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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 8 June 1959, at 2.30 p.m.

President

Mr. DORSINVILLE

(Haiti)

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Western Samoa [3g, 57]
(continued)

Note:

The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.971 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

AGENDA ITEMS 3g and 5

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAMOA (T/L.908)
(continued)

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 1958 (T/1450 AND 1455)
- (b) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO THE TRUST TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAMOA, 1959 (T/1449)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Powles, special representative for the Trust Territory of Western Samoa under New Zealand administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

General debate

Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) (interpretation from French): The island character of the Territory of Western Samoa and its geographical location in the Pacific area have kept Upolu and Savai'i remote from the passions, the propaganda and the claims which have assailed other parts of the world, and thus they have saved this part of the world much concern and the Administering Authority much criticism. We are glad for our New Zealand friends, who have thus been able to ensure the peaceful and beneficial evolution of the Territory. We are all the more glad for the Samoan people, so noble, so hospitable and so moving in their wisdom and tradition-mindedness. These are happy isles of Oceania that will succeed, we hope, in taking over certain achievements of the modern world without allowing the harshness of this century to jeopardize the smiling harmony of this old civilization.

Not everything is perfect in these islands. The Visiting Mission has not kept hidden any of the shortcomings or any of the misgivings that may exist about the future of the area. If we compare Samoa with other Territories or other continents we may be tempted to be more critical. But that is precisely what we are not entitled to do; for I have never felt more than in Samoa to what extent some of our discussions, however legitimate they may be, are sometimes remote from reality, and to what extent certain concepts need, in order to acquire meaning, to be adapted to the social and human facts. So let us judge Samoa on its merits, that is, as a small group of islands isolated in the Pacific, with a little over 100,000 inhabitants, where the customs, as the special representative reminds us, go back at least to 1000 B.C.

(Mr. Kosciusko-Morizet, France)

I am speaking here as the representative of France, but I cannot forget that I was also a member of the Visiting Mission of the United Nations. We are not in the habit of disputing our own signature; therefore, I should like to say right away that my delegation endorses the report of the Visiting Mission. It supports the suggestions and conclusions, and we are particularly glad to see that the Government of New Zealand, through Mr. McIntosh, supported generally in its turn.

As far as we are concerned, the basic question is the following, What is the future of Samoa, and how can we best assist the Samoan peoples who are so worthy of our interest? Within approximately two years' time the question of the accession of Samoa to self-government, to independence, will come up -- I will revert to these notions later -- and the question of the cancellation of trusteeship will automatically arise too. A time-table has been suggested to this effect. It seems a reasonable one because it is a short-term time-table, it is subject to revision, subject to the results of this experience. These precautions are needed, for it seems that in the past the time-table had been more an impediment than an advantage. I even had this feeling when we arrived in Samoa that our Mission was premature. The acceleration of history is sometimes fraught with drawbacks, and it required all the diligence of the Mission, the understanding of the Government of New Zealand, and especially the goodwill of the authorities -- the Samoan Assembly and Committee -- to make it possible for a substantial, constructive report to be submitted to you. A most important point, therefore, is the proper functioning of the administering or governmental system. It is fortunate that the introduction of this essential reform on 1 October 1959 will give the Samoan authorities more time to get used to the exercise of power and to thus ride in their various institutions.

Let us not attribute too much importance to the question of the Chief of State. This, after all, is the concern of the Samoans themselves. It is not related directly to the ends of the Trusteeship System even if this system of Government may offer certain variations as compared to the consecrated traditions of the British parliamentary system -- I hope that my friends, Sir Andrew Cohen and Mr. Edmonds, will not deem this as too great a drawback. The most important thing is that the Government machine operates well in respect of the rights and

(Mr. Koscziusko-Morizet, France)

The most important thing is that the government machine operates well in respect of the rights and freedoms of all citizens. We are also convinced that a certain number of measures, listed and analysed in the report, will come about, in this sense hoped for by the Visiting Mission, and especially as regards the question of citizenship, the status of the inhabitants, the protection of human rights, public functioning, the civil service, the judiciary, the economic and social plans, and so on and so forth. That is a very heavy programme, but it seems to be tackled under proper conditions.

As regards the deadline for the Constitutional Convention, we are inclined to believe, together with the Administering Authority, that it would be more logical to set it after the general elections of 1960. We hope in any case the progress achieved in the various political fields, economic and social fields, will by then be satisfactory, that the constitutional evolution will proceed as envisaged, and that the General Assembly of the United Nations of November 1960 will be able to envisage the holding of a consultation on the cancellation of the Trusteeship Agreement. Even though it may be premature to go into the details of such a consultation, nobody doubts that it will take the form of a plebiscite. Indeed, in Samoa there is no legislative assembly elected by universal suffrage, and it does not seem likely that there will be any shortly.

Here we come up against the famous question of the matai which is so well known to members of this Council. The Mission went into it in all its aspects. It is a social, family, collectivist system, to some extent a way of life which the majority of Samoans seem to be still most devoted to. Its drawbacks may be more serious in the economic field than in the political field, but the facts are there for all to see. To date the Samoans are sticking to it, and if there is not complete agreement, and even if the Visiting Mission heard, on the part of young Samoans -- male and female -- criticisms against this system which favours the older generation, they all recognize that there is no chance of winning their point within the near future. But if one can agree that universal suffrage is not the absolutely indispensable condition for the accession to independence, and if each people is entitled to establish its own electoral system, how would we

(Mr. Kosciuszko-Morizet, France)

be able to ascertain the views of the population on the future of the Territory? How would we be able to decide whether trusteeship should be cancelled without Samoans, men and women, as human beings, having been able to express freely their aspirations? And this all the more so, since public opinion -- I am referring to paragraph 67 of the Visiting Mission's report is not unanimous in recognizing that an end should be put to the Trusteeship System in the near future.

(Mr. Koseziusko-Morizet, France)

It is to the credit of the Visiting Mission that it was able to extricate itself from this deadlock. The intelligent insistence of its Chairman provoked this "thaw", if I may call it that, to which Mr. Powles, the High Commissioner, referred. Leaders and representatives of Samoa had adopted a very wise decision in recognizing that there should be a plebiscite by universal suffrage on the subjects of the abrogation of the Trusteeship Agreement, the promulgation of the proposed constitution and the Treaty of Friendship with New Zealand.

Thus the Samoans retained their traditional electoral system, but the emergence from Trusteeship would be made in accordance with the principles of the United Nations by universal suffrage.

To this -- and I think this will cover some of the preoccupations expressed here -- we add that those Samoans who are hostile to the matai system are the same who consider that the cancellation of Trusteeship is premature and that, if there is not a separate question with regard to the electoral system, in fact, in voting on the constitution and the end of Trusteeship, the Samoans will be able to make their opinions clearly known.

It is up to the General Assembly to determine the questions which should be put, in agreement with the Administering Authority.

The point was raised here as to whether this would be independence or self-government, since the two words are used in many passages of the report of the Mission and of the memorandum of the New Zealand Government. On this point we quite agree with our Soviet colleague who believes that these words do not have the same meaning. But as there can be nuances in interpretation according to the language used and as translations are not always identical, it would be better to define -- as Mr. McIntosh did in his declaration -- what independence to Samoa will be.

Independence means that the Territory enjoys all powers, external and internal.

Self-government means the enjoyment of all internal powers -- that is to say, the full capacity to administer one's self, with certain external responsibilities such as foreign affairs, defence being temporarily, partially or totally delegated.

(Mr. Kosciuszko-Morizet,
France)

This is, of course, a voluntary delegation based on a freely expressed reciprocal agreement.

But self-government, as independence, is envisaged in the Charter as one of the possible ends of the Trusteeship System. Intermediate formulas are also possible, and this seems to apply to Samoa. The cancellation of Trusteeship, therefore, will take the form of self-government. This is in accordance with the Charter since the Samoans asked for it themselves. The important thing is that when the time comes they should be in a position to express themselves freely. We have no reason to doubt the aspirations of the people, even if these freely expressed aspirations do not fully correspond to what some of us might wish them to be.

Let us add that in the view of my delegation Samoans are showing great wisdom in realizing that they have enough difficult problems to tackle not to assume in addition the burden of their foreign relations and defence.

We are now coming to the second part of our statement which relates to the assistance which Samoa needs and will need for quite a long time.

Whatever the political progress envisaged, however rapid may be the establishment and development of the plans envisaged in the fields of education and civil service, whatever the improvements expected in the fields of agriculture, cattle breeding, fishing and so on, the development of Samoa encounters facts of a geographic, demographic, economic and, therefore, financial nature.

Let us take an example in the field of education and the training of personnel. The situation of secondary education and the inadequate number of students in higher education institutions are certainly one of the problems which most preoccupied the Mission. Substantial progress can be achieved and the enquiry of Dr. Beeby may have the most fortunate consequences. Nevertheless, as the Mission stressed in paragraph 149, Samoans, who are devoting to education 20 per cent of their income which is already limited -- and 20 per cent is considerable -- are not in a position to remedy in the near future shortcomings which may be fraught with grave consequences for their future if they do not receive assistance.

(Mr. Kosciuszko-Morizet, France)

We were happy to hear the Foreign Minister of New Zealand state that the assistance already furnished will be continued during the transitory period. But in our belief this assistance will be all the more indispensable long after this period and, in any case, if one can expect effective development in Samoa even in the secondary education, this assistance will be indispensable in the field of higher education and, therefore, with regard to the formation of future leaders of Samoa.

My delegation would like to make a suggestion here. One of the major difficulties in sending Samoan students to New Zealand is the language question. A Samoan student cannot speak English as well as a New Zealand student whose native tongue it is. It is no less evident that no university in the world can lower the standard with regard to the qualifications required in order to conform to the convenience of foreign students. The solution, perhaps, is in what is practiced in similar cases in my own country. Permit me to give an example -- perhaps other members of the Council can also do so. In some of our larger scientific schools, French is the test language for Frenchmen, but not for foreign students who are not required to conform to this requirement and who can be admitted if they pass the other tests such as mathematics, physics, chemistry etc. Of course, the student must speak French, but he is not judged according to his knowledge of French. As long as he has a sufficient knowledge in order to follow the courses, he can go back to his country with a diploma exactly the same as the diploma of his French comrades. Stated another way, there is a major difference between the capacity to follow a course, especially a technical course, in a foreign language and the capacity to speak and speak well in that same language. The first condition must be that following the course should suffice in order to enable Samoan students to accede to the university. It appears to us all the more necessary to open the doors of the New Zealand universities to a greater number of Samoan students from the time that these students are able to speak sufficient English to profit by a specialized education.

This need for technical assistance or even financial assistance, so glaring in the field of education, extends to nearly all the economic and social fields.

(Mr. Kosciuszko-Morizet, France)

Mr. Powles -- I do not wish to impugn his modesty, but I should like to say in public that his intelligent authority and humaneness has been of very great assistance to Samoa -- emphasized this. "Samoa needs foreign assistance and internal stimulants," he said.

Samoa needs internal incentives because the social structure and the habits are sometimes brakes that impede initiative and progress. External aid is necessary for Samoa because we have here an under-developed country where economic and geographic conditions restrict advance even in the most optimistic of cases and the internal possibilities of development. This is not an isolated example. It is not the fault of the Administering Authority or the Samoans. Even independent countries have to face similar problems.

Who will grant this external assistance? No doubt the United Nations will be prepared to make an effort with the help of the specialized agencies -- WHO, UNESCO, FAO -- and with the technical assistance of the Special Fund. But requests are numerous and means limited, at least so long as this paternal organization of solidarity is not put into effect, for which General de Gaulle stressed an urgent necessity. He said:

"In our time, the only valid quarrel is the problem of man. It is mankind who should be saved, made to live and develop. We who live between the Atlantic Ocean and the Urals; we who are Europe, disposing with America; the daughter of Europe, of the sources and principal resources of civilization; we who have what to eat, to wear, we have a roof over our head, we are able to keep warm; we who have mines and factories in full activity, well-cultivated fields, railroads on which numerous trains run, roads encumbered by vehicles, ports filled with ships, aerodromes with many airplanes; we whose children are learning to read, who build universities and laboratories, who form armies of engineers and technicians, who are able to see, to hear, to read that which is in nature to satisfy our thought; we who have enough doctors, hospitals and medicines to alleviate suffering, to take care of the sick, to assure life to most of the new-born, why do we not all join forces together in this brotherly Organization which will be able to assist others?

"Why do we not pool a percentage of our raw materials, our manufactured goods, our foodstuffs, a fraction of our scientific, technical and economic experts; a part of our trucks, our ships, our actions, in order to overcome misery, to exploit the resources and help in the work of peoples who are less developed?. Let us do so. Not so that they become the pawns of our policies, but in order to improve the possibilities for life and peace. Would this not be so much more important than the territorial requirements, the ideological claims, the imperialist ambitions, which are leading mankind to its death?"

The French delegation is convinced that this great idea will triumph because it is the real solution to these anguishing problems of under-development. But so long as this disinterested international assistance which has been depolitized and based only on the needs of the peoples is not organized, then the bilateral formula of assistance will be the most efficient.

And who better than New Zealand can assist Samoa, and who better than the former Trust Administration can understand the difficulties of the new self-governing State, and who is better qualified to assist it in a brotherly manner? The past and the present are the guarantees of the future. This assistance is not one that comes of right, for it includes obligations and sacrifices.. But we hope that New Zealand will consent to it. It is the continuation of this friendship to which we hope the Samoan themselves will agree.

I would like to express once again to the delegation of New Zealand and to the special representative the gratitude of my delegation for their valuable contribution to our work.

Mr. Dorsinville took the chair.

Mr. GERIG (United States of America): The United States delegation, after examining all the material which has been placed before us, is prepared to state its conclusion at the beginning. We are convinced that the necessary steps have been taken or have been planned to the end that the people of Western Samoa can smoothly and efficiently assume the responsibilities of independence on 31 December 1961.

(Mr. Gerig, United States)

We are fully aware that there still exist quite a number of unresolved questions, particularly questions of a constitutional and economic character. But we are also convinced that these problems are not insuperable and that there exist among the Samoan leaders and people the will and the capacity to overcome these difficulties, many of which will no doubt continue to some degree long after the attainment of independence. And we are the more confident in this conclusion in view of the evident desire of the Samoan people to maintain and strengthen the friendly ties with New Zealand which have been solidly formed over the years of the Trust relationship.

And here, on behalf of my Government, I wish to pay a special tribute to New Zealand as the Administering Authority. We have had occasion to observe, at close hand, the manner in which the present High Commissioner and his predecessors together with their staffs have discharged their duties over the years. We have seen how scrupulous they have been in respecting local customs and in encouraging and assisting the Samoan people to assume constantly increasing responsibilities until, with the prospective introduction of Cabinet Government, the transfer will soon be almost complete. This, we consider, has been a good example of the way in which the Trusteeship System was intended to operate.

We have benefited greatly from the comprehensive report of the Visiting Mission which in several particulars has clarified our understanding of the issues remaining before the people of Western Samoa and before the Trusteeship Council. We were particularly gratified that the Mission was able to make a number of constructive suggestions, in particular one for dealing with the question of domestic status. The United States delegation supports the recommendations of the Visiting Mission with respect to the question of status and accordingly will support a suitable resolution of the Council along these lines.

We have noted with interest what the Visiting Mission has to report on the question of citizenship and also the further clarification on this question which was given by the special representative. We have no doubt that the Working Committee on Self-Government, which has been dealing with this

question, will provide a basis for the appropriate legislative action on this question. We believe that the citizenship question should be resolved before the proposed September 1960 elections so that the electoral rolls may be properly drawn up for that important event.

We examined that section of the report of the Visiting Mission pertaining to the electoral system which has been traditionally in use in the Territory. We were interested in the views of the Mission regarding the desirability for removing the racial basis of representation in the Legislative Assembly. We are not unfamiliar with the traditional electoral system in use in that region. Therefore, we are aware that customs and traditions in matters of this kind do not easily change. At the same time, we were pleased that the Samoan leaders themselves were disposed to give consideration to the suggestions of the Visiting Mission in their respect and we have no doubt that the views of the Mission, as well as the views previously stated by the Trusteeship Council in several previous resolutions, will result in the eventual elimination of all racial distinctions in the voting process. We believe that the matai system is sufficiently flexible so that such a result can be achieved if the people so desire.

With respect to the protection of land and property rights in Western Samoa, the United States delegation was pleased with the statement which had been issued as a result of discussions held with the Visiting Mission and to note that it is the intention of the authorities to make due provision in the constitution for the protection of land and property rights of all sections of the community. We are confident that such a constitutional provision will furnish all sections of the community with adequate and complete reassurance in this respect. We wish to commend the Administering Authority and the Government of Western Samoa for the issuance of this statement and we fully support the recommendations of the Visiting Mission in this regard.

Like a number of other delegations around the Council table, we have also been somewhat concerned with the problem of creating a strong and effective public service. We hope that the scholarship scheme of having Samoans fill high administrative posts will be given every encouragement and assistance.

(Mr. Gerig, United States)

It is gratifying to know that New Zealand officials will still be available to fill such posts, but sooner or later there will need to be a progressive transfer of these responsibilities into the hands of the Samoans themselves. We hope therefore that every inducement will be given for recruiting, training and compensating Samoans to fill these posts so that the Government will become less dependent upon outside assistance.

(Mr. Gerig, United States)

We were very glad to learn that the future relationship between Western Samoa and New Zealand will be the subject of a Treaty of Friendship to be concluded after Western Samoa has become independent. We fully understand and appreciate the wishes of the Samoan people that this Treaty should be concluded only when the two parties possess equal status.

We noted with special interest that, before the Mission left the Territory, the Fautua and the members of the Legislative Assembly adopted a resolution recommending that a plebiscite should be held in which the people of Western Samoa would be asked whether they agreed to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and to the enactment of the proposed Constitution and Treaty of Friendship with New Zealand; and that all persons over the age of twenty-one would take part in that plebiscite. We fully support this important decision and hope that the Trusteeship Council will find means duly to note and approve this action.

As regards economic advancement during 1958, the improved financial position of the Territory over 1957 was most encouraging. The United States delegation notes with satisfaction that the Government's final accounts for 1958 showed a surplus of revenue over expenditure and that this surplus is being used to finance the 1959 development programme. We should like to commend the Administering Authority for its offer of further financial assistance to the Territorial Government during 1959.

The United States delegation studied with interest the Visiting Mission's comments regarding economic development in general. We noted that the Visiting Mission suggested that the Government of Western Samoa should consider the appointment of an expert to assist in organizing and stimulating community development. The Mission also recommended that the Government should consider the advantages of stimulating producer co-operatives. We support the Mission's findings in this regard, and we trust that the Government of Western Samoa will give sympathetic study to these recommendations. The United States delegation is confident that both the Administering Authority and the Samoan people themselves will make all possible efforts towards furthering the economic development of the Territory.

(Mr. Gerig, United States)

At its twenty-second session, the Trusteeship Council expressed the hope that consideration would be given to the establishment of substantial secondary industries in Western Samoa. We are aware, of course, of the problems faced by the Administering Authority and the Territorial Government in this respect. We noted, however, the Visiting Mission's suggestion with regard to the establishment of a commercial fishing industry and hope that this suggestion will be seriously investigated.

Our comments on social advancement will be brief. In this respect, I would make only one reference: to the subject of public health. We wish to commend the Administering Authority on the success of the yaws control programme carried out in conjunction with the WHO and on its intention to participate in the tuberculosis control project in 1960. We would, however, urge the Administering Authority and the Western Samoan Government to concentrate on generally improving its public health and medical services.

In the educational field, the United States delegation believes that the situation in Western Samoa leaves rather a great deal to be desired. This situation is particularly disturbing in view of the fact that the Territory is so near the end of its dependent status and will soon emerge as an independent nation. If Western Samoa is going to play its proper role, it must of necessity have an adequate educational system to sustain and further its development in all fields: political, economic and social. We note the Mission's opinion that such an educational system barely exists, or at least inadequately exists, in the Territory today. We therefore strongly urge the Administering Authority and the Western Samoan Government to make every effort to increase and expand the Territory's educational facilities.

That concludes the United States delegation's statement on present conditions in Western Samoa. I merely wish to express my delegation's appreciation to Mr. McIntosh, the New Zealand representative, and to Mr. Powles, the special representative, for their patience and co-operation in answering the questions put to them by our delegation and other members of the Council, thereby assisting the Council in its examination of conditions in this Territory at this critical juncture in its history.

U AUNG THANT (Burma): A year ago, at about the same time and in this very chamber, we most fruitfully discussed the conditions in the Trust Territory of Western Samoa. My delegation can still remember quite vividly the manner in which the discussion was carried on, with the fullest sense of co-operation and understanding between members of the Trusteeship Council and representatives of the Administering Authority. At that time, we were provided with a copious number of dossiers on the Territory; the observations and comments offered by members of the Council were most warmly received; and the replies to the questions put by various representatives were given with the greatest courtesy, co-operation and humour. Today, my delegation would like to state that we have, if I may say so, once again enjoyed the same pleasant treat to the fullest extent. It is, therefore, with the greatest confidence in the Administering Authority's sincere desire for the greatest good and welfare of the people of the Territory that my delegation now attempts to make some observations and suggestions on the conditions in the Trust Territory of Western Samoa.

First, let me touch briefly on the political field. In this connexion, it has become almost a permanent feature for my delegation, during the past years, at every session of the Council when conditions in Western Samoa have been investigated, to find occasion to note the striking progress and pace of development achieved in the particular year under review, and to express the hope that the same pace of advancement would be, if not further accelerated, at least maintained in the following year. That same feature will be characteristic of the present statement, although, of course, my delegation has noted that the development during the year under review has been more in the form of quiet but very useful discussions than in the form of the taking of this or that step. I should, however, like to stress, with all the weight I can command, that they are both useful and necessary discussions, and by now my delegation really feels that self-government or independence will be coming, as it were, in a few days. In such a situation, we tend to peer too much into a future which has not as yet come, and it is therefore with some effort that my delegation concerns itself with the present state of affairs.

(U Aung Thant, Burma)

Regarding dual domestic status, the Council might perhaps recall that, at its twenty-second session, last year, my delegation observed that discrimination -- statutory or otherwise -- based on race was absolutely undesirable, and therefore strongly urged that a common status, with equal rights and obligations for all, should be established. My delegation is particularly happy to note that the Status Disabilities Removal Ordinance 1959 has been passed by the Legislative Assembly and that, unlike the position on previous occasions, the Administering Authority sees new hope in the matter and believes that the establishment of a common status in the Territory is within the bounds of possibility. My delegation hopes that the Administration and the people of the Territory will pursue the matter further, and fervently wishes them all success in working towards the establishment of a common domestic status before the Trusteeship Agreement is terminated.

At this stage, my delegation believes that it will not be irrelevant if we observe that the objective of the International Trusteeship System, as adumbrated in the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement, is not only to bring about a new State, but also to achieve a truly independent, democratic State. There should be no doubt whatsoever as to the fact that the mere emergence of a new State is not the be-all and end-all of the International Trusteeship System. In the same vein and with the same attitude, may I now pass to the problem of suffrage and constituencies.

(U Aung Thant, Burma)

Nowadays, the fact that ~~universal suffrage~~ is one of the bases, if not a sine qua non, of the democratic systems, is no longer problematic and with due respect to things Samoan, I may venture to say that the present matai register as an electoral roll and the constituencies based on Faipule constituencies are not satisfactory. For instance, at the last election held in 1957 only about 5 per cent of people of Samoan status were on the electoral roll and constituencies varied very greatly in size and population. But I might hasten to add that my delegation has the deepest appreciation of and respect for Samoan customs, culture and ways of life, and that a long accepted institution takes time to change and evolve. At the same time, for obvious reasons, my delegation will strongly urge that possibilities should be explored to achieve definitely broader suffrage before the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. In this connexion, my delegation will wholeheartedly commend the observations and suggestions of the special Visiting Mission to the Administering Authority and the people of the Territory. My delegation would like to express the hope that the Working Committee on Self-Government will give most careful consideration to the report of the Visiting Mission, particularly touching on matters of domestic status and universal suffrage. As regards constitutencies, my delegation hopes that a more equitable system will be worked out for the election due to be held this year and that, at least, the four additional seats already provided for the Samoans will be taken advantage of in the coming election.

To do full justice to the Administration, my delegation should mention with appreciation the fact that much headway has been made towards an enactment of citizenship legislation. The credit goes to the Working Committee and the Administering Authority for this achievement. The enactment of one citizenship law for the Territory will go a long way to solve other ticklish problems pertaining to it.

Regarding ~~public service~~, my delegation has noted with regret that during the year under review, very few Samoans found their way to positions of high responsibility in the administration of the Territory. Under article 5 of the Trusteeship Agreement, the Administering Authority must assure to the people of the Territory a progressively increasing share in the administrative and other

(U Aung Thant, Burma)

services of the territory. The progress made in this respect is not satisfactory, especially more so at this critical juncture of a very quick transition to self-government. My delegation hopes that the Administering Authority will spare no efforts to give a more intensified training to Samoans for various services of the administration and to achieve greater progress, so that they may not be taken aback when the helms of the new State come suddenly to their hands.

While dealing with political conditions, it will be in the fitness of things if my delegation adds a few words on the proposed plebiscite to be held presumably in 1961. It may be stated that while my delegation has no objection whatsoever to the principle of having a plebiscite, it cannot but make some reservation as to what questions should or should not be asked in that plebiscite and we do think that it is still premature to reach a definite decision at this stage. Moreover, it will not be presumptuous on our part to say that whether or not any question pertaining to the proposed Treaty of Friendship should be asked in a plebiscite held under the auspices of the United Nations is doubtful. In other words, as to whether such a treaty, by its very nature, should be the concern of the General Assembly or not is, to our way of thinking, rather problematic. Anyway, my delegation will reach a decision one way or the other at some appropriate time after a careful consideration of the issues involved. My delegation wishes the Working Committee all success in making an over-all survey of the conditions in the Territory and in drawing up the draft constitution adorned with all features of modern democratic States. Before leaving the political field, my delegation would request the representatives of the Administering Authority to make a statement of views, in more categorical terms, on matters of defence and external affairs at some appropriate time or, if possible, during the present session.

Regarding economic conditions, my delegation has noted with gratification that production has been increased steadily and substantially over the past years. The economic recession for which my delegation had expressed fears has turned into a false alarm. The Bank of Western Samoa has been opened very recently, and my delegation is extremely happy to note that the tributes this Council had paid last year to the Auele Agricultural College had been found by

(U Aung Thant, Burma)

the special Visiting Mission to be really deserved. At the twenty-second session, my delegation dealt with the economic conditions rather comprehensively and had put forward a number of suggestions. The report of the special Visiting Mission contains excellent suggestions, observations and recommendations. In this respect, my delegation would like to associate itself with the views of the Visiting Mission and commend the suggestions contained in its report to the Administering Authority and the people of the Territory. At this critical juncture when the Territory is almost on the threshold of self-government, the Administering Authority will not need to be reminded of the axiom that independence or self-government is not a cause but a condition for the economic and, for that matter, the general welfare of the people of the Territory and the fact that under article 4 of the Trusteeship Agreement, the Administering Authority is committed not only to the obligation of the political advancement, but also for economic, social and educational advancement.

As regards social and educational conditions, my delegation has found the material furnished by the New Zealand delegation to be very useful. On the whole, my delegation has nothing but commendation for the efforts so far made by the administration in these fields. However, my delegation is not very happy to note that for reasons of financial stringency certain health services have had to be reduced and schools have had to be closed, with the result that about one hundred teachers have had to give up their books to go back to their families, to till the soil and not teach in schools for which they are trained and to which they are dedicated. The need of education for the successful and proper working of a democratic State cannot be overemphasized, and my delegation expresses the hope that in the years to come education and social services will get the well-deserved special attention of the New Zealand Government and the Government of Western Samoa, in view of improving economic conditions.

In summing up, my delegation feels obliged to pay its tribute to the members of the special Visiting Mission. Had it not been for its excellent report, we would not have been able to undertake such a thorough assessment of the conditions in the Territory. The observations of the WHO contained in document T/1455 have also proved very helpful. Last but not least, my delegation

would like to tender its profound thanks to the delegation of New Zealand and to the special representative, Mr. Powles, who, in his usual amiable manner, has never failed to show courtesy, co-operation and understanding.

Mr. CLAEYS-BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The documentation available to our Council this year in order to evaluate progress in Western Samoa is abundant and very good. My delegation in particular would like to join all those delegations who have paid tribute to the Visiting Mission's report. We should also like to thank Mr. McIntosh, the representative of New Zealand and Mr. Powles, the High Commissioner and the special representative of the Administering Authority, for the statements which they have made, statements which have greatly contributed to enlightening our debate.

(Mr. Claeys Bouucert, Belgium)

In all truth, at the present stage of events a fundamental question dominates the whole problem. To what extent has the system of government and the life of the population in Samoa, which the Government of New Zealand has administered, established and consolidated, approached that stage where according to the terms of the Charter of the United Nations it can be held that the expiration of the Trusteeship Agreement is at hand? In other words, has the moment come when we can feel that the evolution of the people of Samoa and their institutions has reached a level at which it becomes evident that trusteeship is coming to an end because it is now empty of substance, because the changes achieved in the governmental structure no longer allow the Administering Authority to exercise the powers and bear the responsibilities which are laid down in the Trusteeship Agreement?

The various elements in this problem have been analysed very precisely in both the Visiting Mission's report and the documentation submitted to the Council by the Administering Authority. The Charter says that one of the essential goals of the trusteeship system is the progressive evolution of the population towards self-government or independence, taking into account the particular situation prevailing in each Territory and the freely-expressed wishes of the population. It cannot be denied that New Zealand has, in all good faith, attempted to achieve this goal. A real reform carried out by the Samoan Amendment Act of 1957 has already brought about a transfer of power which entrusts their own internal Government to the people of Samoa. Only a few more reforms need to be made before the leaders of the people will be in a position to take final decisions in regard to the whole of their political life. I will not expatiate upon these measures; they are described very clearly in the memorandum issued by the New Zealand Government in March 1959, which is annexed to the Visiting Mission's report. They are also described in the body of the report and the other annexes.

My delegation is convinced that the measures already taken by the Administering Authority and those envisaged by it for the near future will be of such a nature that they will achieve the objectives of the trusteeship system as laid down in the Charter.

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

The question of electoral rights and the exercise thereof by the two categories of inhabitants, those of Samoan status and those of European status, has given rise to a long exchange of views. It would be wise in my opinion that in examining this question we should endeavour not to take too abstract a view but should try to get down to brass tacks. Universal adult suffrage, pure and simple, is considered the most perfect technique in democratic life. In most cases this cannot be denied, but it is also obvious that the institutions of each human society must take into account the traditions and customs which lie at the very root of the social organization of the people. Unless this is the case, serious disturbances may arise and may even conflict with human rights. Last year the Hon. Tamasese made an eloquent statement explaining why the Samoans, by an overwhelming majority, were attached to their family organization and discipline and to the security which the members of the Aiga found throughout their lives within their own group. It is true that these are real values which should not lightly be abandoned; on the other hand, a system which would avoid submitting problems to open discussion and would make decisions depend not upon the opinion of the majority but upon the views of a minority might be more expeditious, but in certain instances it might be considered discriminatory by those holding certain views whereas the aim should be to strengthen mutual understanding.

Each and every society, even one in which ideas are more or less static and conservative, should endeavour to ensure social mobility and should not attempt to crystallize the status of individuals. This is true in Samoa also, where human rights are still considered in the light of racial considerations, by which I do not mean arbitrary discriminations. It would nevertheless be desirable to make the Matai system more flexible. The Visiting Mission made valuable suggestions in this connexion, and I refer particularly to paragraphs 65, 66 and 67 of its report. We entirely support the views expressed by the Visiting Mission and the Administering Authority has said that it too is in complete agreement.

The question of the future relationship between Western Samoa and New Zealand was examined by the Visiting Mission and by the Council during the debate. In the opinion of my delegation, this is not a matter which really falls within the framework of the problems to be examined by the Council, no matter how important it may be for the future of the State of Samoa; it is our purpose to verify

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

whether the objectives of trusteeship have or have not been achieved. Indeed, the statements of the Administering Authority, both in Wellington when the Visiting Mission was there and here in the Council, clearly stipulate that the future evolution of the Territory's institutions until the final achievement of self-government or independence is not subordinate to the conclusion of an agreement defining the relationship between the two countries. Such an agreement will be a treaty concluded between sovereign independent countries, and consequently it can be denounced by either party according to a procedure which is to be specified.

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

Under these circumstances we do not quite see the relation between the Treaty and the cessation of the Trusteeship Agreement. It can only come into effect when the future sovereign institutions of Samoa have come into existence. Who can conclude such a Treaty? The Visiting Mission's report, however, tells us that the Samoan Legislative Assembly expressed the wish:

"That a plebiscite should be held in which the people of Western Samoa would be asked whether or not they agreed to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and to the enactment of the proposed constitution, and Treaty of Friendship with New Zealand". (T/1449, page 59)

The Government of New Zealand has approved the idea of this plebiscite. Although, as I have said, it seems to my delegation that the conclusion of such a Treaty should not be confused with the expiration of the Trusteeship Agreement, it would seem that, in view of the feelings of the Administering Authority, the procedure envisaged is not at all objectionable.

What according to the Charter must determine the fate of a Trust Territory is the freely expressed wish of the inhabitants. It is for the Administering Authority and those directly concerned to proceed to a consultation of the people so as to determine their wishes and to determine those methods according to which the consultation will take place so as to be fully convincing.

Let us now proceed to other fields. I would say that the comments of my delegation on the economic, social and educational fields will be very brief indeed.

At the present stage the ~~local legislature in~~ Samoa is master of its finances and makes decisions on various economic and social matters on its own initiative. The role of specialist which the Administering Authority maintains in the framework of the administration is similar to the role played by experts in Technical Assistance. The finances of the Territory are healthy. The ordinary income is somewhat higher than current expenditures. There is no public debt. Income is not so abundant that it would allow great development programmes to be launched, but we note with satisfaction that, without contracting debts with the exception of an internal loan, it was possible for the Samoan Government to provide for its present budget and set aside a fund for investments.

Subsidies granted by New Zealand, and some £30,000 by the Trust Estates Corporation are also important points. The former shows that the administration

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

is solicitous, and the latter shows that the Samoans can properly conduct such an enterprise. The Administering Authority and the local Government deserve the approval of the Council for the very prudent way in which they have managed their public finances.

My Delegation was favourably impressed by the distribution of the amounts for investment. Most of these will go to the improvement of communications, agricultural education and agriculture in general. This is a programme which deserves our approval, because the very basis of the future development of the country in the social and educational fields can be found in an increase in productivity. With regard to this matter, it is highly desirable that the Samoan leaders be attentive to the Council and the studies which it has drawn up. In 1957 a financial and banking survey was made, and this is referred to in the Visiting Mission's report, annex II, page 7. I think it would be desirable for our Council, in an appropriate recommendation, to press further on this aspect of the situation.

With regard to education, my delegation can only approve all the considerations of the Visiting Mission.

I wish to conclude my brief statement by congratulating the Government of New Zealand and the people of Samoa on the fruitful co-operation which has been characteristic of their relationship for many years, a co-operation the results of which will soon be seen.

Mr. VITELLI (Italy): During our examination of conditions in Western Samoa my delegation had only a few minor questions to ask the special representative of the Administering Authority. In our view, the excellent report of the Visiting Mission, as well as the exhaustive opening statements of the representative of New Zealand and of the special representative, provided the Council with a picture of developments in the Territory which was both comprehensive and very clear.

These developments are highlighted in the tentative time-table for the transfer of responsibilities to the Samoan people and the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, worked out in close co-operation between the Administering Authority and the Samoans. It is, in our opinion, a well balanced and well considered plan, for which both parties should be congratulated. We were

(Mr. Vitelli, Italy)

particularly pleased to note that the introduction of Cabinet government will take place several months ahead of the date previously set, so as to give the Samoans an opportunity to train themselves in government conduct while still under trusteeship.

We understand, of course, that termination of the Trusteeship Agreement will not mean the discontinuance of New Zealand assistance to Western Samoa in various fields, but we feel that a period during which Samoans will be able to exercise government responsibilities under the over-all guidance of the Administering Power will prove beneficial to them.

We have followed in recent years the various steps that have brought this Territory ever nearer to the objectives of the Trusteeship System. We were, at the same time, aware that quite a few difficulties lay in the way of the establishment of a truly free and self-governing Samoan community. One of these difficulties, and one which as recently as last year appeared to be of a rather intractable nature, was the existence of a dual domestic status in Western Samoa. If the new Samoan State was not to bear the mark of racial bias from the very beginning, it was evident that this situation had to be modified. We have, therefore, taken cognizance with great interest of the suggestions put forward by the Visiting Mission in order to solve this problem and we were gratified to learn that the arguments of the Mission seem to have affected to a certain extent the rather rigid thinking of the Samoans in this matter. As a result, it is to be hoped that their attitude may ultimately develop into acceptance of a common domestic status.

(Mr. Vitelli, Italy)

It is true that a ~~dual electoral system~~ would continue to exist -- in the foreseeable future, at least -- due to the deep attachment of the Samoans to their traditional patterns of social organization. The important feature is, however, that it would not be the result any longer of duality of domestic status -- that is, based on race -- but it would be freely chosen by the individual. We fully agree that general universal suffrage should not be forced upon the people of the Territory in place of the present restricted franchise, until such time as the people themselves may ask for it. On the other hand, as long as a restricted franchise exists alongside with a universal one, the choice between the two should be free. We trust that the very apt solution suggested by the Visiting Mission will commend itself to the Samoan Government by its intrinsic value. In our view, the Visiting Mission deserves the praise of the Council for its contribution in this matter.

When the last difficulties will be cleared in the field of domestic status and electoral systems, and when a Samoan citizenship will be established -- the foundations of which were already laid -- the leaders of the new Samoan State will be able to dedicate themselves more freely to the vital problems of the administrative organization and economic development of their self-governing community.

As I said before, we have been assured that even after the attainment of self-government or independence by Western Samoa, the assistance from New Zealand will not cease. The New Zealand Government have declared their willingness to continue to supply the new State with skilled personnel -- especially in such specialized fields as the judiciary, education, and the various branches of the public service -- until such time as qualified Samoans will be able to take over. Furthermore, we were told that the New Zealand Government intend to provide a market for a large share of Samoan bananas. My delegation believes that this declaration of intention of the New Zealand Government will dispel some apprehensions that may have arisen in Western Samoa as to its ability to maintain its markets in the future. We believe that it is essential

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for any new State to be able to count -- within limits -- on certain assets, as, otherwise, any long-range thinking and planning would be impossible. The transition from Trusteeship to self-government or independence is perhaps the most delicate and testing period for emerging political entities and we believe that the Administering Authorities have indeed a major role to play in making such transition as smooth as possible. We are gratified to note that the New Zealand Government are fully alive to this fact and we believe that, besides their record in administering the Territory, their readiness to assist the future Samoan State is something for which the Samoan people and the United Nations should be thankful.

The area of dependence of the new State on outside assistance, is, of course, closely tied to the extent to which Samoa's own resources, both human and natural, will be utilized. We have in mind, on the one hand, the training of qualified Samoans to meet the demands of the new political and economic structures, and, on the other hand, a further development of the economy in view of a steep rise in population.

As far as the training of Samoans is concerned, we could not but feel apprehension that adverse economic conditions in the recent past, due to price fluctuations of commodities exported by Western Samoa, had an almost immediate impact on educational expenditure. However, while the financial situation of the Territory has now fortunately recovered from those stringencies, there are other educational problems, besides expenditure, to which the Visiting Mission has drawn our attention. One of the main concerns of the Mission is about the establishment of a proper balance between primary education on one side and secondary and vocational education on the other. The Mission rightly points out that the latter forms of education provide the only medium to reduce the dependence of the new State on expatriate officials and technicians. In this connexion, the Mission has put forward a number of practical suggestions; and here again, we are glad to note that the New Zealand Government are prepared to give further assistance to the Samoans with a view to developing a nucleus of young people trained to take positions of responsibility.

(Mr. Vitelli, Italy)

Turning to economic development, while the present balance between population and resources may be regarded as not unsatisfactory, especially if compared to the strains existing in some other Pacific areas, the massive growth of population and the peculiar structure of the economy, based on two or three main exports, makes a policy of long-term economic development imperative. While undeveloped land now being kept as a reserve is likely to stave off major crises for some decades to come, in the long run, only the introduction of more advanced techniques in agriculture and possibly the exploitation of additional resources -- such, for instance, as commercial fishing and tourism -- will enable a greatly increased population to continue to enjoy a good living standard. Furthermore, as I said, there is also the problem of diversifying the export items if the Samoan economy is to be spared the shocks of price fluctuations beyond its control. We must give credit to the Administering Authority that much has already been done along these lines. We are also aware that the Administration, when trying to introduce better farming techniques among the Samoans, is often confronted with an irresponsible attitude on their part, or, still worse, with obstacles arising from land tenure systems that are geared to a subsistence agriculture. Land tenure problems are common to various territories, some of them in the Pacific; and while a very cautious approach is needed to their solution, we believe that the experience gained by others in this field could be of assistance to the Samoans in dealing with it.

However, although many good starts were made in the needed direction, my delegation should like to emphasize again, as it did last year, and as the Visiting Mission has done now in its report, the need for a long-range comprehensive programme of economic development, which seems to be of particular importance now, on the eve of termination of Trusteeship, for a proper appraisal of the possibilities of the future Samoan State.

In conclusion, we wish to commend the Administering Authority and the Samoan people for the important progress made during the past years, notably in the political field, and for the good harmony in which they have worked together in order to bring the Territory to the threshold of its goals. This harmony augurs well for the future co-operation between equals that will grow out of the present trust relationship between New Zealand and Western Samoa. and which, we feel sure, will enable the new State to overcome the inevitable difficulties attendant to political adolescence.

(Mr. Vitelli, Italy)

Finally, I should like to thank the representative of New Zealand, the special representative, and the Chairman of the Visiting Mission for their valuable contribution to our debates.

Mr. KIANG (China): While we are examining conditions in Western Samoa, the constitutional development in the Trust Territory has now attained a point when the shape of a future independent Western Samoan State is distinctly in view. In this important debate, the presence and participation of the representative of New Zealand, Mr. McIntosh, in our Council's deliberations, are most welcome. My delegation is very happy to find him in our midst.

Before proceeding to offer my delegation's observations on the political and other developments in the Territory, I wish to pay a very high tribute to the Visiting Mission whose comprehensive report, now before the Council, has furnished abundant information about the measures that are about to be taken which will bring the Territory to the threshold of self-government or independence.

(Mr. Kiang, China)

According to the timetable laid down by the Administering Authority in consultation with the people of Western Samoa, the Territory will inaugurate its cabinet system of government on 1 October this year. This is three months ahead of the time originally proposed by the Administering Authority. The Council wishes no doubt to commend the Administering Authority for having agreed to this change as proposed by the leaders of the Samoan population so that it affords the Samoan people an extended term of apprenticeship to manage their own affairs before they finally achieve independence.

Citizenship and electoral laws now under discussion in the Territory will then be adopted in time to serve as a basis for the preparation of the rolls for the next elections to the Legislative Assembly in 1960. With regard to the proposed Constitutional Convention, we have noted the proposal of the Executive Council that it should be held before, not after, the general elections in 1960. On this matter, I wish to voice my delegation's firm support for the stand taken by the Administering Authority in upholding the existing timetable. The Chinese delegation believes, as we hope that the Trusteeship Council will also agree, that in a matter of such great magnitude as the enactment of the basic organic law of the future independent state, the body to pass on it must receive the explicit mandate from the people.

A matter of great importance to which the Trusteeship Council has given much thought, as indeed also the Administering Authority and the leaders of the Samoan people, is the question of the head of state of the future Western Samoan state. During the stay of the Visiting Mission, a joint meeting of the fautua and the members of the Legislative Assembly unanimously decided that the future heads of state would be appointed by the Parliament of Western Samoa from the two royal families. This is in fact a decision of long standing with the Samoan leaders. Regarding such an arrangement, the Visiting Mission was rightly concerned that there was need for providing in the constitution of Western Samoa the method whereby the joint heads of state would exercise their constitutional functions, should the occasion arise in which they might be in disagreement.

We have given considerable thought to this question and it occurs to me that the practicability of alternating the future head of state on a yearly basis between the two fautua might be usefully explored.

(Mr. Kiang, China)

In view of the excellent relationship and mutual goodwill existing between New Zealand and Western Samoa, it is only natural that Western Samoa, about to embark on its own independent existence, should wish to enhance this friendship by entering into a Treaty of Friendship with New Zealand. The true intentions of the New Zealand Government toward Samoa can be gauged by the following enunciations of the distinguished New Zealand representative with regard to this proposed treaty:

1. That the attainment of self-government or independence by Western Samoa will be in no way conditional upon its concluding a Treaty of Friendship with New Zealand.

2. That the treaty would be one between independent countries and as such, terminable by either party after a specified period of notice.

There is yet another important statement made by the Administering Authority which bears on the nature of the independence of the future Samoan State.

"There is no intention to retain New Zealand authority over Samoa, either legal or otherwise; and once the Constitution is passed in Samoa it is up to them, ... if they want to amend it or not."

If all the measures envisaged for bringing the Territory up to the point of self-government or independence all work out well, the New Zealand Government would, so we are given to understand, request the General Assembly at its fifteenth session in 1960, to make arrangements for supervising a plebiscite in Western Samoa in early 1961. Based on the result of the plebiscite, the Trusteeship Council would be asked to make a recommendation to the General Assembly concerning the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

The Visiting Mission reported that a joint session of the Fautua and the Legislative Assembly had adopted a resolution to the effect that a plebiscite should be held, in which all persons over the age of twenty-one should participate, to determine whether or not the people of Western Samoa agreed to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and to the enactment of the Constitution proposed by the Constitutional Convention and the Treaty of Friendship with New Zealand to be concluded after the termination of Trusteeship. While my delegation believes these matters may well form the substance of the questions to be put

(Mr. Kiang, China)

to the people during the proposed plebiscite, I wish to make it perfectly clear it will be quite premature for us to take any definite position at this juncture.

On the question of the voting system to be adopted in the proposed plebiscite, my delegation wishes to acknowledge its profound admiration for the Visiting Mission for having successfully persuaded the leaders of the Samoan people to accept the principle of universal adult suffrage. My delegation had in fact during the twenty-second session of the Council expressed the hope that "it might serve some useful and meaningful purpose for the 1959 Visiting Mission to study the question in the Territory whether universal suffrage should be used at least for the occasion on which the Samoan people is to decide what will be its political future".

Much as we would also like to see the principle of universal adult suffrage adopted in the future elections to the Legislative Assembly, we can readily understand the anxiety of the Administering Authority in leaving the matter to the judgment of the people themselves as the matai system is still the major stabilizing force in the Samoan Society. We agree with the Administering Authority that such changes must be brought about through evolution within and can hardly be imposed upon from without if any disruption of the existing social order is to be avoided. We could only reiterate our hope that as education spreads in the country and Samoan customary land tenure evolves, the traditional matai system may change eventually and more modern democratic methods will become acceptable to the Samoan people.

The Visiting Mission has suggested the establishment of a non-matai roll for the election to be held during the next year for the new Legislative Assembly. This is designed to accord suffrage to Samoans outside the matai system and is in the nature of gradual social evolution. We are gratified to know that this suggestion is being given earnest consideration by the Samoan leaders.

I do not wish to weary the Council by giving our views on the questions of citizenship, domestic status and local government. The Visiting Mission has made some valuable suggestions on these topics and has elicited favourable responses from the Administering Authority and the Samoan leaders.

(Mr. Kiang, China)

However, there is one subject to which the Visiting Mission has devoted considerable attention whose importance I wish also to underline. This is the question of public service. As one can readily see, due to the shortage of adequate personnel, the various services of the future Samoan State will of necessity continue to be manned by expatriate civil servants from New Zealand. This is one of the deficiencies which the Samoan Government, with the necessary assistance of the Administering Authority, must strive to remedy. The future Samoan State must, within the shortest possible time, have at its disposal sufficient trained personnel to be able to conduct its own business. To continue to rely on expatriate personnel for an indefinite period will obviously have harmful effects on its status as a self-governing state.

(Mr. Kiang, China)

The Visiting Mission has recommended that a crash training programme should be undertaken for the training of Western Samoans to fill high administrative posts for which a list has already been drawn up by the Western Samoan authorities. The New Zealand Government has signified its willingness to assist in the implementation of the programme. For the time being, suitable candidates for such training seem to be lacking. This stresses the importance of expanding the secondary and higher education in the Territory.

I now wish to turn my attention to the economic conditions of the Territory. With the rise of the prices of cocoa and copra, the economic situation has considerably brightened since the end of 1957. While we rejoice with the Samoan people and the Administering Authority over the improvement in the financial situation of the Territory, we believe this only serves to demonstrate the urgent need for the adoption of intensive measures towards the further diversification of economy of the Territory. Much has already been done in this direction. It is also encouraging to see that the short range development plan adopted by the Legislative Assembly provides now for the investigation and encouragement of secondary industries.

We hope that the recommendations of the Visiting Mission for an active programme of forest conservation and development, and for the development of a commercial fishing industry and a livestock industry on suitable land at higher altitudes will be earnestly acted upon by the Samoan authorities.

There is much room for economic growth in Western Samoa, especially in agriculture. The recently completed soil survey shows that there is sufficient undeveloped land to permit expansion at the present rate for the next thirty years. The Department of Agriculture has been doing magnificent work in the field of extension services and experimentation and demonstration of modern methods of planting and new crops. It is gratifying to know that under the development plan adopted by the Legislative Assembly last October, these services and experimental work will be further expanded.

(Mr. Kiang, China)

We are certainly glad to note that the plan also envisages the development of vacant government land for settlement by Samoan leaseholders and the construction of more feeder roads. These measures will all stimulate economic growth of the Territory.

I think I did try to point out in this Council, at its twenty-second session, that one of the serious difficulties in the way of increased agricultural production by Western Samoan farmers was the traditional land tenure system under which the occupiers hold their land at the discretion of a superior matai. The Visiting Mission has noted that there is a tendency for the system to become modified and for the control of land to be localized in the family group, but felt that it should be possible to introduce a usehold system which would give the occupier and his descendants security of tenure so long as the land was properly cultivated. My delegation wishes to endorse this recommendation of the Visiting Mission.

I would like once again to express my delegation's gratification at the establishment of the Bank of Western Samoa, which my delegation had already welcomed when we last considered the Trust Territory of Western Samoa. We hope now, as we did then, that a development department will be established within the Bank which will be empowered to make advances to Western Samoan farmers for development purposes.

In the field of Public Health, with the economic recovery, it should now be possible for the Samoan Government to allocate more funds for the development of medical and health services to meet the needs of the increasing population. Needless to say, we hope that the detailed observations of the World Health Organization on public health will receive the utmost serious consideration of the Administering Authority and the Samoan Government.

We are glad that a tuberculosis control project will be undertaken in the Territory with WHO participation. The offer of the WHO to render additional assistance to the Territory in the form of fellowships for training more and better qualified samoan staff will no doubt be availed of by the Samoan authorities with profound appreciation.

(Mr. Kiang, China)

At a time when the Western Samoan people are rapidly approaching the goal of self-government, the development of education naturally assumes very great importance. The Visiting Mission has closely studied the question in the Territory and has made a number of valuable suggestions, with which my delegation finds itself in entire agreement. We hope that the unsatisfactory situation which the Visiting Mission has reported will be markedly improved as a result of the upswing of the Territory's economy.

We cannot agree more with the Visiting Mission's observation that, while efforts towards establishing compulsory primary education should not be relinquished, it is of even greater importance further to develop secondary education and vocational training. Otherwise, Samoa would remain dependent on expatriate officials and technicians for a very long time.

My delegation has always noted with gratification the immense assistance which the Administering Authority has rendered to the Territory in the matter of education. It has now been brought to our notice that New Zealand is willing to continue to accord such assistance on an even greater scale during the transitional and early period of the Territory's self-government. The Trusteeship Council will certainly wish to commend the Administering Authority for this generous gesture towards the people of Western Samoa.

It is hoped that the impending visit of the Director of Education of New Zealand, Mr. Beeby, together with the new Director of Education for Western Samoa, Mr. Leggatt, will lead to the adoption of a long-term plan for the development of educational facilities in the Territory, taking into consideration the needs of the population and having regard to the Territory's financial resources.

Before concluding my remarks, I wish to express my delegation's sincere appreciation to the special representative, the High Commissioner, who has once again made available to the Council his immense knowledge of the aspirations and problems of the Western Samoan people at this crucial stage of their development towards self-government, to which he has made his contribution.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): There are no other names on the list of speakers for this afternoon. At tomorrow's meeting, at 2.30 p.m., the Council will continue the general debate on Western Samoa. If there is time, we shall also hear the opening statements of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Nauru. I would thank the representative of the Administering Authority for Nauru for indicating that his delegation would be prepared to speak tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. HOOD (Australia): My delegation will be prepared to make the opening statements tomorrow afternoon on the Territory of Nauru. May I, however, assume that that will not be immediately followed by the period of questioning the special representative? We should prefer a slight interval between the opening statements and the questioning period.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall certainly not begin the questioning of the special representative tomorrow. We shall hear the preliminary statements and then, on Wednesday, as envisaged in the timetable, shall begin the questioning period.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

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Trusteeship Council
24th Session, 5th Meeting (PM)

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8 June 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 1

The Trusteeship Council this afternoon began general debate on political, economic, social and educational conditions in the trust territory of Western Samoa administered by New Zealand.

The Council is examining conditions in this territory, and it has before it New Zealand's 1958 annual report on the territory, together with the report of the Council's 1959 visiting mission to the territory. A tentative timetable for Samoa's future constitutional developments leading to the attainment of self-government or independence at the end of 1961 is presented in the mission's report. The timetable was suggested by the administering authority to assist planning both in Samoa and New Zealand; it was endorsed in its broad outlines by the visiting mission.

The first speaker in the general debate was the representative of France.

JACQUES KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) observed that, although he was now speaking as the representative of France, he could not forget that he had been a member of the visiting mission. He wished to make clear at the outset that the delegation of France endorsed the mission's report.

Referring to the proposed timetable, he noted that the termination of the trusteeship was contemplated in about two years. It was essential that, until then, government machinery function well and that outstanding questions -- citizenship, the protection of human rights, organization of the judiciary and other matters - should be solved. "This is a very heavy program," he commented, "but it seems to us that it has been started now under good conditions."

On the specific question of the Constitutional Convention, Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET said that his delegation agreed with the administering authority's view that it would be more logical to hold this convention after the general elections in 1960.

(more)

Referring to the fact that popular sentiment in Western Samoa favored the retention of the present electoral system, under which only the matai, or heads of traditional families, are entitled to vote, the representative of France pointed out that, although the Samoans would retain their traditional electoral system, the question of the termination of trusteeship would be put to the people in accordance with UN principles, "by universal suffrage." The General Assembly, in due time, would have to formulate the questions to be asked in the envisaged plebiscite, he added.

Turning to economic and educational problems bound to face the territory after the attainment of statehood, he noted New Zealand's intention to aid the country. "Outside assistance" would be required long after Samoa had attained independence, he said.

In this connection, the representative of France said it was indispensable that New Zealand's university accept a larger number of Samoans as soon as they had a sufficient working knowledge of English which would enable them to benefit from advanced studies.

He foresaw an effort by the United Nations and its specialized agencies to render technical assistance to Samoa, but he emphasized that New Zealand would probably make the greatest contribution through a bilateral agreement.

"We wish our Samoan friends the continued friendship of New Zealand to guide their decisions once they have fully taken the responsibility for the conduct of their own affairs," he said in conclusion.

(END OF TAKE 1)

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Trusteeship Council
24th Session, 5th Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1487
8 June 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 2

BENJAMIN GERIG (United States), the next speaker, said he was convinced that the necessary steps for Samoa's development had been taken or planned so as to ensure the smooth and efficient transition of the territory to self-government or independence at the end of 1961. He was aware that quite a number of unresolved questions, both constitutional and economic still existed, he added.

Mr. GERIG associated himself with the views and suggestions of the visiting mission concerning the question of domestic status, citizenship, and training for the public service.

He spared the view that a treaty of friendship between Samoa and New Zealand should be concluded only after Samoa's independence, when it would be between equal partners. He supported the proposal for the holding of a plebiscite by universal suffrage, at an appropriate time, on the question of termination of the trusteeship.

The United States delegation, he said, noted the observations and recommendations of the visiting mission concerning economic development. He hoped the Samoans would give these matters sympathetic consideration.

In the social field, he commended the administering authority for the success of the yaws and tuberculosis control campaigns. He urged the Samoans and the administering authority, however, to give continuing attention to public health problems.

He also strongly urged the administering authority and Samoa to expand the educational facilities, particularly since Samoa would become self-governing or independent in a short time.

U AUNG THANT (Burma) noted with satisfaction that the administration had passed a decree removing certain differences of status between the territory's inhabitants, and that it was also preparing the ground for future legislation on Samoan citizenship.

He suggested that, before the termination of trusteeship, the electoral system be placed on a "broader basis." He hoped that the authorities would take into account the visiting mission's recommendations concerning universal suffrage.

(more)

He then asked the administering authority to make a statement, "in more categorical terms" about future plans for Samoa's defense and the conduct of its foreign affairs.

"On the whole, my delegation has nothing but commendation for the administering authority's efforts," the representative of Burma declared.

He also commented on certain aspects in the health, economic, and educational fields which, in his view, should be approached with more energy.

ALFRED CLAEYS BOUJAERT (Belgium) said the fundamental question dominating the whole discussion at the present time was to what extent had the territory approached the stage where termination of the trusteeship should be at hand? All these matters, he observed, were dealt with in the report of the visiting mission.

It could not be denied, he said, that New Zealand had worked in good faith to achieve this goal. The necessary legislation had already been adopted to give internal self-government to Samoa. Only a few other reforms remained to be taken.

His delegation was convinced that the measures taken by the administering authority or envisaged in the near future would bring about the achievement of the objectives of the trusteeship system.

He supported the views of the visiting mission concerning the question of the domestic status of the inhabitants of Samoa.

As regards the future treaty of friendship between Samoa and New Zealand, he shared the view that the attainment of the goals of trusteeship was not dependent upon the conclusion of such a treaty. Such a proposed treaty, he observed, would be concluded between the two nations, after Samoa's independence, as between equal partners, and could be denounced if either party wished it.

At the present stage, he observed, Samoa was competent to deal with its internal economic and financial matters. The finances of the territory, he noted, were healthy. There was no public debt, while its income was not large, it was sufficient to cover expenditures, besides getting aside a sum for investment.

The Samoan government and the administering authority, in his view, deserved commendation for the way in which the territory's finances were managed. The future of Samoa's social and educational services, he commented, depended on its ability to increase productivity.

His delegation, he said, supported all the conclusions and recommendations of the visiting mission concerning educational conditions.

(END OF TAKE 2)

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24th Session, 5th Meeting. (PM)

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8 June 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 3

GIROLAMO VITELLI (Italy) noted that the Council had "a comprehensive and very clear picture" of developments in Western Samoa.

The period ahead, during which the Samoans would be able to exercise responsibilities of government under the over-all supervision of the administering authority, would be very fruitful for the Samoans, he commented.

He said his delegation fully agreed with the administering authority that universal suffrage should not be "forced" upon the people of Samoa instead of the present restricted franchise. On the other hand, he added, a choice of electoral methods should be placed before the people in due time.

The representative of Italy said that administering authorities must play a major role in helping to make the transition from trusteeship to independence as smooth as possible. It was gratifying that New Zealand was willing to continue financial and other assistance to Samoa after the latter's independence.

Mr. VITELLI emphasized the need for "a long-range, comprehensive program of economic development" of the territory.

CHIPING H.C. KIANG (China) said that, according to the timetable laid down by the administering authority in consultation with the Samoans, cabinet government would be introduced three months earlier than originally intended, in order to give Samoans a longer period in which to learn the workings of the system during the transitional period. This, he believed, merited praise.

As to the suggestion of the Executive Council that the proposed constitutional convention be held before, rather than after, the 1960 general elections, he supported the view of the administering authority that the existing timetable should be adhered to. In his view the constitutional convention that would approve the constitution for the future state should receive a fresh mandate from the people.

He felt it was only natural that the Samoans wished to enter into a treaty of friendship with New Zealand after the territory's independence. He noted that such a treaty would not be concluded until after Samoa's independence.

(more)

Much as he wished to see universal suffrage adopted in future elections in Samoa, he agreed with the administering authority that such changes should be brought about by evolutionary processes within the territory, and should not be imposed from without.

On the questions of domestic status, citizenship and local government, he felt the suggestions of the visiting mission were valuable. However, he stressed the importance of providing sufficient trained Samoans to fill public service posts.

While he rejoiced at the fact that the territory's finances had improved from the slump of the previous years resulting from the decline in world prices for Samoa's export crops, he felt this fact in itself emphasized the need for more intensive measures for further diversification of the territory's economy.

He expressed gratification at the opening of the Bank of Western Samoa. He hoped that it would establish a branch for granting loans to Samoan farmers for agricultural purposes.

With Samoa soon to attain the objectives of the trusteeship system, he said, the importance of education assumed even greater importance, particularly in secondary and higher education.

He was gratified to hear that New Zealand was prepared to grant Samoa further assistance for education during the transitional period and the early years after Samoa's independence. This, he believed, deserved the commendation of the Council.

The Council then adjourned, until 2:30 p.m. tomorrow, 9 June, when it will continue general debate on conditions in Western Samoa and also hear the opening statement of Australia's special representative for Nauru.

(END OF TAKE 3 AND OF PRESS RELEASE TR/1487)