the phosphate industry, depending on whether they were Europeans, Chinese or Nauruans.

Mr. JONES replied that differences in pay depended on the type of work performed, whether the worker was a mechanic, a skilled or unskilled worker. As for immigrant labor, the wage scale was based on that prevailing at the place of recruitment.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV then asked why the administering authority had not been able to introduce a unified pay scale as recommended by the Trusteeship Council last year.

The special representative replied that he could not explain the delay. The suggestion had been noted by the administering authority and the practicality of the suggestion was now being examined. He could not explain the delay in arriving at a decision.

To another question by the Soviet representative, Mr. JONES said no reason had been found to explain the increase in the incidence of tuberculosis during the past two or three years. However, the administration was confident that, with the steps being taken, the territory would soon be freed of tuberculosis.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV asked how many Nauruans had completed higher or university education. The special representative said no Nauruan had completed university education. However, there were a number of Nauruan students attending the teachers' college, two were studying civil engineering, one electrical engineering, one building construction, and so forth.

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Trusteeship Council
22nd Session
4th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1393
12 June 1958

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 2

After further questions and answers, the detailed examination of conditions in Nauru was declared closed. The Council then began general debate on this territory.

The first speaker, A.K. MITRA (India), said the basic problem confronting the Nauruans was where they would go 40 years from now when the territory's major economic resource -- its phosphate deposits on which their livelihood depends -- are exhausted.

The need for making arrangements well in advance to provide for the future of the Nauruan people, he noted, had been repeatedly stressed by the Council over the past years. He regretted that, instead of concrete proposals, the only information furnished by the administering authority to this session was the general statement that the study of the question was being intensified.

Mr. MITRA hoped that the administering authority would provide full and detailed information on this question, including such matters as areas investigated for possible resettlement of the Nauruans, and consultations with the Nauruans as regards their wishes and plans for their future resettlement.

He believed that the British Phosphate Commissioners, being a non-profit group, could make still higher royalty payments to the Nauruans. He hoped to hear about the results of the negotiations now going on between the BPC and the Nauruan Local Government Council for an increase in the royalty rates.

As regards the administration of the territory, he commended the administering authority for the "able and conscientious" way in which it had carried out its trust. The expenditure for social services continued high and considerable efforts were being made in education.

He hoped to see increased participation of Nauruans in the higher posts in the administration of the territory.

KENNETH PRESTON (United States) said the paramount problem faced by the administering authority was the future of the Nauruan community. He was "gratified" that the administering authority was continuing its efforts to find suitable locales where the Nauruans could be resettled in the future. He also expressed satisfaction that the administering authority was continuing its

consultations with the Nauruan Local Government Council on this problem.

He hoped the administering authority would continue its efforts to find a solution to the problem and would keep the Trusteeship Council informed.

Mr. PRESTON commended the administering authority for the way in which it had carried out its trust in the various fields. He praised the "excellent" program of training of Nauruans for the civil service and for providing the territory with the "most modern medical facilities."

He regretted, however, that the Nauruan Local Government Council had not shown too much enthusiasm in the exercise of its powers. He hoped the administering authority would continue its efforts in encouraging the Council to exercise its functions.

There being no other speakers on Nauru, the general debate on this territory will be continued by the Council at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow.

MASON SEARS (United States), in reply to a question by Mr. Bendryshev (USSR), said his delegation would be ready to begin the discussion of the trust territory of the Pacific Islands next Monday.

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(END OF TAKE 2 AND PRESS RELEASE TR/1393.)