

UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



PROVISIONAL
T/PV.893
13 June 1958
ENGLISH

Twenty-second Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHT HUNDRED AND NINETY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 13 June 1958, at 2.30 p.m.

President:

Mr. CLAEYS BOUABERT (Vice-President)

(Belgium)

1. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Nauru: annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1957 [30] (continued)
2. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories [12]

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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/SR.893 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.

General debate (continued)

Mr. JEAN-LOUIS (Haiti) (interpretation from French): The Haitian delegation has followed with interest all the stages of the consideration by the Council of the development of the situation in the Trust Territory of Nauru during the year ending 30 June 1957. In light of the explanations given by the special representative in his introductory statement and in his replies given to various representatives, and in the report of the Administering Authority, the Council has received detailed information on the measures taken during the year under consideration, and it is in a position to judge what progress has taken place in the light of the requirements of Article 73 of the Charter.

As is well known, the most pressing problem of Nauru, its number one problem, the one whose fatefulness requires that all others should be considered only in the light of its requirements, is the fact that the very soil of this small island is consuming itself under the feet of its inhabitants and that in some years the Nauruans will have to seek refuge elsewhere.

In view of the scope and complexity of the operation which will be involved in the displacement and resettlement of the entire population, it is important that a rapid decision be reached on this subject. Thus far, unfortunately, no step has been taken to carry out this project. The report this year does not even show to what extent the theoretical aspects of the problem have been studied. The Haitian delegation hopes that this gap will be filled in next year's report and that we shall see there what could be called a logistical schedule for the operation of resettlement which, taking as a basis the expected population figure of Nauru at that time, will estimate the number of houses, schools, public buildings, and so forth, required for the Nauruan population, will calculate the approximate cost of the expenditures involved, and will see how this can be achieved.

(Mr. Jean-Louis, Haiti)

My delegation has noted with some satisfaction the efforts of the Administering Authority to stimulate political thinking among the Nauruans. Thus, the governmental councillors of Nauru have been urged to exercise the powers which attach to their office. Indeed, they have issued two ordinances, as we have learned from the introductory statement of the special representative, but these were on rather unimportant questions, whereas a draft tax levy has remained pending in the archives of the council. My delegation is anxious to see the population of Nauru become more and more adept in the conduct of its political affairs. This state of mind shown by the councillors is disturbing. It seemed to my delegation that the rule under which all the activities of the council are subject to the approval of the administrator was likely to have a decisive effect upon the political activities and therefore, we felt that it would be wise to introduce some exceptions to this rule and to leave the council free to make its own decisions without having to refer them to the administrator.

The special representative, when asked his opinion, referred to the stage of development of the Nauruan people. He referred to their political development and he gave a negative answer which leads my delegation to persist in its opinion that something should be tried in this respect, taking precisely into account the degree of development of the Nauruans.

During our debates it was revealed that not only the governmental councillors but also the magistrates and the judges are officials who come under different services of the Administration of the Territory, and are paid in that capacity. The Haitian delegation urges the Administration to put an end to this practice, at least as regards the judges who in Nauru, as well as in our own countries, must be fully independent in order to fulfil their mission of pronouncing justice.

The economic situation in the island of Nauru has for a long time preoccupied the members of the Council. From the debates one may gain the impression that the Nauruans are fortunate, that they know neither taxes nor unemployment, and that perhaps inhabitants of other places in the world should envy them were it not for the ephemeral character of their advantage. Unfortunately, we know what the ransom will be for this situation. They will have to be transplanted; they will have to settle in an environment which is unknown to them, and they will have to draw every possible benefit from the

(Mr. Jean-Louis, Haiti)

present situation in order to survive. We, therefore, congratulate the Administering Authority on having carried forward the economic development of the island, for it is indeed necessary for the Nauruans to accumulate wealth.

In the field of public health deserving work has been done. The Haitian delegation is glad to congratulate the Administering Authority and it hopes that subsequent improvement will continue.

Finally, education has been studied thoroughly by UNESCO, and my delegation does not feel that it has to add anything to what was said in the report of that competent body, and we support that report.

The Haitian delegation hopes that from the present debate the greatest benefit will be derived for the population of the Territory. We wish to reiterate our congratulations and our thanks to the special representative.

Mr. KIANG (China): May I first of all say that with his mastery of the conditions of Nauru, the special representative, Mr. Jones, has greatly facilitated the task of the Council in this yearly review of the report on the Trust Territory of Nauru. In the nine months period since this Council last examined the conditions in the Territory, progress has been made in certain fields of development. Now, I would like to offer very briefly some observations of my delegation on certain aspects of the developments in the Territory during the period under review.

For a small territory like Nauru, a period of nine months is not too long a time for us to expect startling changes in the Territory. Changes would be forthcoming, had the Local Government Council shown much more interest and concern as we have been expecting from it in the exercise of its authority and rule-making functions. While we have noted with interest that action was finally taken by the Local Government Council in the appointment of the seven standing committees, my delegation wants to express its concern about the fact, as told by the special representative to this Council, that the Local Government Council has not shown much initiative with respect to the making of rules within its competence or in the examination of proposed new ordinances. We are certainly disappointed that the Local Government Council was unable to express its views on the Territorial estimates when they were presented to it for its

(Mr. Kiang, China)

information and comments. In order that the Local Government can show vigour in its effective exercise of powers, the Administering Authority may have to make further efforts in the direction of stimulating the interest and concern of the members of the Local Government Council. May I therefore add that it would be stimulating and educative for the Local Government Council, as well as for the Mauruan people that the Council, when it fully exercises its power to impose taxes to be paid by the Mauruans, will be further empowered to consider ways and means of raising its own revenue to meet the expenses for various projects of economic development. As the 1956 Visiting Mission has said, the ability of the Local Government Council to take full advantage of the powers already granted was conditioned by financial limitation.

With respect to the new ordinances, the commencement of which has been deferred, my delegation wishes to express the hope that the Social Service Ordinance will be put into effect without further delay. It is through the exercise of its authority such as to impose and collect taxes that the Local Government will grow in stature and effectiveness.

(Mr. Kiang, China)

Before I leave the political field, my delegation wishes to say that this Council would certainly like to express its gratification at the final adoption of the new Judiciary Ordinance. The new Ordinance means the complete separation between the judiciary and the executive, which this Council had strongly recommended to the Administering Authority.

In the field of economic development, the royalty and the fishery deserve our special attention. So far as the royalty is concerned, my delegation still believes that wishes of the Nauruans to receive higher royalty rates deserve most sympathetic consideration.

In his opening statement, the special representative stated, "The policy of the Administration is to place emphasis on building up a fund adequate to meet the cost of ensuring the future well-being of the community". (T/PV.890, page 31) We welcome such a statement of policy because this is in accord with the view of the last Visiting Mission to the Territory. We are further assured by the special representative that the increase which the British Phosphate Commissioners are agreeable to pay would go mainly towards the Nauruan Community Long-Term Investment Fund. However, it is our understanding that the increase of contribution to this long-term community fund as contemplated will not interfere with the direct payment to the Nauruan landowners.

With the abandonment of the search for permanent sources of water which is so vital to agricultural development, the fishery now seems to claim greater importance. The fishing industry will help to develop the marine resources around Nauru. It will also give the Nauruans such training and experience that would make the Nauruans better prepared for the same kind of pursuits, should they one day be resettled elsewhere.

As regards public health, the increase of the expenditure on health service and the number of medical staff in the employment of both the Public Health Department and the British Phosphate Commissioners together with the expansion of the capacity of hospital accommodations are commendable. The Administration is also to be commended for the steps being taken for the control of tuberculosis in the Territory. My delegation is confident that the Administering Authority will further intensify its efforts in the fields of improved conditions of sanitation and hygiene, and the training of Nauruan medical personnel.

(Mr. Kiang, China)

In the matter of the housing condition of the immigrant workers, we regret to find that the situation does not seem to have improved. We would, therefore, urge upon the Administering Authority and through it upon the British Phosphate Commissioners to take necessary measures to ameliorate the situation.

I do not propose to say much in regard to educational conditions in the Territory. The appropriate recommendations and observations of UNESCO contained in document T/1579, we hope, will receive the serious consideration of the Administering Authority.

I wish only to say that my delegation is pleased to know from the special representative that adequate accommodations to meet the needs of the population for secondary education already exists in the Territory and the present secondary school will be extended to matriculation standard.

We also are glad to know that for the first time a professionally trained Nauruan teacher is now in service and that three more students are now studying at teachers colleges in Australia. As a useful method of providing in-service guidance to the bulk of unqualified Nauruan teachers, we shall look forward to more observation visits to Australia being organized for them in the future, if possible, on a rotation basis.

As regards the future of the Nauruan community, I do not have to reiterate what I had said in this Council previously. My delegation hopes that the Administering Authority will be able to inform this Council before long of the general plans for the possible resettlement of the Nauruan community which are understood to be under close consideration. This Council certainly looks forward to hearing from the Administering Authority how far the general plans are advancing and how the Nauruan people are thinking of the general plans.

Before I close, may I also extend our thanks to the representative of Australia for his assistance in our examination of the conditions in the Territory of Nauru.

Mr. SMOLDEREN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): It has become commonplace to affirm that all the Trust Territories have the same right to the concern of the Council. This, however, does not mean that the Trusteeship Council is under an obligation to devote as much time to the consideration of a Territory which has only 4,000 inhabitants as it devotes to Territories which have more than 8 million inhabitants. In addition, we should maintain as much as possible a just proportion between the size of the Territories and the cost of the function of supervision exercised by the international organizations. Some of my colleagues have already observed this during previous sessions.

I was curious enough to inquire of the Secretariat and of the Administering Authority about the approximate cost of the control assumed by the Council, and here is the result of my inquiry. In the first place, there are Visiting Missions. Each time the cost amounts to \$50,000. This amount has been divided in my calculation by the number of Territories visited -- that is, four -- and then by three in order to calculate the figure of annual amortization.

Then, there is the documentation of the United Nations -- summaries, reports of the committees concerned, reports of specialized agencies, reports of Visiting Missions, drafting committees, the report of the Council to the General Assembly and so forth. There is also the printing and distribution of the annual report of the Administering Authority. Finally, there is the trip of the special representative and his per diem. These costs must be divided by two because the special representative is also available to the Council in the consideration of the situation in New Guinea.

The over-all total is approximately \$10,200. This amount does not cover the costs borne by the Australian authorities in drafting the annual report, nor does it cover the expenses of the specialized agencies and the general overhead of the international organization such as translators, interpreters and so forth. I am not forgetting the drafting committees on Nauru which for the past two years have held successively twenty-three and nineteen meetings, which is a record in the history of the Council. Of course, it is not possible to calculate exactly what this represents in the total budget of the Organization. But one may reasonably think that the amount of \$10,200 which I mentioned a moment ago is only less than half of the over-all cost.

(Mr. Smolderen, Belgium)

What would such sums represent to Nauru if they were devoted to the well-being of the Territory? I shall give some examples. After the war, 350 housing units were built in order to replace those which were destroyed as a result of hostilities. Approximately 2,000 person live in these houses, that is, almost the entire indigenous population. More than 100 housing units of this kind could have been paid for by the cost involved in the exercise of international supervision over this island.

It is also well known that since 1954 the Administering Authority has conducted a vigorous policy of school-building construction, to which project it has devoted a considerable sum. This construction could have been doubled if we had used for that purpose the cost of the debates on Nauru in this Council over the past ten years. Of course, it is impossible to know at this time whether the Nauruans would have preferred the sums to be devoted to their well-being or whether they would not rather have taken pride in the solicitude shown for them by the Council. For let us not forget that the supervision exercised by the Council over Nauru, which has some 2,000 odd indigenous inhabitants, is not much less than the cost of the supervision of Tanganyika, which has 8 million inhabitants.

I wonder whether it would not be better to replace the annual consideration of Nauru with a triennial examination, which could perhaps coincide with the introduction of the report of the Visiting Mission. Of course, the Charter provides for an annual report of the Administering Authority. But the question of the periodicity of the consideration of the reports is left open and is at the discretion of this Council. The suggestion which I am making in no way means that my delegation is opposed to the international supervision exercised by this Council, nor do we wish to infringe upon the prerogatives of this Council. It is merely a question of common sense which we are raising.

One of the major problems mentioned each year in connexion with this Territory is the question of the future of the Nauruan community. One may wonder, however, whether this is not rather a fallacious problem or merely a hypothetical problem. The Administering Authority undoubtedly has the duty to study it, as it has the duty to study all problems which may arise at any time, or in the near future, in connexion with the administration of the Territory. So to govern is indeed to foresee. But to foresee is not to draw up fantastic plans, and it is certainly not to adopt measures which are not at all necessary at this time.

Here again is a problem which may be resolved, one might say, when at the horizon one may see that island which may be the promised land for the Nauruans, who will be led there by the Australian prophets. This will not be a resolved problem. There will be hundreds of new problems, for this time such enterprises -- if they should not be called massive deportation -- can be undertaken only with the consent of the entire population. And how could such consent be possible? There will always be aged people who will be frightened of displacement, and there will be young people attached to their native land.

We have been told that after the exhaustion of the phosphates, the natural resources of the Territory might still ensure the subsistence of about 3,000 people; that is, if we take into account the rate of increase of the population, it might still take care of half the population. Moreover, there will be other solutions than immigration. But if they do not wish to change their way of life entirely the Nauruans will have to go abroad and they will

have to find a place where conditions are more or less similar to the ones they are used to. These indeed will be the inclinations of the authorities in Nauru who will be responsible at that time for such mass movement. The perspective of a new life will have to be opened to this population and it may be hoped that, thanks to the development of education, the number of qualified leaders will be considerable. All this is hypothetical, I may be told, and I do not disagree. But these hypotheses are based on natural law and they are as valid as the hypothesis under which the Nauruans need to emigrate at a certain time.

Who can tell us that the world of tomorrow will not offer other possibilities to the Nauruans, other than the ones which we may imagine today?

Two other aspects of the problem should not escape our attention. Some members of the Council, for some years, have shown concern for the maintenance of the Nauruan community as such, that is, as an individuality, as a national personality. The disappearance of picturesque customs provokes in us -- and this is a fact -- legitimate concern. But we should also have a sense of proportion, for such reasoning may lead to the generalization of the so-called system of natural reservations, and this may transform indigenous inhabitants into museum pieces or anthropological curiosities. Some day Nauruans may be more adapted to modern life and this will change the personality of Nauru. Nauru is only a part of mankind, which is developing constantly. New countries develop, and they result from immigration of nationalities which shed their peculiarity. Should we regret that?

Another aspect of the problem is that the resettlement of the Nauruan community on other lands would presuppose the maintenance of the trusteeship system for a long time, perhaps for several decades. It is not easy to see how the community will become independent and will be able to acquire the spaces for its resettlement.

The time when it was possible to buy land is gone.¹ Who then will make it possible for Nauruans to be resettled if they are not under trusteeship? There can be only one Power which can do that and that can only be Australia. Such a mission which has been entrusted to Australia by the Council presupposes either the maintenance of the system of trusteeship until this operation is over or the

granting of major powers to the old Administering Authority after the accession to independence of the Nauruans. This should not be lost sight of, for this amounts, on the one hand, to making them independent, and at the same time giving someone else authority over them. We should point out also that assuming that the population transfer takes place under the Trusteeship System, this transfer would have the inevitable implications, as far as Nauruans are concerned, of the Trusteeship System coming to an end. But the Trusteeship System is always attached to a Territory, not to a population.

We can see that very complex questions are involved in this debate on Nauru, and one may ask whether these debates are of any use at this time for the Nauruans themselves. Be that as it may, whether there will be a progressive exodus, under the pressure of natural development, or whether it will be a planned transfer with a time schedule, whatever the circumstances of the future may be, we must still not forget the prosaic problems of the immediate present and future. And this is precisely what the Administering Authority is doing. It is trying to develop the sense of responsibility of the members of the Nauru Local Government Council. They are trying to develop education and to train a future elite by means of a growing number of scholarships.

Nauruans, at the time when they have to decide on their individual or collective fate, should be equipped to face the modern world, where the factors of competition and initiative are so important. Perhaps this is the real problem of the future of the Territory. The Administering Authority seems to have understood this very well. In this regard, my delegation was glad to hear, during a meeting of this Council, the important statement of the special representative according to which the present educational system was developed with all the possibilities in mind which may arise in the future.

Yet the task of the Administering Authority is not an easy one. The absence of the spur of need is a psychological obstacle. Among the under-developed people, the Nauruans appear as a favourite group, and this of course may have sad implications. I am convinced that the Administering Authority will not spare any effort to alert public opinion on this important point. The smallness

of Nauru and the very peculiar economic circumstances should never be lost sight of in appreciating the over-all character of the question. Any analogy with other Territories, much more populated and much larger, cannot be drawn. It would be absurd and dangerous to draw such an analogy. Political life in such a small community has necessarily a municipal character and a very concrete and specific character. Ideological debate has no place there. Also, members of the Government Council are not the representatives of a party with a programme; they are just men who have inspired confidence. This state of affairs has all the advantages and drawbacks of direct democracy, for the responsibility of the deputies is not enforced by large political formations.

These men who are elected must be, and are, in contact with those who have elected them. In Nauru the juridical country is in fact the real country. In other fields conditions are also very special.

At the twentieth session of the Trusteeship Council the representative of Belgium pointed out that the majority of the problems which arise in other countries of the world are unknown in Nauru. The entire male population is employed; free and compulsory education is available to all; medical care is provided without cost; even housing is built by the Administration and is freely available to the families concerned.

The Council must indeed congratulate the Administering Authority on the manner in which it provides for the moral and material progress of the population.

Among the more remarkable factors during the past year we should note in particular the fact that on 30 June 1957 there were 312 Nauruans holding official positions; the adoption of an agreement with the British Phosphate Commissioners under which eighty-eight housing units will be provided with electricity; the entering into force of a new judicial ordinance; the intensified struggle against tuberculosis; the programme for the modernization of education and, finally, the growing number of indigenous inhabitants who study abroad. All this should be noted as further development. All these measures, which fit into the framework of the general policy so often described in this Council and repeatedly approved by it, indicate both perseverance and dynamism in the Administration. My delegation has always been convinced that a continuous effort of this kind is necessary in order to achieve what a responsible Administering Authority seeks to achieve.

Mr. de CAMARET (France) (interpretation from French): We must say once more that the study of conditions in Nauru must be undertaken with great objectivity. Theories and criteria approved for other Territories, if applied to Nauru, would be unrealistic, for it would be regrettable indeed if principles were to be preferred to facts.

What is Nauru in effect but a small village of 2,000 inhabitants, the nearest neighbour 170 miles away, and the political problems which arise -- as Mr. Walker emphasized a few days ago -- problems merely of local government rather than national government? I could even say, to use the French equivalent,

"local government", that they are really problems of a municipal or departmental nature. The maintenance of public buildings, supply of water and electricity, transportation, housing -- these are the principal questions which the Administration must solve in co-operation with the Local Government Council. A perusal of the report of the Australian Government -- and I would say that this report has been well presented -- shows us that solutions to these problems have resulted in a very high degree of welfare as well as a high standard of living -- higher indeed than that of the inhabitants of some of the neighbouring archipelagos.

Public services are satisfactory, the construction of buildings has been accelerated, thanks to the Nauruan Housing Ordinance. There is no threat of unemployment; on the contrary, the entire male population is employed. Education is universal, free and compulsory. Medical care is free. There is a systematic campaign of X-ray examinations and skin tests for the entire community.

Thus, in the opinion of my delegation, the Trusteeship Council must indeed congratulate the Administering Authority for the constant efforts which it is making in the interests of material, spiritual and moral progress in the Territory.

We note also with great interest that the Administering Authority is making every possible effort to train Nauruans for political life and to interest them in the management of their own affairs. There are some who feel that this political progress is too slow, but that is simply because such progress must be seen against the background of a very small community, where one cannot expect great transformations, such as would be the case if one were dealing with millions of individuals.

The special representative has indicated that the population and its elected officers do not seem to associate themselves, as would be desirable, with the efforts made by their guardians. We have been told that the Local Government Council has not fulfilled all the hopes of the Administration. It cannot be said that Australia is responsible for this phenomenon; we can simply hope that all the attempts being made to inspire this Local Government Council with a little more life will meet with success.

Some people regret that there are still no political parties. But perhaps the existence of parties in such a small community is not absolutely indispensable, and perhaps the Nauruans are showing, in this connexion, not apathy, but wisdom. At any rate, it is not the role of the Administration to establish political parties; that would cause it to lose its neutrality. What is really important is for the population to be able freely to express their opinions; and in this regard we were struck, two years ago, by the remarks of the Visiting Mission of 1956, which emphasized in its report that if no political party had been formed in Nauru, the diverse political personalities had different views about many important subjects. The Visiting Mission was happy to note that situation.

A great deal has been said about the Local Government Council since its establishment in 1951. The Trusteeship Council has expressed a wish to see the powers of that Local Government Council extended and that organ transformed into a legislative body. The Administering Authority shares this point of view, but is unable to enlarge these powers unless the present members of the Local Government Council become aware of their responsibilities and their duties and fully exercise the powers which have already been extended to them.

These Council members, according to the working paper prepared by the Secretariat, are reluctant "to take decisions on controversial matters without consulting their constituencies". (T/L.849, paragraph 7) This, again, is a consequence of the small-town atmosphere of the island, and I am sure that giving the Local Government Council a more pompous title would not change this attitude on the part of its members. We are happy to note that there is a spirit of collaboration and mutual trust in the relationships between the Council and the Administrator. This, indeed, will accelerate the transformation which we hope for.

Everything has been said, and said again, concerning the economic situation in this tiny Territory. One can read the recommendations which the Trusteeship Council has made in past years. We all know that many of them were drawn up after interminable discussions, because in certain cases it was necessary for the Drafting Committee to meet more than twenty times in order to frame certain recommendations concerning this small island. The economic situation is quite

clear. The Secretariat has again given us an excellent summary in the working paper, where we read that the economy of Nauru rests entirely upon the phosphate industry. In effect, cultivable land is rare on the island and the expansion of tropical agriculture is limited by the fact that the land is scarce, as well as the water resources. We note that the Administering Authority is making every effort to find new sources of subterranean water sufficient to permit the establishment of agricultural pilot stations.

Great attention is being given to the establishment of a fishing industry, account being taken of resolutions of the Trusteeship Council in this regard. A committee has been established recently to undertake a study of this matter and to present a solution to the problem, so that the population may derive more benefits from seafood products. However, the local market is not a boundless one. The special representative has given us some very valuable information concerning this matter.

(Mr. de Camaret, France)

The establishment of a fishing port, the purchase of ships and special equipment, the training of qualified personnel are projects that require much time and perseverance.

There can be no doubt about the reluctance of the Nauruan fishermen to follow the plans of the Administering Authority in this field, and we feel that a careful search will have to be made to find a market for these seafood products.

Perhaps this new industry will be established as an export industry after having processed these products.

Such industries have been established in numerous tropical countries since the last war, industries such as manufacturing of canned goods, different varieties of fish flour and the utilization of shark livers to be used for cattle fodder as well as for pharmaceutical purposes.

We were very interested to see the figures given in the annual report concerning the phosphate company.

Also, the replies given by the special representative -- and the French delegation is grateful for them -- to the numerous questions which were put regarding the management of this industry once again permits us to confirm the favourable verdict which we expressed in 1956 and 1957.

But there is one further point which is debated every year at length here in the Trusteeship Council as well as in the Drafting Committee. I am referring to the resettlement of the inhabitants of the island after the phosphate deposits have been exhausted.

I would not say that this is an academic discussion, but it is not as serious as some people seem to think.

The Administering Authority has some forty or fifty years to find a just and humane solution for the question of the emigration of 2,000 persons.

During the last ten years we have witnessed populations movements on a much greater scale in Europe where, as a result of the war, many persons were displaced and many millions were resettled. In France itself during the last decades, the number of emigrants could be counted in the hundreds of thousands. These people are now living in satisfactory conditions.

In Asia itself, very recently, in a territory which was administered by France for a long time, more than a million men and women were brutally caused to leave their homes and begin their lives again -- it is important to note that they did so with some success -- around Saigon and the Mekong Delta.

(Mr. de Camaret, France)

So why should we be so concerned about this question which will be facing the Australian administration about the year 2000? We are very sure that Australia will find a solution that will conform to the principles which have always guided its actions in the Territory.

I shall not expatiate on social and educational problems because, as I said at the beginning of this statement, they are dealt with very well by the Administering Authority.

It only remains for me now to thank the representatives of Australia and the special representative for the supplementary information which they have given to the Council on the present situation in the island of Nauru; these conditions are very peculiar ones and differ from the conditions existing in other Trust Territories.

Once again, I should like to thank Mr. Jones for his competence and patience. We know him to be an old veteran in this Council, but we know him especially as a friend of long standing.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): The island of Nauru has been under Trusteeship now for eleven years. This is a long time. During this time, important events have taken place in the world. Hundreds of millions of human beings have been freed from colonialism. Under the powerful blows of the national liberation movements, the colonial yokes round the necks of many millions of human beings have been broken. The populations of Territories under Trusteeship increasingly aspire to the independence and liberty which are the objectives of the Trusteeship System. There is no doubt that the population of the Trust Territory of Nauru, despite the fact that it is not numerous, also warmly aspires, the same as all other colonial peoples, to the termination of foreign domination, and it is waiting for the day when it will become the master in its own house.

(Mr. Bendryshev, USSR)

We must consider what was done by the Administering Authority during these approximately eleven years in order to attain the objectives of Trusteeship and to fulfil its obligations as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Trusteeship Agreement.

In his preliminary statement, the representative of Australia asserted that the problems which Nauru is facing are different from those faced by other Trust Territories. In this connexion he referred, first of all, to the problem of the political development of the Territory. He said that the Trust Territory of Nauru was small in area, that its population was not very numerous and that, for these reasons, the Administration of Nauru had to face, not a problem of the development of the population of the Territory, human problems, adding that the problem of Nauru was a problem of local administration.

Nauru indeed is of a very small size and its population is small. This Trust Territory also has its own peculiarities. But no one can deny that Nauru is a Trust Territory and that, for it as for the other Trust Territories, the principles of the International Trusteeship apply also, that the general tasks which go with the Trusteeship regime under the Charter of the United Nations apply equally to Nauru.

The representative of Australia knows full well that the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement do not deal with individual human problems, but with problems concerning the development of the population of the Territories in question. Undoubtedly, he also knows that the Charter of the United Nations, like the Trusteeship Agreement, lays down as an obligation of the Trusteeship regime not the development of local administration, but the development of the population towards self-government or independence.

However, the representative of Australia did not make a slip of the tongue in his statement. The bitter truth is that the Administering Authority is not doing anything and that, according to the statements of its representatives, it does not intend to do anything in order to fulfil the basic obligations of the International Trusteeship System and to assume the obligations that go with it.

(Mr. Bendryshev, USSR)

This is testified to eloquently by the fact that neither the report of the Administering Authority nor the statements of its representatives contain any information on the measures taken, or planned to be taken, by the Administering Authority in order to attain the basic objectives of Trusteeship.

This can also be seen in the statements of the special representative of the Administering Authority. Mr. Jones, the special representative, as in recent years, again asserted that the Nauruans allegedly are not yet ready to be given the right to create representative organs on the legislative and executive levels. He also said that it was not possible to establish plans in this respect for the future. The only thing that the special representative would admit was that this stage of development could be reached only in fifty years provided that the population would not be transferred elsewhere. We must keep it in mind that perhaps in forty years or even before the Administering Authority will have exported all the phosphates in the Territory. The Nauruans would thus be deprived of their natural wealth before the time when it will be possible to give them the opportunity to establish representative organs.

At the present time in the Territory, there is only a Local Government Council which does not even have all the rights that local organs usually have, and the competence of this Council is limited to only half of the population of the Territory.

(Mr. Bendryshev, USSR)

Like the peoples of all other Trust Territories, the inhabitants of the Trust Territory of Nauru have the legitimate right to create representative legislative and executive organs with full powers to take decisions on all questions related to the Territory's life: political questions, financial questions, questions concerning the utilization of the phosphates, and so forth. The Trusteeship Council must demand that the Administering Authority take the necessary steps to establish such organs as soon as possible.

Neither the Nauruans nor the Trusteeship Council can be satisfied with an organ which deals only with such local questions as that of garbage disposal, the maintenance of housing, the distribution of electrical power, and so forth.

The Territory of Nauru is administered by the Administrator and his organization. The indigenous inhabitants are deprived of the opportunity of participating in the administration of the Territory.

The question of their future is as important to the inhabitants of Nauru as to the inhabitants of other Trust Territories. It must be recalled that last year the Trusteeship Council recommended that the Administering Authority submit to the Council specific proposals relating to a solution of this problem in accordance with the desires of the population and the provisions of the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement. It must, nevertheless, be noted that the Administering Authority has submitted no such proposals. The statements which we have heard from the special representative in reply to questions put to him have referred merely to the need to transfer the Nauruans to other places and to the steps taken in connexion with the search for resettlement areas in other colonies, such as Papua and New Guinea. As an argument for transferring the Nauruans to other places, we are told that the Island's natural resources can provide for only 3,000 inhabitants and that this matter therefore has no relation to the exporting of the phosphates. But the question of the future of the population of Nauru cannot be separated from the problem of the utilization of the phosphates, of which the Island has such an abundant supply.

In the first place, it must be noted that not all countries produce within their own boundaries all the foodstuffs necessary for their populations. Many countries have to import a large amount of foodstuffs from other countries.

(Mr. Bendryshev, USSR)

The question naturally arises: What financial resources are needed for such imports? Do the Nauruans have such resources? In order to reply to that question, we must consider what are the present assets of the Nauruans. Nature has given them great wealth. Almost the entire soil of this Territory consists of phosphates. If these rich deposits of phosphate were utilized in the interests of the Nauruans, they would provide the necessary resources for the creation of industries and other enterprises which, obviously, could provide for all the future needs of the population. Why, for instance, should the people not develop fisheries? Why should they not have a fishing industry which could export fish products? Why should they not acquire shipping? Why should they not operate a merchant marine, which would facilitate the purchasing of the necessary commodities? These are merely examples of possible solutions. But they show that the future of the population of Nauru must be linked with the utilization of the phosphates in the interests and for the benefit of the Nauruans themselves. This problem cannot be solved properly, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and the tasks defined by the International Trusteeship System, if the Nauruans are illegally deprived of the benefits of their natural wealth: the phosphates.

The Trust Territory of Nauru furnishes an example of the way in which a Trusteeship Agreement can be used by an Administering Authority to rob the indigenous population of a Trust Territory, to do so on the basis of a colonial agreement with the chiefs and without the agreement of the indigenous population as a whole. This Island is being plundered. Whether or not the natural owners of the Island agree, whether or not the Nauruans protest, their own soil is, as it were, being exported to Australia, to New Zealand and to the United Kingdom. For this purpose, the three Governments have established a special phosphate company which in fact is the true master of the Territory and the effective operation of which is the main interest of the Administering Authority.

Under article 5 of the Trusteeship Agreement, the Administering Authority undertook to:

"... respect the rights and safeguard the interests, both present and future, of the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory; and in particular

(Mr. Bendryshev, USSR)

ensure that no rights over native land in favour of any person not an indigenous inhabitant of Nauru may be created or transferred except with the consent of the competent public authority."

This has been only a paper obligation so far as the Administering Authority is concerned.

It is indispensable that the Nauruans be given the right freely and independently to decide how the ~~phosphate-deposits should be exploited.~~ It is the Trusteeship Council's duty to demand that the Administering Authority restore the sovereign right of the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory freely to dispose of their natural wealth and resources. The entire future of the Nauruans hinges on this. ~~The Nauruans must themselves take the decisions on all questions related to the exporting of the phosphates; the prices to be paid, and so forth.~~ Not one ton of the phosphates should be exported from the Territory without the full control of and on terms established by the Nauruans themselves. The present position must be radically changed -- that is, the position in which the British Phosphate Commissioners operate without any control and deprive the Nauruans of their main means of support and hope for the future. We must demand that the Administering Authority abide by the obligations which it undertook in assuming the trusteeship over the people of this Trust Territory.

The argument that the British Phosphate Commissioners are not a profit-making organization can hardly mislead anyone. This is not a benevolent organization. ~~It is a company established for the special purpose of exporting from the~~ Territory its natural wealth and robbing the indigenous population. The indigenous population receives only pennies for the phosphates which are exported; they are in no way compensated for what is being taken away from them.

(Mr. Bendryshev, USSR)

Only the lack of concern for the well-being of the indigenous population can explain the fact that the Administering Authority, despite the protests of the indigenous population, has taken away from them considerable areas of land which are suitable for cultivation and, with the labour of indigenous inhabitants, is building an airdrome which will be suitable for four-engine aircraft. The indigenous inhabitants hardly need so large an airdrome, as can be seen from the fact that for the entire year 1956-57, according to the report of the Administering Authority, there were only two flights in the island.

Racial discrimination is still practised in the Territory of Nauru. There are even laws which deal, on the one hand, with native labour, and, on the other hand, with Chinese, European and other labour. Only discrimination based on race can explain the existence of different rates of pay for Europeans and for other workers. Racial discrimination also exists in the field of public health, where different hospitals and dispensaries exist for different races. There is also discrimination in the field of education.

The incidence of tuberculosis is increasing, as can be seen from the results of the recent investigation. There is no doubt that the difficult labour conditions -- phosphate dusts, in particular -- have much to do with the spread of this disease.

We must demand of the Administering Authority the removal of all forms of racial discrimination. We must demand that all labour be protected in the Territory. The Administering Authority must take steps to remove existing inequality of pay on the basis either of race or of sex.

In the field of education, it is striking that, in the first place, there is not one Nauruan so far who has received higher education. Moreover, as was stated directly by the special representative in reply to my question, not one Nauruan has so far completed secondary education, which would give him access to a university. UNESCO points out in its report that, in 1956-57, there were eight students less in the secondary school than there were in the previous year, and there were thirty-two students less than there were three years ago. Moreover, the quality of the teaching, as can be seen from the report of the Administering Authority and the report of UNESCO, leaves much to be desired.

(Mr. Bendryshev, USSR)

One must therefore ask how it can be said that the Administering Authority has achieved success in the field of education.

The Territory has been administered by Australia for almost forty years. For almost eleven years, the Territory has been under the trusteeship of three Governments. But there are only 2,000 indigenous inhabitants in the Territory. All three Governments have derived considerable profits from the export of phosphates. If a minimum concern were shown for the indigenous inhabitants, then, under the conditions stated by me, we would have Nauruan specialists in all fields. The absence of such specialists shows that the Administering Authority is not evidencing the necessary concern for the training and education of the indigenous inhabitants. Its sole concern is the export of phosphates.

The Administering Authority must take all necessary steps to improve education in the Territory and to train the necessary specialists from among the Nauruans -- engineers, physicians, jurists, and so forth. It must draw up detailed plans for the replacement of Europeans by indigenous inhabitants in all leading posts in the administration of the Territory.

In conclusion, we must state that the Administering Authority is not carrying out the obligations assumed by it in respect of the population of the Trust Territory. The obligations assumed under the Charter and under the Trusteeship Agreement merely remain on paper. The Administering Authority takes into consideration neither the resolutions of the General Assembly nor the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council. It might suffice to look at the recommendations adopted at the twentieth session of the Council, and at the report of the Administering Authority, to become convinced that not one of the recommendations adopted by the Trusteeship Council has been given effect by the Administering Authority. This state of affairs is clearly abnormal and requires a drastic change in the position of the Administering Authority, which must carry out its obligations in respect of the population of Nauru.

An odd position is taken in this matter by the United Kingdom, which, along with Australia and New Zealand, is one of the administering authorities in the Trust Territory of Nauru. The representative of the United Kingdom in the

(Mr. Bendryshev, USSR)

Trusteeship Council asks questions of the special representative of the Administering Authority and acts as though his Government were not a party to what is happening in the Territory. However, Article 2 of the Trusteeship Agreement specifically states that the Government of the United Kingdom, jointly with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, is the administering authority which will provide the administration of the Territory. Thus, the Government of the United Kingdom is fully responsible for what is done in the Territory, jointly with the Governments of the other two States, and all that is said here about the Administering Authority and its obligations applies equally to the Government of the United Kingdom, which actively participates in the activities of the British Phosphate Commissioners. As regards its obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement, these, for some reason, it forgets.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom): If the representative of the Soviet Union would prefer me to put my questions in private to the special representative of the Government of Australia, which administers the Territory of Nauru on behalf of the joint Administering Authority, I will, of course, do so. But I feel that other members of the Council may be glad to hear the answers which he gives to the questions which occur to me in the course of the session.

In our consideration of the Territory of Nauru, it is especially necessary that we should always have in mind that part of Article 76(b) of the United Nations Charter which, in asserting one of the basic objectives of the trusteeship system to be the advancement of the inhabitants of the territories, reminds us that this must be in ways appropriate to the particular circumstances of each territory and its peoples.

The circumstances of Nauru are very particular indeed. In the first place its very smallness and the fact that there are only some four thousand inhabitants must determine the objects of development, especially in the political field and the methods by which they might be attained. In political terms, the difference between a community of, say, a quarter of a million inhabitants and one of four thousand is not simply one of degree or size; it is a difference of kind. The political atmosphere is much more intimate; we have a situation in which something like the direct face-to-face democracy of the Greek polis is possible. In these circumstances, effective freedom and government by consent do not require the immense, and often wasteful, apparatus of political institutions with which we, the members of the United Nations, implement the will of our own peoples.

We should not, therefore, be surprised to find that the Government of Nauru is conducted more like that of a municipality than a nation, as many members of the Council have pointed out. It is a municipality, and not a very large one at that. Similarly, we should not be surprised if the members of the Local Government Council feel bound to refer important questions to their people for a direct expression of their views rather than acting on their own. This can be understandably disappointing and frustrating for an administering authority anxious to press on with schemes designed to be of benefit to the people. But it may look quite different to the member of the local council.

(Mr. Caston, United Kingdom)

He may have to face the immediate displeasure of his constituents, who in this case are also his friends, and probably his family as well; and in this situation excessive caution must often seem to him the only sensible course. In these circumstances, the policy of the Administering Authority is the only feasible one -- to continue to consult, to exhort and to offer the community every incentive to take the initiative in managing its own affairs, but not in exasperation to attempt to force matters too fast. Meanwhile, there are minor but important institutional advances which can always be attempted. We are glad to note one during the past year -- the passing of the Judiciary Ordinance making clear the distinction between the executive and judicial functions of Government. My delegation, like other members of the Council, has often in the past urged the importance of building up in Nauru a fishing industry, since fish are the only other major natural resource of the island, apart from phosphates. The Administering Authority have always agreed on the importance of this, and in spite of the rather disappointing response of the local council, a scheme has now been prepared with their assistance. The difficulty that has now emerged, however, is to find the fishermen; it would clearly be a mistake to invest heavily in capital installations until sufficient interest has been stimulated amongst the people who are going to use them. We are confident that the Administering Authority will persevere with this problem; perhaps in the long run it will be possible to develop the industry, as the special representative suggested, to such an extent that it may even become economically feasible to export its products.

From the immediate point of view of satisfying the needs of the people as they feel them right now, perhaps the most important elements in government policy are the steps being taken to improve the social conditions of the people. In this respect, the record of the Government of Australia is remarkable; there must be few other countries in the world besides Nauru which provide a completely free dental service, to take just one example. The Government of the United Kingdom tried for several years and then found they could not afford it. In this connexion, we note with satisfaction that during the past year the public health organization of the country, already most advanced by Pacific standards, has been further enhanced by the completion of the new General Hospital. We are also

(Mr. Caston, United Kingdom)

relieved to hear that there are now, as a result of the tuberculosis survey, good prospects of completely effective control of this disease, the increase of which had given rise to considerable concern. The last year has also seen the extension of the domestic electricity service and we share the hope with the Administering Authority that the enlargement of the Phosphate Commissioner's plant will eventually make it possible to provide electricity to even more homes.

A substantial proportion of the inhabitants of Nauru are, of course, the Chinese and Gilbertese immigrants who come in to supplement the Nauruan labour force. This Council is concerned with the welfare of these as well as with those inhabitants who are styled indigenous, and my delegation is happy to note that governmental health and educational facilities are provided for all sections of the community. We are, however, concerned that so few of the Chinese and Gilbertese feel able to bring their families to Nauru with them. The main reason for this is shortage of accommodation, and the special representative referred to the additional accommodation which may become available soon. He also mentioned the efforts of the Phosphate Commissioners to secure from the Nauruans more land for the erection of married quarters. My delegation hopes that the Administering Authority will do all that it can to assist the Phosphate Commissioners in this, as we feel that it is an important element in securing some sort of social stability amongst the immigrant community of Nauru as well as amongst the Nauruans. It is worth recalling that the phosphate industry itself employs only 105 Nauruans, and some 1,500 members of the other communities who are imported at some expense to the Phosphate Commissioners. We often hear that the prosperity of the Nauruans depends upon the phosphate industry; it also depends upon the people who work in it, and as the 1956 Visiting Mission pointed out in its report, care must be taken in the future to ensure that the legitimate interests of these people are adequately protected.

I said at the beginning of my remarks that the circumstances of Nauru were very particular, and referred to some of the political consequences of its smallness. It is, of course, unique in another respect, which is that the high standard of living at present enjoyed by the inhabitants depends entirely upon their good fortune in living on an island containing valuable phosphate deposits. These will, in a generation or so, be exhausted and the whole way of

(Mr. Caston, United Kingdom)

life of the inhabitants will then have to change. We have heard that the Administering Authority is devoting a great deal of thought to the various possibilities which will then be open to the people of Nauru, among them that of resettlement elsewhere. We share the views of those delegations who have stressed the importance of advance planning in this matter, but we must also point out that it is impossible to make detailed plans now for a situation which will not finally take shape for some forty years. It is, for the next few years at least, more important to try to get the right answer than to get any answer at all which can be brought to the Trusteeship Council. The representative of India very wisely pointed out the difficult psychological position in which this community finds itself. A different aspect of the same point was brought out very well by the special representative in answering questions on this point when he described the very natural differences in the attitudes towards this problem in the different generations of Nauruans.

This leads me to think that the next forty years are likely to see some very troublesome stresses and divisions developing within the Nauruan community as it begins to face up to these questions. It is, perhaps, a question in which the Administering Authority would find that academic and detailed investigation of Nauruan attitudes by social psychologists or anthropologists might prove most helpful.

(Mr. Caston, United Kingdom)

I hope they will consider a survey of this nature. They will at each stage need knowledge of the conflicting motives and wishes of the people concerned, and this is knowledge of a kind that is not easy to obtain directly through normal administrative and political channels. Be that as it may, we can be quite sure that it is impossible now to predict what the wishes of the Nauruan people in this connexion will be in, say, twenty years and what the rather different wishes will be in forty years when they will all be that much older. While continuing discussions between the Government and the people are clearly necessary, I think that the Administering Authority should be very careful about launching yet a publicity campaign such as the representative of Indian suggested. The psychological results of that at this stage might be incalculably depressing and demoralizing to the community.

What we can expect, however, of the Administering Authority in this situation is that it should make every effort to persuade the people to use a part of the resources now at their disposal in order to equip themselves for the time when they will no longer enjoy these resources. The most obvious way of doing this lies in the provision of educational facilities, which constitute for those who are now children in Nauru an investment in their future. We have heard what stress the Administering Authority places upon educational programmes, and we feel that this is particularly important in the peculiar circumstances of this Territory.

Another way in which provision can be made for the future is by the setting aside of a part of their resources in cash to be used when the time comes to start a new life, whatever form it takes. This is the purpose of the community fund, and we hope that the Trusteeship Council will endorse the efforts of the Administering Authority to negotiate an increase in the royalty paid by the Phosphate Commissioners on condition that this increase be paid into the community fund and not to individual landowners. In a very real sense, the Administering Authority, in the case of Nauru, exercises a trust for future generations of Nauruans who are entitled to share in the resources of their land wherever they may go and wherever they may live.

In conclusion, I should like to express the deep appreciation of my delegation for the assistance given to the Council by Mr. Jones whose knowledge of the Territory is so great and who has conveyed it to us so clearly.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I have no further speakers on my list for the general debate on the Trust Territory of Nauru. Four delegations, however, have sent in their names as participants in the general debate on Monday.

Mr. Jones withdrew.

AGENDA ITEM 12

OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF TRUST TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1209 (XII); T/1377)

Mr. MJTRA (India): We find ourselves in somewhat of a difficult position in regard to this item. We are unfortunately not in a position to comment on it this afternoon. We do not know if many other delegations are in such a position. We are perfectly willing for this item to be discussed and for those delegations which have comments to make to do so, but we should like to reserve our right, if possible, to speak on this subject at a later date because we are really not fully prepared to speak on it now. On the other hand, we know that we have a few things to say about it. I would like to bring this to your attention.

I was under the impression that the general debate would perhaps continue longer. I regret that it has not. However, if it is not too inconvenient for you, Mr. President, I would like this item to be considered also at a later date.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I do not think there will be any objection to continuing our consideration of this item at a later meeting. I simply wanted to present the question. Every year, the Secretary-General presents to the Council a report giving information about study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories. At its twelfth session, the General Assembly adopted a new resolution on this question (1209 (XII)) under which it invited Administering Authorities to do everything necessary so that these inhabitants can accept the offers made by Member States; requested the Secretary-General to furnish a report giving detailed information as to the use

(The President)

to which these facilities were put; and also requested the Trusteeship Council to consider the matter and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirteenth session.

We examined this question at our twenty-first session and we decided to consider it once again at our twenty-second session jointly with the Secretary-General's report. The Secretary-General's report has been distributed in document T/1377 and it contains information concerning the use to which these offers have been put.

This is the way in which the question now stands. It is for each delegation to make the comments it deems pertinent. The representative of India has reserved the right to present his comments at a later meeting. If no other delegation has any comment to make at the present meeting, the only thing to do would be to postpone the item until a later meeting.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The report of the Secretary-General touches upon an important question. It therefore calls for thorough study and analysis and debate by members of the Council. Hence, since we do not have sufficient time now for the consideration of this important question, perhaps it might be wise to limit ourselves at this stage to the presentation of the report so that at a later stage the Council would give the members an opportunity to enter upon the debate with sufficient knowledge of the report of the Secretary-General, and the problem dealt with appropriately.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Secretary-General's report (T/1377) has been circulated and every delegation is free to make the comments it deems necessary. That is why item 2 refers to item 12 of our general agenda.

As no delegation is ready to take up the substance of the matter today, we will put off the discussion of this item until a later meeting.

We will continue with the general debate on Nauru on Monday afternoon and we will also open the general debate on the Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.

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Press and Publications Division
United Nations, N. Y.

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Trusteeship Council
22nd Session
5th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1394
13 June 1958

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 1

The Trusteeship Council this afternoon continued general debate on conditions in the trust territory of Nauru, administered by Australia on behalf of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

ERNEST JEAN-LOUIS (Haiti) said the most pressing problem confronting Nauru was the future of the Nauruan community after the island's phosphate deposits was exhausted in an estimated 40 years. Unfortunately, he said, thus far no concrete proposals had been presented for solving the problem.

Stressing the urgency of planning ahead, he hoped that the Council would be informed of the plans of the administering authority for the future of the Nauruan people.

He noted the steps taken to stimulate the political development of the people. However, he expressed concern at the fact that the Nauru Local Government Council had not shown much initiative in the making of rules within its competence. He hoped that efforts to encourage the Nauru Council to exercise its powers would be continued.

He commended the efforts of the administering authority in various fields, particularly in public health.

CHIPING H.C. KIANG (China) expressed disappointment that the Local Government Council had failed to express its views on the territorial budget estimates. He hoped that the Local Council would be further empowered, in budgetary matters, to consider ways and means of raising its own revenue for financing various projects of economic development.

As regards the royalty payments by the British Phosphate Commissioners, he expressed the belief that the wishes of the Nauruans for higher royalty rates deserved the "most sympathetic consideration." He also hoped that attention would be given to fostering a fishing industry.

The increases in expenditures for public health and medical staff were "commendable," as well as the steps taken for the control of tuberculosis. He felt that further intensified steps would be taken to improve sanitation and hygiene.

(more)

Housing accommodations for the immigrant workers, he said, had not shown improvement. He hoped that the necessary steps would be taken.

With regard to the future of the Nauruan people, Mr. KIANG hoped that the administering authority would intensify its study of this problem and present concrete proposals as early as possible.

LUC SMOLDEREN (Belgium) pointed out that it cost the UN considerable money for the periodic examination of conditions in Nauru. For instance, he listed the costs for meetings, sending visiting missions, and so. He noted that for a small territory such as Nauru, this amount of money spent for the direct benefit of the people might have resulted in the building of hundreds of new houses or in the doubling of the facilities for the school system.

He noted that since the end of the last war, the administering authority had built 350 new houses in which some 2,000 Nauruans -- representing almost the entire population -- lived. The administering authority, he added, had also pursued a "vigorous" policy for developing the school system.

He thought it would be preferable, in view of the small size of the territory, for the Council to examine conditions in this territory every three years, rather than annually, with the discussion to coincide with the report of the Council's visiting mission.

He doubted the usefulness of the Council debating the question of the future of Nauru at this stage. The suggestion that the Nauruan people be resettled in some other area would in turn raise hundreds of other new problems. "Massive deportation" of the population, could only be done with the consent of the population.

The task of the administering authority, he said, was not an easy one. It was devoting its efforts to promoting the progress of the population. He believed that the administering authority deserved congratulations for the manner in which it was carrying out its responsibilities.

(END OF TAKE 1)

UNITED NATIONS
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Trusteeship Council
22nd Session
5th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1394
13 June 1958

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 2

MICHEL DE CAMARET (France) declared that the theories and criteria which might apply to other territories would be very "unrealistic indeed" if applied to Nauru. It was just a "small village" of 2,000 persons, he said.

As the representative of Australia had pointed out, he said, the problem faced by Nauru was the development of local government rather than a national government. In his view, the administering authority should be congratulated for its "constant efforts" in promoting the progress of the population.

As regards the future of the Nauruan community, he said the administering authority had 40 years ahead in which to find a just and humane solution. He wondered why the Council should be so concerned with it now. The problem would be facing Australia in the year 2,000. He was confident that, by then, a satisfactory solution would be found.

VLADIMIR N. BENDRYSHEV (USSR) agreed that Nauru was small but no one could deny that it was a trust territory and to Nauru, the basic principles of the international trusteeship system applied.

The administering authority, he observed, had again repeated the view that the Nauruans were not yet ready to have representative government or to be given executive and legislative powers.

The Council, he said, could not be satisfied with the present Nauru Local Government Council which was empowered to deal only with specific local questions, such as garbage disposal and maintenance of housing.

Up to now, he said, the administering authority had not come forward with any proposals for dealing with the problem of the future of the Nauruan people. This problem could not be dissociated from the exploitation of the island's phosphates. If the territory's wealthy deposits were used in the interest of the Nauruans, it would provide for the development of industries and other enterprises which would provide for all the future needs of the population, he said.

The Soviet representative charged that the Nauruan people were being "illegally deprived" of their natural wealth. The Council, he said, should

(more)

uphold their "indispensable right" to decide freely on the disposal of their natural wealth.

In the labor field, he declared, discrimination/while in the health field there had been an increase in the incidence of tuberculosis. The state of education, too, was unsatisfactory.

The administering authority, in his view, was not carrying out its objectives under the Charter. He charged that it was only concerned with the exploitation of the island's phosphate deposits.

G.K. CASTON (United Kingdom) said that, in considering conditions in Nauru, one should especially take into account that part of Article 76 of the Charter which states that the promotion of the progress of the trust territories should be appropriate to the particular circumstances of the territory.

In examining political developments in Nauru, therefore, one should not be surprised to find that the Nauru Local Government Council resembled more a municipality than a national government, he said. Nauru, he observed, was no larger than a municipality.

The policy of the administering authority, in encouraging the Nauruans to take greater initiative in the management of their affairs rather than trying to rush things, was the only feasible one, he thought.

Mr. CASTON praised the record of the administering authority in the social field. Few territories in the world, he observed, had completely free dental service.

He was gratified that the government education and health services benefited the Nauruan and immigrant workers alike. However, he was concerned that not many of the immigrant workers were able to bring their families because of insufficiency of housing accommodations. He noted the efforts of the administering authority to tackle the problem and hoped that it would do everything possible in this connection.

As regards the future of the Nauru community, he noted that the administering authority was devoting a "great deal of thought" to the various possibilities, including the resettlement of the Nauruan people elsewhere. He shared the view expressed by other members on the importance of advanced planning. However, he felt that it was impossible to make detailed plans for a situation which would not take place for another 40 years. Moreover, it was necessary to determine the wishes of the Nauruan people.

The President, ALFRED CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium), said the list of speakers for today had been exhausted. Four delegations still remained to be heard in this debate, he said.

The Council then turned to its next item, the report (Doc.T/1377) of the Secretary-General on the offers of scholarships by member states for students of trust territories, the applications received, and the actual use made of the offers. It was agreed, however, to postpone the consideration of the report until a later date.

The Council will meet again at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, 16 June, when it will conclude the debate on Nauru. It will then begin the discussion on the Pacific Islands.

(END OF TAKE 2 AND PRESS RELEASE TR/1394)