

UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



PROVISIONAL
T/PV.398
20 June 1958
ENGLISH

Twenty-second Session

VERBODEN RECORD OF THE EIGHT HUNDRED AND NINETY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 20 June 1958, at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUMAERT (Vice-President) (Belgium)

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the
Pacific Islands [3d] (continued)

2. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for
inhabitants of Trust Territories [12] (continued)
3. Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the
International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories [10]

conventions (140) 2
health 4, 11, 27 & 31, 41
law 56
language 16
NSGT - progress report 6
scholarships 6, 37
statistics 31, 41

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record,
will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol
T/SR.398 and will be subject to representatives' corrections.
It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

AGENDA ITEM 3a

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1957 (T/1383; T/L.850) (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Nucker, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands took a seat at the Council table.

Social and educational advancement (continued)

Labour annual sick leave
Mr. URRUTIA APARICIO (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): Two days ago, I put a question to the special representative concerning the days of annual and sick leave to which the Micronesian employees were entitled. I regret that once again I must refer to this matter. I do so because my statement two meetings ago does not appear in the way in which I presented it. I hope that this same thing does not occur again today. My delegation wanted to know if the Micronesians are entitled to thirteen days of annual leave in addition to thirteen days of sick leave, in other words, to twenty-six days in all or if they were entitled only to thirteen days as a whole for annual and sick leave combined. The reply given by the special representative to this question, as I understood it Wednesday, was that they were only entitled to thirteen days in all. Am I correct in my understanding of this?

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): The representative of Guatemala is correct, thirteen days in all per year.

120 comparison
Mr. URRUTIA APARICIO (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): On more than one occasion the Administering Authority has stated that it would maintain its position, which is known to all of us here, of not ratifying agreements or conventions of the ILO. Therefore, I should like to ask the special representative if there is any change in prospect in the attitude on this point.

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): There has been no change in our attitude in this respect.

Mr. URRUTIA APARICIO (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): The intermediate school in Kusaie will start operations in the autumn. The special representative told us that the Administering Authority would undertake to provide teachers and that in general it would maintain the school. I should like to have the special representative give us a little more information on this point, including information on the classrooms, their capacity as regards number of school children, the nationalities and salaries of teachers, the courses that each one of them will teach, and so on.

Intermediate School

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): That question calls for considerable detail. I believe I can answer the heart of the question by stating that the intermediate school now being completed on Kusaie will have, I believe, six classrooms. There may be one more or less. The school is being built to the specifications and desires of the people of Kusaie and is intended to be sufficiently large to handle the current number of students falling in the intermediate school area, with room for expansion. There will be one American teacher and there will be two or three Micronesian teachers, as needed, at that school. The salary range for the American teacher will normally be in the neighbourhood of \$5,000 or \$6,000 a year and the Micronesian teachers will be paid the local scale being paid for teachers, which approximates \$600 to \$700 a year.

I believe I have covered all the points of the question.

Mr. URRUTIA APARICIO (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): Yes. In his opening statement the special representative assured us that in five districts the local legislative bodies had approved legislation providing for minimum salary scales for primary schools. We should like to have the special representative amplify this information somewhat to show, first of all, the basic salary of primary school teachers and secondly to compare these schedules with existing schedules in the secondary schools.

Primary Schools Teachers

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): The salaries of Micronesian teachers range, depending upon the abilities of the teacher and the past experience of the teacher, from \$20 a month to \$65 and \$70 a month. The lower-salaried teachers are in the elementary schools. I think a fair average would be approximately \$30 a month for elementary schools and probably \$50 to \$60 a month for the intermediate and PICS schools.

Mr. URRUTIA APARACIO (Guatemala)(interpretation from Spanish): Apparently venereal diseases do not constitute a serious problem in the Territory. On page 88 of the report of the Administering Authority, we are told, for example, that gonorrhea is under control through treatment of local patients and the control exercised through examination, treatment and denial of landing permits to infected crew members. In view of the fact that on page 93 of the report it states that prostitution is not a problem in the Trust Territory, my delegation would like to ask the special representative the following questions. First, does prostitution exist in the Territory? If it does, how does the Territorial Government control it? Secondly, although the report mentions, as far as I know, only one of the types of venereal diseases, do much more serious diseases exist in the Territory such as syphilis, for example? Thirdly, what sort of educational campaign has been carried on by the Administering Authority to aid in the elimination of venereal diseases, in addition to the preventive measures which have been taken?

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): The two statements, one with respect to the limited amount of gonorrhea and the protective measures the Administration has taken to control gonorrhea and the statement that there is no prostitution as a problem in the Trust Territory, go hand in hand, I believe. There is no prostitution in the Trust Territory, particularly as there is no licensed prostitution in the Territory. There are social contacts made outside the framework of the connotation of the word "prostitution". We do then have a minimum of gonorrhea. So far as other diseases are concerned, I know of no serious problems in that area. With respect to measures we are taking, some of them have been mentioned: the examination and control of personnel from the ships as they come into the Territory -- incidentally, that is not a maximum problem, it is a minimum problem.

(Mr. Nucker. Special Representative)

We have our education within the schools, and we have our most effective control coming from within the Micronesian community itself, and its attitude towards this entire problem is, I think, the greatest deterrent we have in the Trust Territory.

Mr. URRUTIA APARICIO (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): now to my last question. I should like to recall that in the American we have a technical co-operation programme under the aegis of the OAS although modest, does have six regional training centres which are very effective. In view of the fact that many regions of the Pacific Islands, if not all of them, are tropical areas, I wonder whether the Administering Authority has considered the advisability of sending Micronesian fellowship students to those centres. In particular, I would take the liberty of mentioning the inter-American centre for improving agriculture and rural diet at Turrialba in Costa Rica, which has subsidiary offices in Havana, Lima and Montevideo, the inter-American rural normal school in Rubio, Venezuela, and the inter-American centre of housing and town planning in Bogota.

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): We have thought of that possibility, but we have not entertained it seriously because at the present time our agricultural needs, from an educational standpoint, are being met essentially at Hawaii, much closer to the Trust Territory, and in the Philippines, which is also much closer. We have in the past sent Micronesians to Costa Rica for study of the planting, development and processing of cacao. I think that as time goes on and as special needs arise we certainly would have no reason not to send students to the places mentioned, providing we could not obtain what we wanted closer to hand.

Mr. de CAMARET (France) (interpretation from French): My first question relates to education, and it is very similar to the one I put during the examination of conditions in Nauru. The Council will remember that in the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories it was decided to consider at ten-year intervals the progress accomplished in each of those Territories. The Council, on the other hand, follows no such procedure. We have

educ

(Mr. de Camaret, France)

been told that at present there are some 275 students in the Territory, and my delegation would be grateful if the special representative could indicate, even approximately, how many of those students have completed their studies either in the Territory or abroad -- which would presumably mean in the United States during the last ten years. If the special representative is unable to give a precise reply to this question he will be able, no doubt, to tell us at least how many students came to the United States during those ten years.

My second question comes within the same category. We should like to know what the students who have taken courses in American universities do when they return to the Territory. In other words, do the courses which they have taken enable them on their return to play a more important part in the activities of the Territory, particularly in the administrative or medical fields, or, again, as engineers?

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): This would be a guess -- or, as we say in the States, a "guestimate". I think I would be safe in saying that during the past four years there has been a minimum of 100 to 120 students who have gone to schools outside of the Trust Territory, not including those students going to Guam. I would guess that in the previous six years there must have been another 50 to, say, 80. I would judge, then, that in ten years approximately 200 students have gone to school in Hawaii -- at the University of Hawaii, for the most part -- and in Suva, where they have had their medical training.

In response to the last part of the question, I would say that the people who have gone to school have been used effectively in Micronesia upon their return from school. We have 1,900 Micronesians on the payroll at the present time, and, in that figure of 1,900, I am certain that we have encompassed those who have had outside schooling. That figure of 1,900 covers all walks of life so far as our administration is concerned.

Mr. de CAMARET (France) (interpretation from French): That indicates that the number of students studying outside of the Territory has considerably increased this year, because I think that the annual report estimated at 275 the number of students in that category, and I think we should congratulate the Administering Authority on this point.

I now have two questions relating to the social field, and specifically the field of health. The first relates to the indigenous religious movement, the Modekngei movement, which, I think, exists primarily in Palau District. This seems to be based primarily on magic divination and ancient customs -- that is, with the idea of maintaining these customs. Does this movement urge the indigenous population to oppose the general measures taken by the Administration in the health field, such as smallpox vaccination, BCG, and so forth, as well as regular attendance at schools and, in particular, the mixed schools?

religious movement & health matter

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): I know of no opposition that has been raised, by this group or by any other group, to our health programmes or our educational programmes in Palau. The District of Palau is, I think,

(Mr. Nucker, Special Representative)

at least as far advanced as any district we have in the acceptance of our health programmes and our educational programmes. In fact, we now have a Palauan who is in charge of the entire health programme for the Palau District.

The group mentioned is, from everything I can learn, very small in numbers and quite inactive. It is a sort of carry-over group, with no real purpose in being at the present time in Palau.

nurses
Mr. de CAMARET (France) (interpretation from French): My last question relates to nurses in the Territory. We read on page 86 of the annual report that a good many nurses leave their calling in order to get married, which hampers to some extent the progress of medical services. What measures can be taken to remedy that state of affairs and avoid having marriage necessarily mean that these people leave their calling?

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): I am smiling because, if I knew the answer to that, I probably would not be sitting in this seat. Frankly, it is a problem that concerns us very much. Just recently, we attempted to cause a very nice young Micronesian doctor to marry a very nice young Micronesian nurse, so that the two could work as a team in a given district, thus solving a problem for us. But our efforts at playing Cupid were to no avail. We try to handle the problem on a factual basis, by training more and more nurses. That is the only answer I know.

clear & sec. school
U THANT (Burma): First of all, let me say that my delegation is very much impressed with the pace of educational advancement achieved in the Trust Territory and with the steps taken by the Administering Authority for the achievement of a still faster pace of educational advancement.

My first question relates to the transition of students from the elementary schools to the secondary schools. On page 97 of the report, the following statement appears in the first paragraph on that page:

"Beyond elementary school, selected students with potential leadership ability shall have opportunities to proceed on to the secondary field..."

(U Thant, Burma)

If my interpretation is correct, that means that only students with ~~potential leadership~~ ability are encouraged to proceed to the post-elementary schools. I feel that there are students with pronounced academic abilities, but not necessarily with leadership abilities, who deserve to be encouraged to proceed to the post-elementary schools. I was wondering whether the special representative would care to make a comment on that.

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): As regards our intermediate schools, which represent the immediate post-elementary step, there is one located in each district. They are largely boarding schools, because we must, I feel, bring in students from the outer islands as well as students from the district centre itself, where the intermediate school is located. Running a boarding school has limited our ability to provide intermediate school studies for all students who graduate from the elementary school and desire to go on to the secondary school and intermediate school level.

I fully agree that there is no wisdom sufficient for choosing properly in all instances when we select students on the basis of potential leadership ability. I have always been cognizant of the possibility that we have not selected someone we should have selected. I see no reason at the present time to feel that we should not strive toward larger facilities in our intermediate schools, so that we can take on, with less selection, more students at the intermediate level. But at the present time the practical problem is rather great.

There is one other factor involved: Many of the parents from the outer islands, after their children have finished elementary school, have no great desire for them to go on to intermediate school; they prefer that the children stay at home.

While our selection process does not permit us to include all students, I think that the majority of students desiring to go to intermediate school are taken care of.

U THANT (Burma): Am I correct, then, in understanding that it is not the Administering Authority's intention to preclude students with academic abilities from proceeding to post-elementary schools?

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): That is correct. We are applying certain selection standards because our ability to handle students is limited. We have, however, no desire to preclude students from attending these schools. Circumstances may make such a preclusion necessary in some instances, but not in many.

Language
U THANT (Burma): My next question relates to the medium of instruction in the elementary schools. In the last paragraph on page 99 of the annual report, we read that:

"The vernacular is the language of instruction in the elementary schools since very few Micronesian teachers at the elementary level are prepared to use and teach English".

That is perfectly understandable, and I think it is the only sensible course for the Administering Authority to take in the circumstances. Since, however, elementary students who propose to proceed to the post-elementary school must receive instruction through the medium of English, I was wondering whether any steps have been taken to provide English teaching in some elementary schools, or whether the teaching of English is totally debarred in the elementary schools, or whether such teaching is envisaged on condition that a sufficient number of English-trained teachers are available in the elementary schools.

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): During the first four years of the six years of elementary school, the teaching is practically entirely in the vernacular. English teaching begins in the fifth year. There are a few schools -- not many -- in which our Micronesian teachers do not have the facility to teach English very well in the fifth and sixth years.

(Mr. Nucker,
Special Representative)

Elsewhere in the report, we refer to teacher-training programmes under which we bring Micronesian teachers to the District Centres for special training each summer. Also, we continuously send our American teacher-trainers to the elementary schools throughout the Districts for the purpose of emphasizing, where possible, the teaching of English.

In the intermediate schools, great emphasis is placed on the teaching of English beginning with the seventh grade. We have found by actual practice that when the students have finished intermediate school -- that is, the seventh, eighth and ninth years of schooling -- they are fully capable of going to the Pacific Islands Central School, where all teaching is in English.

Thus, it is a progressive teaching programme which we have in effect in the Trust Territory.

U THANE (Burma): My next question relates to the Federal Government contribution to funds for the construction of elementary schools. In the second paragraph on page 103 of the annual report, it is stated that:

"The Federal Government, in order to promote the construction of elementary school buildings, has established a grant-in-aid programme whereby it furnishes one-half of the necessary funds for such construction".

Could the special representative give the Council the actual figures spent by the Administering Authority in connexion with the fund for the construction of elementary school buildings during the last three years, so that the Council may be in a better position to assess the rate of progress in this field, as well as the Administering Authority's continuing interest in the development of the elementary-school construction programme?

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): I could not without some research furnish the precise figures in this respect, but I think that I can from memory make a very close approximation.

*school
construction*

(Mr. Nucker,
Special Representative)

The grant-in-aid programme has been in effect only two years now. During the first year, we set aside \$15,000 for this work. The interest was so great that we were able during the second year to decide not to place a maximum limitation of \$15,000. To date, we have given grants-in-aid totalling about \$20,000 for construction of new elementary school buildings.

libraries
U THANT (Burma): My next question relates to libraries. On page 103 of the annual report, it is stated that:

"There are no libraries, as such, in the elementary schools".

I do not think that it is the Administering Authority's intention to discourage the establishment of libraries in elementary schools. So far as I am aware, there are school libraries in all countries at all stages of the curriculum. My delegation feels that school libraries play a very useful part in effective education, although, of course, they are extra-curricular activities. Even in small countries like Burma, there are libraries in the lowest elementary schools.

Hence, could the special representative inform the Council whether it is a fact that there are no libraries in the elementary schools and whether such libraries are in the process of being established?

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): First, I should like to clarify our understanding of the word "library". As used in the annual report, the term means that we have no libraries, as such, where students may go to borrow books and return them. On the other hand, in the elementary schools we do have books available -- although limited in number -- which are under the control of the local teachers.

In this respect, I would say that one of the most difficult problems we have in our teaching programme is the developing of books in the vernacular. In view of the fact that we have nine languages and twenty-eight dialects in the Trust Territory, the creation of books represents a problem. I assure the representative of Burma that we are working on the problem and looking towards the day when we will have a library in each school with books in the vernacular available to the students at that level.

U THANT (Burma): My next question refers to newspapers. On page of the annual report, in the third paragraph, it is stated that newspapers published in all districts. I think it is a very interesting phenomenon. I wonder whether the special representative could tell this Council about the nature of these newspapers or any educational aspects displayed by these newspapers.

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): The newspapers are not newspapers as we visualize newspapers here in New York or in the capitals of the world. The newspapers are papers put out by the intermediate school, by various groups in each of the districts. They deal with local events of interest, and they contain summaries of world events as they are taken from the papers which come into the Trust Territory. They deal with school calendar events. I have been most pleased, and quite frankly very surprised at the number of different local papers which have sprung up throughout the Trust Territory at the various school and district levels. I read them avidly when they come into the office. Frankly, I learn as much from them as I do from any normal course of work in dealing with the staff, because the paper expresses the thinking of the people. We do have a number of them; they are very elementary in their form and composition, but they do carry news.

U THANT (Burma): My next question, is actually my last question, an aspect of education which has not been referred to in the report. I am referring to student organizations such as student unions, student boards or student councils which are in existence in the many school systems in almost every country. Of course these student unions, student councils or student boards or whatever they are called perform certain functions prescribed by the educational authorities concerned; for instance, the enforcement of discipline in schools or the management of school playgrounds, school sanitation are within the scope of the functions of these student bodies. I was wondering whether there are any such student organizations in existence in the Trust Territory or, if not, is it the intention of the Administering Authority to encourage the development of such student bodies.

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): I am sorry mention of the student bodies is not contained in the report because we have in our Pacific Island Central School a highly developed student organization: the president and all the officers and their responsibilities are quite well known. We have in our intermediate schools, student body organization groups. We have, additionally, a new type of activity developing in the different districts. Students who have been away to school or who have been to PICS and returned home to their district, get together and have social clubs. These club activities essentially result in discussions of what they learned in school, their experiences, and discussions surrounding the ability to apply the things they have learned outside to their local community. So that we do have, in direct response, a series of student groups throughout the Trust Territory.

Mr. NUCKER
accidents
Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The delegation of the USSR has several questions pertaining to the field of social life, educational advancement and health.

In the course of the discussion of the annual report at the twentieth session, considerable attention was paid to the high degree of accidents among Micronesians working in the industry. Recommendations were issued in that respect, and as shown by the table on page 194 of the current annual report the number of industrial accidents and mishaps did not diminish in this current year. We should like to know the explanation for this abnormal state of affairs?

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): I believe the answer would lie in the area that there are now more Micronesians on the payroll than in previous years, and that we now are engaged in a greater construction effort than we were in the past, thus creating possibilities for accidents beyond those normal in the past.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Even supposing that the number of those employed increases considerably, it would be difficult to explain the considerable increase in the number of accidents; the increase of production should be accompanied by an increase of appropriate methods to safeguard the workers. I have to point out, however,

(Mr. Lobanov, USSR)

that in the course of the current year only 200 or 300 new workers have been added to those generally employed in the Territory; at the same time the number of accidents amounted to several hundred, so this explanation is hardly satisfactory. It points out, indeed, that the methods employed to safeguard workers are not adequate in the Territory.

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): I do not have the figures for comparison with last year. I do know that we have greatly increased our emphasis on safety programmes throughout the Trust Territory. I have here a memorandum dated 13 May 1958 from our personnel officer giving the accident frequency rates for the year 1957. For the quarter ending 31 March 1957 the incident rate was 21.8; the next quarter it was 17.5; the next quarter it was 15.8; and the next quarter it was 14.2, which would indicate progress in this field of safety education. There were no fatalities in the year under review, in accordance with the schedule on page 194.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Perhaps I can help the special representative by reminding him of the fact that the number of occupational accidents was 238 last year, and it has not changed during this year.

Labour unions
In this connexion, a second question arises. In the report we find the statement that there are no labour unions in the Territory. Whether I wish it or not, I must somehow connect this fact with the considerable increase of accidents. If trade unions were in existence in the Territory they would probably have taken measures to safeguard the health and the safety of the indigenous workers. The Administering Authority states in the report that trade unions are not prohibited in the Territory. But then it is logical to ask why in that case there are none, the more so since there is a definite need because, for instance, there is such a high rate of occupational accidents. Something is not quite normal here. Perhaps the special representative is able to give us some additional information. What are the reasons that impede the creation of labour unions in the Territory?

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): The conclusion is reached by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that our accident rate is high. That conclusion was based on this comparison with the previous year. The Trust Territory does not establish the norms for accident rates. If our accident rate is compared with the accident rates in countries having unions, in the United States and elsewhere, the representative would find that our accident rate is exceptionally favourable. It is low by comparison with standards elsewhere. The fact that the rate does not change materially from one year to the next when it is low to begin with does not support the argument that we need labour unions to correct a condition, at least in the speaker's opinion.

With reference to labour unions, we have not opposed them, we have had no requests for them and again it would be the speaker's opinion that the need for labour unions would best be defined by the people within Micronesia.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): May I obtain information with regard to the total number actually employed in the industry where the accident rate was noted?

*Employment
in
industry*

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): The actual number of employees in our industry as of the end of May of this year was as follows: we had 1,975 Micronesians on the payroll. There were 1,450 Micronesians working on our construction and public works programme. There were 200 or 300 Micronesians working in administration on miscellaneous activities. There were over 300 Micronesians employed as school teachers. These account in round numbers for the figure of 1,900.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): We can thus judge for ourselves. Out of approximately 2,000 employed, about 250 persons suffered accidents. If this should be considered normal, I do not see where else we could find examples of such a high accident rate. The numbers that were just given to us point to the fact that the situation in the Territory with regard to the accident rate is just cause for concern.

I go on to my next question. As shown in the report of the Administering Authority, tuberculosis continues to be the most serious of the health problems encountered in the Territory. The report also points out that the Administering Authority hopes that in the course of the life of several generations tuberculosis will be practically eliminated. Does this phrase, "in the course of the life of several generations" indicate the considerable rate of the sickness or the inadequacy of means employed to combat it?

TB

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): This statement represents a hope. Tuberculosis has been in the world a long time. It has been a high incidence disease in most every country in the world. We are taking active steps in the Trust Territory to obtain better control over this problem of the incidence of tuberculosis. We were one of the first areas in the world to initiate the BCG programme. We have developed places separate and apart from the hospital for the care of tuberculosis patients. Again I can only say that the incidence of

(Mr. Nucker, Special Representative)

tuberculosis in the Trust Territory when compared with the incidence of tuberculosis in other countries is not high or unusual. But so long as we continue to have the thinking in our Medical Department which we now have, one tuberculosis case in the Trust Territory is too many. We hope to eliminate it. I do not know whether or not we ever shall.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): BCG-vaccinations are, of course, useful. I do not argue this point. But they do not furnish a full guarantee if they are not accompanied by appropriate measures in the social field. Several delegations have already pointed to the conditions in the housing field. Maybe the Administering Authority should have devoted some attention to improving social standards, housing and nutrition. I merely express a wish.

harriso I should now like to ask my next question. On page 197 there is a table showing that infant diarrhea has increased sixteen times in the current year and dysentery has doubled. What is the explanation?

Mr. WUCKER (Special Representative): The point of the question escapes me. In reflecting on that schedule, it shows that from July 1956 to June 1957 there were thirty-three cases of dysentery, bacillary and unclassified types, and ninety-eight amebic dysentery cases. I do not believe that this is an exceptional increase in dysentery. As regards the deaths of children -- and incidentally this table refers to cases reported, not deaths involved -- prior to leaving Guam I was in conference with our Director of Public Health and he was pleased over the fact that deaths of infants have been much less in the past year than in previous years. If there is an indication in this table to the contrary, I can only say that there is a misprint and that I would be glad to get the precise information, because we have been getting on top of the infant mortality problem.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I would also have welcomed different information; I would have welcomed any indication that infant mortality or disease had decreased. But unfortunately the special representative himself confirmed the considerable increase in the incidence of different illnesses. He gave us numbers pointing to the persons who suffered from dysentery and diarrhea. But last year there were only twelve cases of diarrhea and now we find over a hundred patients, which indicates a considerable increase. The special representative also said that infant mortality has decreased. The figures shown on the different tables indicate that an increase has taken place and not a decrease. It may not be sixteenfold, but it is quite a considerable increase nevertheless. I hope therefore that the Administering Authority will consider those figures and will take the appropriate steps. It is necessary in this case not so much to mend statistics but to fight disease.

infant mortality & morbidity

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): I constantly have problems with the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on statistics. I should like to get these statistical tables in such form as to permit not only accuracy of reporting but ease of replying, and I have never found that in the average statistical table.

(Mr. Nucker, Special Representative)

The indication that there are more dysentery cases in the Trust Territory, based on twelve to a hundred, is correct. There is one other factor, however, which should always be borne in mind by members of this Council. We are constantly advocating a greater participation on the part of the Micronesians in our health programme. We are constantly getting better statistics. It may simply be that more known cases of dysentery arose this past year by reason of more people coming to the hospitals who in previous years have not gone to the hospitals or reported to the doctor. Again, I hope next year to have more understandable statistical tables. But it is difficult to follow analyses of any given table of different individuals, and that is said with all due respect, because one normally can find in a major table most any kind of interpretation he seeks.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The English say, I believe, that facts are stubborn things and no matter how one interprets it, it is still a fact. I also wish to point to the somewhat unusual conclusion of the special representative, that with the increase in the number of physicians, the diseases increase as well. This is a paradox, but it is apparently a fact.

Teachers I will now ask my next question. As shown in the annual report for the current year, the number of teachers in the Territory has decreased by forty-three, and the number of indigenous teachers has also decreased by twelve. What is the explanation for this?

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): Again I am somewhat aghast. We have not decreased our American staff by forty-three because to the best of my knowledge we never had forty-three to begin with. The Micronesian staff may have reflected a decrease of twelve, but again that does not square with my understanding of our educational programme. We have over 300 Micronesian school teachers. We have at the present time, I believe, twenty-eight Americans in our educational programme. I cannot understand the decrease of forty-three and twelve, which would be fifty-five in one year.

Mr. LOPANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I believe that any additional explanation would be superfluous since it has already been stated that there were not even forty-three teachers in the Territory. We then also heard the statement that there were more than 300 of them, all indigenous teachers. It is extremely difficult to discuss these figures logically.

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): We do not have forty-three American school teachers. I did not say we only had forty-three school teachers. I did say that I know that we have approximately twenty-eight American school teachers on the staff now, in addition to which there are the 300 or so Micronesian school teachers.

↓
Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): What is the explanation of the total lack of Micronesian teachers in the intermediate and secondary schools?

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): At the intermediate school level we emphasize the teaching of English. There are a few Micronesian teachers in those schools, who have been placed there since this report was written; the report was for the year ending 30 June 1957. Within the next year we shall have at least one, and possibly two, Micronesians in our Pacific Islands Central Trade School.

↓
Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Since the special representative has confirmed the lack of Micronesians in the secondary school, I should like to ask him whether the indigenous people are interested in obtaining the necessary qualifications to become teachers. Possibly their situation is such that they are not encouraged to attempt to obtain sufficient qualifications. I should like to know whether this is the fact.

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): I should hate to think, after all the testimony which I have given as to the efforts being made in the Trust Territory to provide avenues of education and to make use of the educated Micronesians, that it would be correct to assume that the Administration is preventing teachers of Micronesian origin from functioning in our secondary schools.

I have a note here which says that in the intermediate schools -- which are the seventh, eighth and ninth grade schools -- the majority of the teachers are Micronesians. That is in the Pacific Islands Central School, where we did not have Micronesian teachers at the time when the report was written.

Incidentally, I now have the following information to be placed on the record. In 1956 we had 349 elementary school teachers; in 1957, 356 teachers. In 1956 we had 71 intermediate school teachers; in 1957, 64 teachers. This means a total of 420 teachers each year -- a plus 7 in the elementary programme and a minus 7 in the intermediate programme.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I shall compare that information with what is given in the report. In any case, the information I have heard is preferable.

In answer to a question by, I believe, the representative of Guatemala, the special representative said that scholarships were granted not in order to obtain diplomas or grades, but in order to train the indigenous students to become useful to the Territory. It was also stated that the high posts in the Administration were not occupied by Micronesians at present because there were no Micronesians who were sufficiently highly qualified or who had the appropriate diplomas or grades. I should like to have some additional information on this point because it is difficult for me to compare the two statements.

Scholarships

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): I believe there must have been some misunderstanding. I did not say that high posts in the Administration were not held by Micronesians; I said that all high posts in the Trust Territory were not held by Micronesians -- or words to that effect. I am quite proud of the fact that we have decreased materially the number of Americans in high posts in the Administration during the past few years. Many high posts are held by Micronesians.

The statement that we have given most of our scholarships with a view to broadening the education of the Micronesians to the point where they could be used in the Trust Territory without having carried those scholarships through to degrees, is absolutely correct. We wanted to give as many Micronesians as possible, with the money at hand and with the known needs to be met, the opportunity for education to the point where they could be effectively used as soon as possible. That, we have done, and I have told the Council that this past year we have embarked on the second stage of our scholarship programme -- that of giving scholarships in limited numbers to proven Micronesians so that they can go on with their degree work.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I wish to assure the special representative that we, like the Administering Authority, welcome the fact that high posts are being assigned to indigenous inhabitants. However, unfortunately, the number of those posts occupied

(Mr. Lobanov, USSR)

by indigenous inhabitants is not very large. I was astonished to hear that many high posts were occupied by Micronesians; according to the report, only the educational director on the Marshall Islands and two or three others are Micronesians. If the Administering Authority considers that situation satisfactory, we cannot share its view.

With regard to degree work and to the fact that the lack of degrees is an obstacle in assigning high positions to Micronesians, apparently the representative of the Administering Authority himself has no objection to that. I am not arguing the point, but I believe that scholarships should be granted also in order that students may obtain scientific degrees.

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): I appreciate hearing the views of the representative of the Soviet Union. I can assure him that we are moving towards the degree area of scholarships as rapidly as we believe we should.

So far as our high posts being limited to directors of education is concerned, those posts go into practically all of the health programmes; they reach into our finance programmes, into our supply programmes, into our police, law and order programmes, our judicial efforts and our agricultural programmes. It is true that we do not have a Micronesian Attorney-General; we do not have a Micronesian Deputy High Commissioner, and we do not have a Micronesian High Commissioner. That may be possible at some time, but we certainly have not had time as yet to develop up to that point.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom): My first question relates to the public health situation in the Territory. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has made a very interesting analysis of the statistics in the report presented by the Administering Authority. As he mentioned, my delegation has a respect for facts, which we regard as rather stubborn objects, and we have been making our own analysis of the same table. I should like a little more clarification from the special representative, because our analysis has apparently led us to a conclusion diametrically opposed to that which had been reached by the representative of the USSR. *health*

In my reading of this report, I turn first to page 88, where I see that the statistical service in the public health field is, for a number of reasons connected mainly with the great natural obstacles of collecting statistics over scattered islands of this kind, considered somewhat unreliable. This is a frank admission by the Administering Authority, and we are naturally concerned that we should be able to perceive from year to year some improvement in this situation. I think, from reading the remainder of this page, that the Administering Authority shares this hope. In fact, at the end of the first paragraph on page 88 they state: "Accuracy is improving and under-reporting is decreasing year by year." This is presumably due to the comparative success which the health training programmes are having, and these are also described in considerable detail in the same paragraph. Clearly under-reporting is decreasing because people are becoming more aware of disease.

Turning to the statistical tables on page 127, I notice at the top of the page that some of the figures given there are not complete because of the unavoidable delay in reporting. Therefore, I assume that the figures given are rather less than they should be. I would be led to suppose from this that next year when I turn to the same statistical tables I should hope to find that there would be less delay and that somewhat more communicable diseases had been reported. I would regard an increase in the figures given on this page as an index of still greater success in achieving the objectives which the Administering Authority spells out on page 88 of its report.

(Mr. Caston, United Kingdom)

I would like to ask the special representative the following: whether I should indeed look next year for an increase in the figures in the table in the middle of page 197, which I notice is a table of cases of disease reported, and not a table of the incidence of disease at all? Should I look as an index to the success of the Administering Authority's public health programmes for an increase in these figures or a decrease?

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): From actual knowledge, there will be a sizable increase, particularly in one disease mentioned, namely, influenza. I know of over 3,000 cases of influenza in the Trust Territory during the past year, and if our statistical reporters do not include those 3,000 cases, I shall put them in.

Mr. CASEYON (United Kingdom): I yield to the representative of the USSR, who may have a supplementary question on the same point.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am grateful to the representative of the United Kingdom. Since he made some reference to my remarks, I should like to furnish the relevant information immediately. I believe that this is the correct procedure that we follow.

The remarks of the representative of the United Kingdom show -- and this is contrary to the well-known English principle -- that he prefers words to facts even though facts are indeed stubborn things. The facts are the following: In the report for 1956, we find that there were seventy-three cases of dysentery; in the report for 1957, we find 131 cases of dysentery. The members of the Council will be able to judge for themselves whether or not there was an increase. In the report for 1956, there were twelve cases of diarrhea in children; in the report for 1957, there were 189 cases of diarrhea in children under one year of age.

Therefore, how is it possible to draw the conclusions which we have heard from the representative of the United Kingdom a few moments ago? I can only say that here words and not facts seem to be believed, and this is contrary to the well-known English principle.

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): I have no intention of disagreeing with the statements made concerning the number of cases of dysentery. I am truly grateful to the representative of the United Kingdom for pointing out the fact that in our report to the Council we specifically stated and called attention to our difficulties with respect to statistical reporting in an area such as ours. I can only repeat that the increase in the number of cases more truly reflects a better reporting system than they indicate, as might be concluded from remarks made, a decrease in the care of the Micronesians.

During the past several years we have been engaged in establishing dispensaries in our outer islands. We have been taking medicine more and more into the outer districts. Statistics follow such activity. When a health aide is assigned to an outer district, he immediately starts keeping statistics, and those statistics were not kept before his arrival.

I believe that there were probably many more cases of dysentery in the Trust Territory than are reflected in the pages shown. I would only ask whether it could be truly shown that a smaller number of cases of dysentery would be reported in one year for any other area of the world having a similar population. I have travelled around the world and I have had that disease two and three times in a year.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom): I can only add that in my family the number of cases of infant diarrhea in any year considerably exceeds the number of cases reported to the medical authorities.

(Mr. Caston, United Kingdom)

rehabilitation programmes

My other question relates to the social field. We heard from the special representative of the great efforts which his Administration has had to make during the last few months in connexion with the ~~rehabilitation programme~~ following the disastrous typhoons which have recently afflicted the area. What I should like a little more information on is the manner in which Government aid on this scale fits in with traditional methods of self-help. On page 81, "Chapter 5. Social Security and Welfare Services", the Administering Authority says:

"Government programmes added to traditional practices of the island societies provide all necessary services in case of disaster or emergency".

I am sure it is not as simple as all that, and I wonder if any particular social problems concerning the distribution of relief funds, for instance, has arisen. If so, how are they being dealt with? I can imagine, for instance, circumstances in which the criteria of need, which the Administration which is dispensing funds feels should be taken into account, might not be quite the same as those which are felt by the local people.

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): Having just gone through two programmes covering the disaster occasioned by the typhoons, I can speak at first hand to this problem. We had three islands practically completely demolished. Ninety per cent or better of all trees were blown down; all houses were destroyed. The mere fact that of close to 2,000 people living on those three islands, 1,700 to be exact, we only lost sixteen people, to me is miraculous. I saw those islands. I have seen devastation created by man during the Second World War. I saw no devastation more complete than that created by nature in these islands.

The first thing we had to do was to get water to the islands. We flew that in by air because all wells and water supply sources on the islands involved, on two of the islands involved, were destroyed. Secondly, we had to get food into the area and also supplies to start the rebuilding of the houses. Our staff immediately went to the islands concerned and there met with the Magistrate and his Council. The people in these islands follow the guidance of their Magistrate wonderfully well.

(Mr. Nucker, Special Representative)

It was determined by consultation how the food would be issued and the essential food desired. They wanted rice above all things, and they wanted canned foods, some sugar, some flour. They had available the fallen coconuts and the fallen breadfruit and the fish in the sea. From stocks on hand that the District Centres had, we immediately shipped rice, flour, sugar and other foodstuffs; we immediately shipped lumber and corrugated metal to the islands. These supplies were given to the Magistrate for distribution to his people, and we have continued the flow of food and the flow of supplies.

We followed the initial visit by sending our agriculturist to the area and our Assistant District Administrator or District Administrators as the case would be. In each island, after several days of work, a programme was developed which encompassed the replanting of the trees, the areas in which the trees would be planted and the type of trees to be planted and the manner in which the trees would be planted. Emphasis was placed on the islanders clearing the debris and carrying on the work necessary to proper replanting.

We then arranged to send to the islands good seed coconuts and good plants and seeds of other types. We assigned an American to the islands to work with the Magistrate to see that the goods received were received in good condition, that they were properly stored, issued and used, to see that the work of clearing the islands and replanting of the islands took place in accordance with the plan which had been developed in connexion with the islanders and through discussion with the islanders themselves.

We have been engaged in this effort since January 1957 -- really November, when the first typhoon hit; it did less damage.

I have received no information in my office in Guam but that there has been full and complete co-operation on the part of the islanders in this major work programme of clearing, building and planting.

Essentially that is the background of how we handled the typhoon situation.

REQUESTS FOR ORAL HEARINGS:

- (a) FROM MESSRS. ROBERT W. GILMORE, NORMAN THOMAS AND TREVOR THOMAS (T/1384);
- (b) FROM MR. DWIGHT HEINE (T/1385)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Before our traditional recess, I should like to convey to the Council a brief communication on the question of our programme of work for next week. The Secretariat has received a telegram from Mr. Heine, one of the petitioners that the Council has decided to hear on Monday, stating that he is not in a position to come before the Council on that date and asking to be heard today. Mr. Heine has been told that as our agenda for today's meeting had already been settled it would be rather difficult to hear him today. Under the circumstances he has asked to come and speak to us on Tuesday. As the two hearings deal with the same question, and if the Council would agree to put off the hearings of Mr. Heine until Tuesday, it would also be well to put off the hearing granted to Messrs. Gilmore, Thomas and Thomas. If there are no objections to this proposal, it will be so decided.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I do not intend to object, but I merely want to ask this question. Why is it not possible to hear the three petitioners on Monday, ask questions and then hear the fourth petitioner on Tuesday? In the experience of the Fourth Committee and the Trusteeship Council, there have been instances when petitioners were heard on different days.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): It is up to the Council to take a decision on this point. The President believes that it would be preferable perhaps to hear all the petitioners during the course of the same meeting since they are going to deal with the same subject matter. However, if the Council should decide to divide these hearings, I do not intend to put this proposal to the vote unless there are objections to the proposal of the Soviet Union representative.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to ask also what the Council will do on Monday if the petitioners are to be heard on Tuesday.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In that case Monday's agenda will include the consideration of conditions in the Trust Territory of New Guinea. The Council will hear the opening statement by the special representative and will be able also to begin the questions on political advancement. The second item on the agenda will be the consideration of those points on today's agenda which the Council may be unable to complete this afternoon.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): This is not a very usual procedure. It is proposed now that we should hear the special representative's opening statement at an inappropriate time, and even that we should begin the consideration of a different item. Perhaps this points to some connexion between the conditions prevailing in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and those in New Guinea? Perhaps it points to the common danger that exists in those Territories? In any case, this order of proceeding is quite abnormal. In the past practice of the Council there has never been an instance of the simultaneous consideration of two Trust Territories, not to mention the fact that our agenda at present contains four items and we have not yet begun to discuss even the second item.

Accordingly, I believe that it would be normal to hear the petitioners on Monday. Then the Council could decide how to use any time that remained at its disposal, whereas now an attempt is being made to decide everything in advance. That, as I say, is not a normal procedure.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I would like to point out that there have been several instances in the past of the hearing of the opening statement of a special representative, and even the beginning of a questioning period on one Territory before the general debate on the preceding Territory. That is a procedure which gives the Council more time to study the reports and the statements that have been made and to gather the information

(The President)

necessary for the general debate. However, it is for the Council to decide whether it wishes to separate these two hearings. I merely suggested it because of the request that had been received from one of the petitioners himself. We had intended to hear all the petitioners on Monday, but one of them apparently finds that inconvenient and asks, as a favour, that he should be permitted to appear here on Tuesday instead.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): Just last week the Soviet Union representative proposed the splitting up of the Trust Territory of Narau and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, but perhaps he has forgotten that. As for these two hearings, Mr. Dwight Heine is very anxious to go out and to make a speech which the Soviet representative might like to make himself in Los Angeles.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I heard no interpretation of the United States representative's statement, and therefore I can pass no judgement on it.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): Can the representative of the Soviet Union hear me now?

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Yes.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): I am glad that the Soviet representative did not hear what I had to say because it did not make much sense anyway. The young Dwight Heine, from the Marshall Islands, has agreed to make a speech in Los Angeles on Monday against the nuclear tests, and I am sure that the representative of the Soviet Union would like him to complete that engagement. Mr. Heine will have just sufficient time to get back here to the hearing on Tuesday. At the same time, Mr. Norman Thomas and his associates are very happy and have agreed also to come and present their views on Tuesday, so that everybody seems to be happy except the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am happy to hear any petitioner on any day of the week, provided that it is in the interests of the Trust Territory. I would be prepared to hear the petitioners even on a Sunday, and not merely on a Monday or Tuesday. I only mentioned the fact that a decision of the Council was taken with regard to those petitioners who can be heard on Monday if they can appear here on that day. I had never heard any statement to the effect that they were not prepared to appear on Monday. If they are not so prepared, however, then we could of course hear them on Tuesday.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I would ask the representative of the Soviet Union whether he desires to put to the vote this question of dissociating the two hearings.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am not proposing that anything should be put to the vote, especially after the statement of the United States representative to the effect that the petitioners have already stated -- to him apparently -- that they desire to appear here on Tuesday. I am perfectly prepared to hear them on Tuesday unless some event should occur in the meantime which would preclude their appearance then or make it impossible for them to appear at all. Apparently this hearing is not desired by somebody since it is being postponed continually. That is why I expressed my concern.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Since the Soviet Union representative does not wish me to put this question to the vote I shall take it that the Council agrees to the proposal to postpone the hearing of the two petitioners until Tuesday.

Mr. URRUTIA APARICIO (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to raise just two points. First, will we hear these petitioners before we begin the general debate on the Pacific Islands; second, will we hear the petitioners on Tuesday morning or Tuesday afternoon?

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The first point on our programme of work will be the hearing of the petitioners. Therefore, they will be heard before we take up any other business first thing on Tuesday morning. If there are no further observations I shall take it that that is agreed.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 4.55 p.m.

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS: ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1957 (T/1383;
T/L.850)(continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The special representative wishes to make some additional statements in connexion with questions previously put to him.

Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative): The representative of Burma asked a question concerning the actions taken and recommendations made as a result of the 1957 Inter-District Delegates Conference. The following is a list of the major actions resulting from that Conference:

Inter-District Delegates Conference

First, the selection of a Micronesian member of the Copra Stabilization Board.

Second, the decision to have a wider distribution in local languages of the quarterly information bulletin of the Copra Stabilization Board.

Third, the decision to hold meetings of the Inter-District Conference annually and to change the name of that Conference to the Inter-District Advisory Committee to the High Commissioner.

Fourth, the decision to carry out a preliminary survey on the problem of poisonous fish in the Trust Territory, on the recommendation of the Conference.

Fifth, the institution by our judiciary of a training programme for community judges, on the recommendation of the Conference.

The representative of China asked a question concerning the Districts in which the less capable traditional chiefs had been replaced by men of lesser rank, owing to the elective processes within the Districts. In my reply, I said that Palau was probably the only District involved. There was, however, a similar incident in Ponape.

The USSR representative asked questions concerning land in the Trust Territory. In my opinion, I did not adequately answer his request for information. The Administering Authority has not taken any additional land in the Trust Territory. The apparent increase of 10,000 acres shown as in use by the Administering Authority is the result of the completion of land surveys in the Saipan District and the precise delineation of boundaries. No transfer of land

land

(Mr. Nucker,
Special Representative)

was involved. No families were displaced. On the other hand, a procedure was developed during the year under which lands retained for use by the Administering Authority are made available for use as grazing land or for other uses not inconsistent with use by the Administering Authority. This is in the framework of the Saipan District. It may be of interest in this connexion to note that lands under homestead in the Saipan District increased by over 6,600 acres.

Mr. Nucker 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)

U THANT (Burma): Mr. President, I have asked for the floor this afternoon in order briefly to supplement the information contained in document T/1377, regarding the scholarships offered by the Government of the Union of Burma to inhabitants of Trust Territories. But before doing so, I wish to make it clear that we have not, as yet, received a reply from my Government to the Secretary-General's letter referred to in his report, and therefore the information which I shall endeavour to provide to the Council now, will be only of a preliminary character, and should in no way prejudice the nature and the contents of the information which my Government might supply at a later date. I believe, nevertheless, that what I am going to say on this matter, will be of some interest to the members of this Council.

As the members of this Council are probably aware, none of the three scholarships offered by my Government, notwithstanding the many applications that have been received and the two awards actually made by my Government, has yet been utilized. Speaking as the representative of a country whose delegation at the very beginning had actively and consistently supported the idea of initiating a programme designed to promote the educational advancement in Trust Territories, I think I can safely say that no one could be more unhappy than we are regarding the non-utilization of our scholarships. I think that I owe some brief explanatory remarks to the members of the Council in this connexion.

I do not propose to belabour my colleagues with a detailed narration of the difficulties encountered by my Government in processing and awarding scholarships to candidates from Trust Territories. I believe that these difficulties, stemming from differences in language, educational systems, admission requirements to various educational institutions, et cetera, are generally speaking commonly faced by Member States offering scholarships. I believe, however, that some illustration of the difficulties peculiar to our case would be necessary for the members of the Council properly to appreciate why no scholarships offered by my Government have so far been utilized.

(U Thant, Burma)

The chief difficulty, in our case, is one of language. Under the provisions of the University of Rangoon Act, and the University of Mandalay Act, Burmese as a subject, together with English, is compulsorily prescribed for all students of the intermediate level, attending the aforesaid institutions and their several affiliated colleges. It follows, therefore, that unless a student who enrolled either for the junior or senior intermediate course passed his final intermediate examination, he could not proceed to the Bachelor courses. There is, however, a provision whereby a person under exceptional circumstances could be admitted as a "special student" for an intermediate course, who after passing the intermediate examination in other subjects, could proceed to a Bachelor course. But, unfortunately, in all such cases, a degree could not be conferred upon the student concerned, even if he successfully completed his studies. Since the attainment of a degree is the primary aspiration of the candidates, many applicants for Burmese scholarships are found to be unwilling to pursue such special courses.

Of course, such difficulties would not arise in respect of candidates who possess sufficient qualifications for direct admission to the Bachelor courses, where at present English is the only medium of instruction in all subjects. Unfortunately, however, the majority of the students applying for Burmese scholarships have been found ineligible for direct admission to the Bachelor courses.

I hope that my colleagues will appreciate the difficulties which I have briefly outlined -- difficulties which can be removed only by a Parliamentary amendment of the two Acts of Parliament which I have mentioned. Furthermore, I hope that my colleagues will accept my assurance that these difficulties, and nothing else, are responsible for the non-utilization of our scholarships so far.

I believe I have already alluded, in my opening remarks, to the two awards that were actually made by my Government. As the Council would be rather curious to know what became of these awards subsequently, I should like, with your indulgence, to furnish some information in this regard.

The first scholarship award was made to Mr. Kwaku-Naya of the former Trust Territory of British ~~Togoland~~ Togoland. After accepting the scholarship, he later wrote to say that he had in the meantime been granted a scholarship to study at the University of London, which for reasons of geographical proximity to his own

(U Thant, Burma)

homeland, he had accepted. The second award was made to Miss Monica Mepemenkofi, also of the former Trust Territory of British Togoland. She also was unable to accept the scholarship because, as stated by her, the then Gold Coast Government refused to issue her a passport.

As noted in the Secretary-General's report, a few more applications were received fairly recently, and they are all now receiving the careful consideration of my Government. The decisions of my Government in respect of these applications will be communicated both to the applicants concerned and the Secretary-General, as soon as we are apprised of them.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Note will be taken of the statements just made by the representative of Burma.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The delegation of the USSR believes that the report of the Secretary-General with regard to the utilization of the facilities offered by Member States in the field of training is indeed a topic deserving of careful consideration by the Council. The Council is bound to consider this matter very seriously because of the pertinent resolution of the General Assembly and in view of the actual situation in this respect.

The report of the Secretary-General shows that fourteen States Members of the United Nations answered the appeal of the General Assembly and offered ninety-eight scholarships and eleven fellowships for the academic year 1957-58. For the same period of time, 141 applications were received from inhabitants of Trust Territories containing requests for scholarships. This information shows that the indigenous inhabitants are very interested in receiving education and also that many Governments are desirous of meeting this wish. But what is the actual situation with regard to the utilization of existing facilities? Now, as in the past, the situation is very bad. As shown by the report of the Secretary-General, on 1 June of this year only thirty-eight scholarships were used.

What is the cause of this unsatisfactory situation? Exhaustive answers to this question have already been given. The main cause is to be found in the obstacles raised by the Administering Authorities who prevent the inhabitants from using these scholarships. At the nineteenth session of the Council, the delegation of the Soviet Union read several documents which showed that the Administering Authorities were acting arbitrarily in that respect. In particular, an official note of the Foreign Office of Great Britain was read. This note contained a refusal to allow two residents of Tanganyika, Lupindo and Kiabo, to use scholarships offered by the USSR. I believe it would be superfluous to stress the facilities offered by the Soviet Government in the field of education. The educational level in the Soviet Union is well known throughout the world. Despite this fact, the Administering Authority prevented the inhabitants of the Trust Territory from using these magnificent facilities to receive higher education.

(Mr. Lobanov, USSR)

Today, I received a letter from another resident of Tanganyika who complains that the Administering Authority does not give him the possibility of using the scholarship offered to him by the Soviet Union for studies at the University of Moscow. Numerous delegations and cultural experts of the world who have visited the University of Moscow were very impressed by the excellent facilities offered by that educational institution. The Administering Authority, however, does not allow indigenous inhabitants to use the facilities offered to them to enable them to obtain training and education.

Quite recently the delegation of the Soviet Union to the United Nations received a letter from a resident of the Cameroons who stated that he was subjected to pressure on the part of the representatives of the Administering Authority because he had expressed the wish to receive training through a scholarship offered by the Soviet Union. This indigenous inhabitant stated in his letter that as soon as he had filed his application and the pertinent documents asking for the grant of the scholarship he was immediately summoned to the Director of Police. He explained to the Director that he wished to receive education in the Soviet Union because no such possibilities existed in the Territory itself. Since this explanation was not to the liking of the representative of the Administering Authority, the indigenous inhabitant was imprisoned. With the help of his relatives and friends, he paid a fine of 10,000 francs, and only after that was he discharged from prison. He was compelled to leave the Cameroons and now he is in a very difficult situation. He is suffering many hardships because he is far from his relatives and has no means of subsistence.

A question arises: Are any further proofs needed to show that the situation in respect of the utilization of the scholarships offered by Member States of the United Nations is a situation which is caused by the Administering Authorities? Is any further proof needed to show the arbitrary measures taken by the Administering Authority in respect of those inhabitants who express the desire to receive education in this way?

The General Assembly has repeatedly pointed to this very abnormal situation and expects, as stated in the pertinent resolution, that the Trusteeship Council will take concrete measures to improve the situation. Unfortunately, it has

(Mr. Lobanov, USSR)

become the practice of the Trusteeship Council to put such matters aside without thoroughly going into them. This time the Trusteeship Council should not avoid its responsibilities, especially considering the increasing wish of the indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories to receive education. The members of the Council have no doubt noted in the Secretary-General's report that at present 430 applications have already been filed containing requests for scholarships for the academic year 1958-59. Is it possible that this time, too, we will face a situation where the indigenous inhabitants will again come up against a wall, an insuperable obstacle, erected by the Administering Authorities which will prevent them from obtaining this education?

I believe that the Council will not disregard these facts which are brought to its attention by the delegation of the Soviet Union.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The statement of the representative of the Soviet Union will be duly noted.

Mr. OSMAN (United Arab Republic)(interpretation from French): I have a few brief comments to make on the Secretary-General's report on offers by States Members of the United Nations for study and training facilities to inhabitants of Trust Territories. In reporting on scholarships granted and accepted, express mention was made of the degree and field of training involved in some of the scholarships granted, whereas in other cases the report merely mentioned that a certain number of scholarships were accepted without stating the level or field of education. My delegation feels that in future it would be useful if the report contained this type of information on the scholarships accepted because it would be a valuable tool in evaluating the total progress made by the Trust Territories in the field of education and then in the field of self-government.

Turning to another matter, my delegation would like to express its regret that the Administering Authorities of certain Territories have not provided all the necessary facilities to students to enable them to accept certain fellowships.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The statement of the representative of the United Arab Republic will be duly noted.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): We are considering the seventh progress report of the Secretary-General (T/1377) on a question which is of very great, intrinsic and fundamental importance to the Trust Territories. The educational advancement of any people is absolutely essential to the political and economic progress of that people. That is the concept of trusteeship, and to fulfil the aims of trusteeship it is highly necessary that the people of Trust Territories should be provided with all possible opportunities of education, and especially technical education.

On looking back, it is the feeling of my delegation that we have come a great distance from the sixth session of the General Assembly. An increasing number of Member States have come forward with offers of scholarships and those who originally offered scholarships have also in the last two or three years increased the number of scholarships that they have made available to candidates from Trust Territories.

These are two very encouraging and very promising factors. But as some of the representatives from other countries in this Council have pointed out, the situation taken as a whole is not entirely promising. There is this problem of non-utilization of the offers made by various States. There are several reasons for that. The representative of Burma mentioned one important reason, namely the difficulty of media of instruction. There are other reasons, and there may yet be still other reasons which probably are not known to this Council. I think it is a matter of great importance to this Council and the time has probably come for us to examine as to what these reasons are in their entirety which led to the non-utilization of these very generous and very important offers for the benefit of Trust Territories. Perhaps it may be useful for this Council to consider at an appropriate stage whether a small committee of the Council should go into this question and consider the various pros and cons, the various difficulties, and then suggest some solutions for the consideration of the Council.

As the report shows, there are about 110 offers of scholarships, of internships and fellowships, of which only forty-eight or fifty have been utilized. At the same time there were about 110 applicants, and the

(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

Secretary-General has also stated that he received some 450 other communications from candidates who are interested in availing themselves of these offers. The information was supplied, but it seems that things have not developed further. Probably some of these prospective candidates need a little guidance, a little more information, which would help them make up their minds whether to take an offer and where to take it. These are matters to be examined and I am suggesting this for the consideration of the Council. I am making no proposal on the subject because I think that this has to be gone into in greater detail and my colleagues around this table would probably like to give some thought to this matter. But this is a matter which should be given serious examination and perhaps the best form of doing it may be in a small committee.

The position regarding Indian scholarships is summarized in paragraphs 19 to 24 of the report, and I have very little to add to that. I think that so far as we are concerned this information is full. We are in the happy position that most of our offers have been utilized and we are glad that it is so. I wish this was so with other Governments also who have come forward with these offers. We have submitted detailed information to the Secretary-General regarding the scholarships offered by us, regarding the acceptances of those scholarships, and also regarding the progress made by scholars from these Trust Territories and Non-Self-Governing Territories in their studies in India.

It will be seen from the information given in the report that the scheme of scholarships, so far as the Government of India is concerned, is working fairly satisfactorily. As I said, we are happy to note that.

I had hoped to end my brief statement on this happy note, but I am afraid that I find some information in the report which deserves the attention of the Council. The representative of the Soviet Union pointed this out and I am sure that other representatives would also have seen it. I am referring particularly now to paragraphs 14 and 47 of the report regarding the scholarships offered to students from Tanganyika by Czechoslovakia and the USSR. We find that three students from Tanganyika were unable to make use of these scholarships offered to them, obviously through no fault of theirs. There were some difficulties in obtaining passports. I am not sure what those difficulties were. We do not

propose to go into the passport procedures of the Tanganyika Government. But I think that when a scholarship is offered and a candidate to accept that offer is found -- and in this case obviously the candidate was found fit, educationally speaking -- it does constitute a denial of opportunity to an individual who deserves to make use of that opportunity. And I think it would be appropriate for the Council to take note of this position. Perhaps we may request the delegation of the United Kingdom to enlighten us about the reasons for which passport facilities were refused to these three students. My delegation would also be interested to know whether this denial of opportunities for study to these three candidates have been compensated in some other way.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): During the past year, as far as I am aware, no use of the scholarships referred to in document T/1377 has been made by inhabitants of Trust Territories under Australian administration; and this, primarily because scholarships for study in Australia are readily available to them, and partly because comparatively few of the inhabitants have so far been able to avail themselves of the facilities which Australia provides and so attain educational standards permitting them to use effectively such scholarships as may be offered on an international basis.

I would observe, however, that there can, of course, be no grounds for believing that Australia is incapable of providing such scholarships as may be needed by the inhabitants of Trust Territories under Australian administration. Only recently the Australian Mission communicated to the Secretary-General details of more than 2,500 scholarships granted by Australia to students from countries and territories in the Pacific, South East Asia and Southern Asia. Two hundred and eight Burmans and 250 Indians have so far benefited by the scholarships offered; and I would observe in conclusion that more than 5 per cent of the students now at Australian universities today are Asians.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom): I am not in a position to provide the full information on certain individual cases which the representative of India has suggested that I might. Indeed, I do not think that it would be really appropriate for this Council in full session to go into individual scholarship cases of this kind. Perhaps a committee such as he also tentatively suggested might be able to deal with this more adequately, if it were thought necessary. However, in the case of one of the three applicants to which this report refers, Mr. Lupindo, the Council has already taken cognizance of it. It was considered exhaustively in the Standing Committee on Petitions on the basis of a petition which he submitted at the last session of the Council; and the Committee reported to the Council, and the Council adopted a resolution on the subject. Although I do not have the resolution before me, I have the summary records of the Committee on Petitions, from which I see that the United Kingdom representative did give a full explanation of the failure to permit Mr. Lupindo to take up this scholarship, and of the alternative facilities for study which were offered to him. On that occasion, as is usual in the Petitions Committee, the representative of the United Kingdom had the assistance of the special representative from the Territory, who was, of course, familiar both with the individual concerned and with the educational facilities in the Territory which might be more appropriate to his educational needs.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It would be most useful for the Trusteeship Council to take cognizance of the explanation offered by the Committee on Petitions with regard to Mr. Lupando. This explanation is indeed an excellent example of the difficulties created by the Administering Authorities in that respect. On the basis of this, the Council can see for itself how the course of education is being hindered in those Trust Territories. I would welcome the consideration by the Council of the explanation referred to by the representative of the United Kingdom.

Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom): My point was that the Trusteeship Council has already considered this case and has disposed of it by means of a resolution.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Trusteeship Council did not -- it could not -- dispose of this matter because Mr. Lupindo, a resident of the Trust Territory, did not give up his intention to avail himself of the scholarship offered by the Soviet Union Government. The scholarship is valid to this day and can be renewed. Therefore, it is astonishing to hear a statement made that the manner of the desire of an indigenous inhabitant to obtain education has been so easily disposed of. If the Administering Authority attempts to solve in such a matter all questions pertaining to the education of the indigenous inhabitants, that is what we should call a colonial approach to the educational problems of the Trust Territory. I do believe that this is a clear expression of colonialist tendencies.

I think that the representative of India has made a concrete proposal. Representatives will no doubt wish to appraise this suggestion and, therefore, the normal thing would be for the question to remain open so that the Council could consider it again after representatives have studied the suggestion offered by the representative of India.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Of course, it is the right of any member of the Council who has a formal proposal to make on this matter to introduce it, but as I have no other speakers on the list regarding this point, we can only follow our usual procedure in such a situation, which is to take note of the report of the Secretary-General. This report, as the Council knows, will appear in our report to the General Assembly.

Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to clarify one aspect of this matter. It is well known that the General Assembly had requested the Trusteeship Council to consider these questions. Will a decision to take note of the report of the Secretary-General be ~~so~~ interpreted as to mean that the matter has been dealt with and the discussion closed? Or will the Council submit conclusions or recommendations to the Assembly with regard to the possibility of making full use of the facilities for education offered by a number of States?

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Council's practice is to include in its report to the General Assembly the essentials of the facts contained in the Secretary-General's report. What I have just suggested that we should do is to take note of the Secretary-General's report. This leaves the question completely open—if some representative wishes, by means of some measure which it desires to take and which it is appropriate for it to take, to submit a draft resolution. It is up to any delegation to determine this point. Therefore, if there is no objection, I assume that the Council will take note of the Secretary-General's report.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 10

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM IN TRUST TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (T/1378)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): This report of the Secretary-General does not call for any recommendation by the Council, but merely, as in the past, that the Council take note of it.

Mr. LOPANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Today's agenda has been rather full and the consideration of questions rather rapid and it is somewhat difficult to examine fully the documentation before us. Nevertheless, I should like to make a few comments on the report before us.

Our attention is immediately drawn to the fact that very few United Nations official documents are available in the Territories. We see from the table on page 2 of the report that the records of the meetings of the United Nations, and in particular of the Trusteeship Council, have been mailed to only twelve addresses in Tanganyika, and that the number of recipients has increased by only one in the course of a full year. In the Cameroons and in Togoland under French administration the number of recipients did not increase at all during the past year. I could show additional examples in the report to confirm these views. However, even without such references, it is quite clear that the Council cannot consider the existing situation as satisfactory with regard to the dissemination of information on the United Nations and the Trusteeship System.

The indigenous inhabitants of Trust Territories are very interested in obtaining information which explains the work of the Council and its discussions and decisions. All these matters are related to the welfare and the future of the people of the Trust Territories.

(Mr. Lobanov, USSR)

The dissemination of information with regard to available educational facilities is of special importance. An improvement in the dissemination of information would also be useful in establishing the necessary contacts between the Trusteeship Council and the indigenous people of the Trust Territories. Without such contacts fruitful activity by the Council is out of the question.

It is unnecessary to stress that an improved system of dissemination of information would increase the feeling of responsibility of the members of the Council, especially of those members which have undertaken duties and commitments under the Trusteeship Agreements and under the Charter.

The delegation of the Soviet Union believes that the Council should recommend that the Administering Authorities take appropriate measures to make the necessary documents available to libraries, schools, educational and other cultural centres of Trust Territories.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The statement of the representative of the Soviet Union will be entered in the record.

Mr. RASCOTRA (India): I should like first to compliment the Secretariat for the care they have taken in compiling this report. In going through it, special attention seems to be called to paragraph 4, relating to New Guinea. According to this paragraph, there has been a sharp decline during the past year in the number of addresses in New Guinea to which United Nations official documents were supplied or are being supplied. I think some explanation for this decline is called for and perhaps the representative of Australia might furnish some clarification.

There has been, as the report notes, an increase of approximately 30 per cent over the number of addresses reported last year. This is satisfactory, although it is the general feeling of our delegation that the Council must continue to work for improved dissemination of information about the United Nations in Trust Territories.

The report suggests that films are being used as a medium of dissemination of information and that the films are being used with considerable success. It is generally recognized that films do, to a certain extent, conquer the difficulty of media which I mentioned a short while ago. Films can play a very useful role in the achievement of the purpose that we have in view.

It appears, however, that not all Trust Territories are employing this medium of information as fully as one might hope. My delegation would suggest that the Secretariat might, in consultation with the Administering Authorities, explore the possibilities of increasing the supply of films to Trust Territories. We have felt all along that some more effective measures will sooner or later have to be adopted by the Council to achieve the purpose.

If my memory is correct, I think it was in 1954 that the Visiting Mission of this Council suggested the opening of an information centre, or a sub-centre, in one of the Trust Territories -- I think it was Ruanda-Urundi. I am inclined to suggest a more active consideration by this Council of that proposal. They have no United Nations information centres. There is one in Cairo, for example, but it is obviously not possible for these centres to work very effectively to this end. It might therefore be useful for the Council to consider at the appropriate time whether something could be done in that direction.

The dissemination of information has several technical aspects to it. One of the difficulties which we all recognize is that the reports and material which go to the Territories are written in a language which is not always altogether comprehensible, especially for laymen who are not familiar with the language used in the meetings of this Council. I think it might be useful to consider in detail the various difficulties which exist.

(Mr. Rasgotra, India)

If I may be permitted, I would again suggest for the consideration of the Council -- not now, perhaps it would be taken up in detail later -- the establishment of a ~~small committee to examine these matters in detail.~~

The dissemination of information about the United Nations is very necessary. These Trust Territories are the wards of the United Nations and of this Council. It is obviously of fundamental importance that these Territories should know what this Council is doing, what the various organizations of the United Nations are doing, what facilities and what amenities are available to the inhabitants of these Territories. Such a committee could perhaps obtain the help of UNESCO which I believe could be of considerable assistance in the matter. The particular difficulty of language is common to most Territories, and I believe this is a matter in which UNESCO could perhaps be of considerable assistance, for example, in the preparation of suitable material which would be distributed in those Territories.

Finally, I should like to express the appreciation of the delegation of India for the efforts being made by some of the Administering Authorities in the preparation of more comprehensible and more easily intelligible material for circulation.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The statement of the representative of India will appear in our records.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I am afraid that we have gotten to the stage when I fully expect some representative to propose that we set up a small committee to consider all the proposals made this afternoon for the setting up of small committees. I have no doubt myself in my own mind that if all the documents could be carefully read, we could dispense with some of our existing committees. With that prefatory remark, may I be permitted to observe that paragraph 26 of document T/1378 shows that the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of New Guinea has taken exceptional measures to disseminate information about the United Nations, the Trusteeship Council and other organs of the United Nations. It is possible, of course, to read statistics in a sense

(Mr. Kelly, Australia)

adverse to the interests and policy of the Administering Authorities. It is possible to read them in another sense, and I suggest that the mere indication of the number of addresses or addressees is susceptible of two conclusions: first, that the total number of persons receiving documents is declining, which is not the case in the Trust Territory of New Guinea; secondly, that difficulties of communication have made it desirable in some instances to designate one addressee who will act as a distributing point for the ultimate recipients of journals. That is, I think, one of the explanations for an apparent decrease in the number of addressees in relation to the Trust Territory of New Guinea.

I would again, however, direct attention to the fact that the special representative for the Trust Territory of New Guinea actually engaged in a discussion with representatives of the Secretariat during the twentieth session of the Council to consider ways and means of disseminating more effectively the information relating to the United Nations in the Trust Territory. Those discussions are still continuing and only lately we have been in correspondence with the Secretariat, as a result of which even the figures appearing here will be substantially increased. It is not possible for an Administering Authority to spend the greater part of its energy compiling statistics relating to the distribution of United Nations documents. Many are in fact solicited from United Nations Centres apart from those formally distributed by the Administering Authority. I have no doubt at all in my mind that quite a number of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory of New Guinea have of their own accord solicited copies of the relatively recent United Nations report on Hungary, for example. With that, I think I need say no more on this particular topic.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India): I thank the representative of Australia for his explanation. I could not but agree with him that the Administering Authority cannot be expected to function as a mailing bureau or post office -- at least, not beyond a certain point -- and it was precisely that which I had in mind when I suggested that it might be useful to consider whether our purpose could be achieved by the establishment of United Nations information centres in the Trust Territory. I did not quite understand the first part of his explanation. I understood him to say that he was suggesting a third committee to constitute the two I had suggested. I had merely made an informal suggestion regarding two committees, and if the representative of Australia suggests the establishment of a third committee it does not seem to me that I am very much in the wrong.

Mr. KELLY (Australia): I was innocently endeavouring to suggest that there were too many proposals for special committees. That is all.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Since no other representative wishes to speak on this point I assume that the Council agrees to take note of the Secretary-General's support, a procedure which will leave the question open so that delegations may at a later stage make any suggestions they desire.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
Department of Public Information
Press and Publications Division
United Nations, N. Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Trusteeship Council
22nd Session
10th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1399
20 June 1958

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 1

The Trusteeship Council this afternoon continued its examination of conditions in the United States-administered trust territory of the Pacific Islands and the questioning of Delmas H. Nucker, the United States special representative for the territory.

The questioning of Mr. Nucker concerning political and economic conditions in the territory has been concluded, and attention turned today to social and educational conditions in the area.

In response to questions by CARLOS URRUTIA APARICIO (Guatemala) and MICHEL DE CAMARET (France), the special representative touched upon questions of labor, education and the control of diseases.

The indigenous workers, he said, had a total of 13 days annual and sick leave a year. Over the past ten years, he estimated that some 200 Micronesians had gone outside the territory for higher studies, at the University of Hawaii and at Suva where they received medical training. This figure, he added, did not include those sent to Guam for studies.

Such students, Mr. NUCKER said, had been "used effectively" upon their return. Some 1,000 Micronesians were at present employed in the administration, he said.

As regards the language of instruction, a point raised by U THANT (Burma), Mr. NUCKER said that during the first four years of elementary school, practically all the teaching was in the vernacular. In the fifth year, a beginning in English was made.

When students reached the intermediate level, the special representative said, great emphasis was laid on the teaching of English. On completion of intermediate school, the students were fully capable of going to the Pacific Island Center School where all teaching was in English.

Asked if there were library facilities, Mr. NUCKER said that in the elementary schools, books were available to students, in limited quantities. These were under the control of teachers.

One of the most difficult problems, he said, was in developing books in the vernacular, since numerous languages and dialects were spoken in the territory.

(more)

Newspapers, Mr. NUCKER said, were published, both by schools and other authorities, in all the districts. The papers dealt mostly with local events, but also carried a summary of world events.

IVAN I. LOBANOV (USSR) asked about the accident rate. The special representative conceded that it was high.

Of the 1,900 Micronesians on the payroll at the end of May 1958, he said 1,450 were working on the construction and public works program; some 200 or 300 were engaged in miscellaneous activities; and about 300 were teachers.

Mr. LOBANOV said that accidents to 250 employees, out of a total force of about 2,000, reflected a high accident rate, justifying "concern."

As regards tuberculosis, the special representative said the administration was doing its best to combat the disease. Its incidence in the territory was not high in comparison with other areas, he said.

Mr. LOBANOV said the statistics given in the annual report showed a "considerable" increase in the infant mortality rate, although the special representative stated that there had been a decrease. There had also been an increase in dysentery cases, he said.

Statistics could be interpreted in many ways, the special representative replied. The increase in dysentery cases, he added, was probably due to better reporting methods and the fact that more patients were going to hospitals for treatment.

Mr. LOBANOV asked why there had been a decrease in the number of Micronesian teachers. The special representative replied that in both 1956 and 1957, there had been a total of 420 teachers, an increase of seven for the elementary schools and a decrease of seven for the intermediate schools.

G. K. CASTON (United Kingdom) said he had also made an analysis of the statistics on public health and he had reached conclusions "diametrically opposed" to those of the Soviet representative. Since the islands were scattered, accurate statistics were admittedly difficult to obtain. However, the administering authority, he noted, had stated year after year that the data was improving.

(END OF TAKE 1)

UNITED NATIONS
Department of Public Information
Press and Publications Division
United Nations, N. Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Trusteeship Council
22nd Session
10th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1399
20 June 1958

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 2

At this point, the President, ALFRED CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium), informed the Council that Dwight Heine, one of the petitioners whose request for a hearing had been approved yesterday, had informed the UN Secretariat that he could not appear before the Council next Monday, as scheduled, but that he could do so on Tuesday.

The PRESIDENT suggested that in these circumstances, the hearing of Mr. Heine and the other petitioners -- Robert W. Gilmore, Norman Thomas and Trevor Thomas -- would be postponed until next Tuesday. On Monday, he said, the Council would begin its discussion of conditions in New Guinea.

Mr. LOBANOV protested against what he called the "abnormal" procedure of having the Council discuss simultaneously two separate territories. As regards the hearings, he suggested that the Council could hear the petitioners separately -- one group on Monday, as decided, and Mr. Heine on Tuesday.

MASON SEARS (United States) said that Mr. Heine was scheduled to make a speech in Los Angeles against nuclear tests, a speech which he, Mr. Sears, thought the Soviet representative would like to make himself. Mr. Thomas, he added, also had agreed to the postponement of the hearing until Tuesday, "so everyone seems to be happy except for the representative of the Soviet Union," he said.

The PRESIDENT then asked the Soviet representative whether he wanted to propose formally that the hearings be held separately.

Mr. LOBANOV (USSR) said he wanted to be certain that hearings would not continue to be postponed, as some might wish, he added.

After further discussion, the Council agreed to hear the petitioners concerning the Pacific Islands on Tuesday morning.

There being no further questions, the PRESIDENT declared the questioning of the special representative of the Pacific Islands concluded.

The Council then took up its next item of business -- the report (Doc.T/1377) of the Secretary-General on offers by UN member states of study and training facilities for inhabitants of trust territories.

(more)

The report states that during the academic year 1957-58 14 member governments had made available a total of 98 scholarships and 11 fellowships, of which 60 scholarships were also open to students from non-self-governing territories. The governments offering scholarships were: Burma, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Tunisia, Turkey, USSR, United States, Yugoslavia.

During the same period, the report states, the Secretary-General received a total of 100 applications and he was informed by a number of member states that 41 applications had been submitted to them directly. Awards of scholarships for the academic year 1957-58 to students from trust territories totalled 44, according to the report, and, on the basis of information available as of 1 June 1958, a total of 38 scholarships were actually utilized, of which six were renewals of scholarships granted in previous years.

With regard to the offers made by Burma, U THANT gave further supplementary information. Notwithstanding the many applications received and the two awards actually made, none of the three offers by Burma had yet been used.

Because of language difficulty, he said, many of the applicants were found ineligible for the offers under the applicable laws which could only be changed by parliamentary action. As for the two awards actually granted, he said, one was to a student from the former British Togoland. This student subsequently advised that in the meantime he had obtained a scholarship for the University of London and, England being closer geographically, he had accepted this offer.

The other award made by Burma, he said, was also to a student from the former British Togoland. The student stated that she was refused a passport by the then Gold Coast Government.

Mr. THANT said that since then his government had received a few more applications for the offers by Burma and these were receiving appropriate consideration. His delegation would in due course provide the Secretary-General with information on the matter.

Mr. LOBANOV (USSR) said the request showed that the situation as regards the actual use of the offers was "very bad." He charged that the administering authorities had raised obstacles to prevent students in territories administered by them to make use of the scholarships offered by member states, citing cases where students applying for offers by the USSR had been prevented from making use of them.

(more)

The practice of the Council had been to pass over the matter, he said. It was time, in his view, for the Council to take concrete measures to improve the situation.

AHMED OSMAN (United Arab Republic) regretted that the administering authorities of certain trust territories had not provided students in their territories with the necessary facilities to enable them to accept "certain offers."

M.K. RASGOTRA (India) thought it would be useful for the Council to consider at an appropriate stage whether it should set up a small committee to go into the problem of the non-use of the scholarship offers.

Apart from three cases involving students from Tanganyika who were unable to obtain the necessary passports, he was happy to note, as indicated in the report, that the situation as regards the use of the offers by India was satisfactory.

KEVIN KELLY (Australia) said that, as the report showed, no use had been made during the past year by inhabitants of territories administered by Australia of the offers. This, he said, was chiefly because scholarships for them were provided by Australia. He added that Australia had offered some 2,500 scholarships for students from Southeast Asia.

G.K. Caston (United Kingdom), in reply to the representative of India, felt that the Council should not go into individual cases. One of the three cases mentioned by the representative of India, he said, had been dealt with at an earlier session of the Council.

After further discussion, the Council, on the proposal of the President, agreed to take note of the Secretary-General's report on offers of scholarships.

The Council then took up another report (Doc.T/1378) by the Secretary-General, dealing with the dissemination of information on the UN and the international trusteeship system in trust territories.

Declaring that not sufficient information was being distributed in the territories, Mr. LOBANOV (USSR) considered that steps should be taken to improve the situation.

Mr. RASGOTRA (India) felt that one of the problems was that the material available was not always prepared in a way which was suitable for use in the territories. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, he thought, could help in this regard.

He suggested that one way of solving the problem would be the establishment of new information centers or sub-centers in trust territories. Another way would be for the Council to establish a small committee to study the whole problem of dissemination of information in the trust territories.

Mr. KELLY (Australia) said the report showed that Australia had taken "exceptional measures" in New Guinea in regard to the dissemination of information on the work of the UN and the work of the Trusteeship Council.

After further discussion, the Council decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the subject.

The Council will meet again at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, 23 June, when it will begin the discussion on New Guinea.