



UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



PROVISIONAL

T/PV.967

2 June 1959

ENGLISH

Twenty-fourth Session.

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 2 June 1959, at 3 p.m.

President:

Mr. DORSINVILLE

(Haiti)

1. Adoption of the agenda of the twenty-fourth session [1]
2. Report of the Secretary-General on credentials [2]
3. Organization of work of the twenty-fourth session
4. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Western Samoa [3g, 5]

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.967 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

OPENING OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I declare open the twenty-fourth session of the Trusteeship Council.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. JOHN FOSTER DULLES

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): A few days ago, we learned with great regret of the death of Mr. John Foster Dulles, former Secretary of State of the United States of America.

The many activities of this great statesman and the influence he exerted upon the political and diplomatic life of the modern world are well known to all of us. It is interesting to recall that a portion of his activities was very closely connected with the operation of the International Trusteeship System. As a matter of fact, he participated actively as a representative of his country in the San Francisco Conference in 1945 in the working out of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly of Chapters XII and XIII concerning the International Trusteeship System. Similarly, as a representative of the United States in the Fourth Committee during the first and second sessions of the General Assembly, he played a very important role in the elaboration of the first nine International Trusteeship Agreements.

On opening the Trusteeship Council, I thought I would remind you of this and pay a worthy tribute to this late lamented and great man.

WELCOME TO REPRESENTATIVES OF NEW ZEALAND AND UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Government of New Zealand has appointed Mr. McIntosh, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, to head the New Zealand delegation during the consideration of questions dealing with Western Samoa. I should like to welcome him on behalf of the Council. Now that the situation in Western Samoa is becoming particularly important because of the imminent accession of that Trust Territory to full autonomy and self-government, I am sure that the presence of Mr. McIntosh will be appreciated by all members of the Council.

(The President)

On behalf of the Council, I should also like to welcome the new representative of the USSR, Mr. Valentine Ivanovich Oberenko. Many of us will recall that Mr. Oberenko participated as a member of the Soviet delegation in the work of the Trusteeship Council several years ago. He has a very thorough knowledge of trusteeship matters and I am sure that he will make a very valuable contribution to our work. Although we regret the departure of the former Soviet representative, Mr. Lobanov, and his deputy Mr. Kurdyukov, who made numerous friends in our Council, we are happy to welcome these new representatives.

AGENDA ITEM 1

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): This session of the Council will have before it a very heavy working programme. We shall have to consider seven annual reports, four reports of the Visiting Missions, and several hundred petitions, without counting a number of specific questions, such as administrative unions with reference to Trust Territories and the development of rural economy in these Territories. In particular the Trusteeship Council will have to consider the situation in two Trust Territories which are about to end their Trusteeship regime, namely, Somaliland under Italian Administration and Western Samoa. Our conclusions on these matters will not fail to have a direct influence upon the future of the populations concerned.

At our past session we were able to conduct our work quite satisfactorily, within the agreed time table, thanks to the spirit of co-operation and understanding shown by all. I am sure that I can count upon your friendly co-operation once again. As far as I am concerned, I should like to assure the Council once more that I shall do my utmost, under all circumstances, to carry out my duties in a spirit of objectivity and impartiality.

Since this provisional agenda contains items with reference to Somaliland under Italian administration, I should like to invite the members of the Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration, who are not members of the Trusteeship Council, namely, Colombia and the Philippines, to take their seats at the Council table.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mauro Baradi (Philippines), Chairman of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The agenda for this session was prepared, on the one hand, in keeping with rule 9 of the rules of procedure and, on the other hand, in keeping with decisions taken by the Council at its past session. We would point out that the various items on the agenda are not arranged chronologically in the way in which they will be considered.

This is indicated in a working paper prepared by the Secretariat which the Council will shortly consider. I should like to invite members of the Council to express their opinions concerning the proposed agenda.

Mr. KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET (France) (interpretation from French): I should like to make one minor comment with reference to Togoland. In so far as Togoland is concerned, no discussion is involved concerning the future of Togoland because this question was settled by a decision of the General Assembly, as is known to members of the Council. Moreover, in view of the fact that these questions have become outmoded by events and by decisions of the General Assembly, the discussion on the 1957 report will be somewhat academic and rhetorical. I do not think that the Trusteeship Council will wish to waste its time by discussing these matters.

However, I should like to state, as of now, that as a courtesy to the Council and because this is quite normal, the Government which I represent will make a statement on Togoland in order to keep the Council informed of the events which have occurred since the last decision of the General Assembly. We have requested that the Togoland Government be good enough to send a representative. I can now inform the Trusteeship Council that Mr. Freitas, Minister of State of Togoland, will appear before the Council.

Thus, the Trusteeship Council will be kept informed of the situation in Togoland. But this does not mean, I think, that it is necessary to open discussions analogous to those which are held for the Territories whose fate is not fully governed by any decision of the General Assembly. I should like to inform the Council that we shall at that time indicate the final date which has been chosen, in agreement with the Togoland Government, for the independence of Togoland.

The Council will recall that it is expected that this independence will occur during the year 1960, but that the final date has not been determined as yet. We shall inform the Council of the exact date.

With reference to the date for the discussion of this item on the agenda, I should like to ask the Council to give us some latitude in this matter because it will depend somewhat on the possibilities of the Togoland Government to send

its Minister of State to New York. However, I believe that there is not very much difficulty involved here. I shall inform the officers of the Council when Mr. Freitas will be able to come to New York and perhaps by common agreement we can determine when the statement can be made.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of France for the statement which he has just made and of which I am sure members of the Council have taken note.

Are there any other comments on the provisional agenda?

Mr. OBERIMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should first like to thank the President for the very kind words which he has addressed to me and to my predecessor as Soviet Union representative here.

As regards the provisional agenda, my delegation has no objection to its adoption but, before it is adopted, we should like to have some clarification. Perhaps it will be necessary to make some additions to the agenda. I have in mind the list of petitions which, under the title of "Communications", in conformity with rule 24 of the Council's rules of procedure, must be examined by the Trusteeship Council upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Petitions. It will be recalled that, at its twenty-third session, the Trusteeship Council adopted the recommendations contained in the two hundred and twenty-fifth, two hundred and twenty-eighth and two hundred and thirty-first reports of the Standing Committee on Petitions, regarding the classification of petitions.

By virtue of these recommendations which have already been adopted, the Standing Committee on Petitions and the Trusteeship Council must examine a whole group of petitions, in conformity with rule 24 of the Council's rules of procedure.

I have examined the list of petitions, as contained in document T/1445/Add.1, which must be considered during the Trusteeship Council's present session, and I have noted that the list includes only the petitions communicated in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of rule 85. The group of petitions referred to in the three reports already adopted is not mentioned.

I should simply like to obtain some clarification from the Secretariat. Perhaps it would be sufficient for us to express the wish that, in the revised version of the agenda, there should be listed these petitions which, for reasons which I do not know, have not been included.

Mr. BARADI (Philippines) (Advisory Council for Somaliland): I have just arrived from Mogadiscio, the capital of the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration. On behalf of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration, I wish to express our thanks for the opportunity of speaking on this, the opening day of the Trusteeship Council's twenty-fourth session.

Item 15 of the provisional agenda now under consideration specifically refers to the report of the United Nations Advisory Council for the Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration. As the Trusteeship Council is well aware, article 25 of the Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory provides that:

"The Administering Authority shall submit to the Trusteeship Council, at least eighteen months before the expiration of the present Agreement, a plan for the orderly transfer of all the functions of government to a duly constituted independent Government of the Territory."

The present Trusteeship Agreement expires on 2 December 1960 -- and eighteen months before that date is today, 2 June 1959.

Article 8 of the Trusteeship Agreement provides, furthermore, that:

"The Administering Authority shall seek the advice of the Advisory Council on all measures envisaged for the inauguration, development and subsequent establishment of full self-government for the Territory" --

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I am sorry to interrupt the representative of the Philippines, but I should like to draw his attention to the fact that we are now discussing the adoption of the agenda. It seems to me that the statement which he is now making does not deal specifically with the adoption of the agenda. I would therefore ask him whether he does not feel that it would be better to reserve his statement for a more appropriate occasion.

Mr. BARADI (Philippines) (Advisory Council for Somaliland): I am grateful for the President's statement. However, I have been authorized by the Advisory Council to request this opportunity to speak on the agenda because

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I wish to conclude my statement by saying that we have been unable to comment on the plan for the transfer of functions, as envisaged in article 25 of the Trusteeship Agreement, because as of today we have not received that plan. I therefore beg the President's indulgence in allowing me to continue. My statement will not be long, and it does have something to do with the agenda. It deals with the report of the Advisory Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Since there are no objections from members of the Trusteeship Council, I shall allow the representative of the Philippines to continue his statement.

Mr. PARADI (Philippines) (Advisory Council for Somaliland): Thank you, Mr. President.

I repeat that article 8 of the Trusteeship Agreement provides that:

"The Administering Authority shall seek the advice of the Advisory Council on all measures envisaged for the inauguration, development and subsequent establishment of full self-government for the Territory; in particular, it shall consult the Advisory Council regarding plans for: ...

"(e) The transfer of the functions of government to a duly constituted independent Government of the Territory."

When the Advisory Council's report covering the period from 1 April 1958 to 31 March 1959 was adopted, the Advisory Council had not received the plan referred to in article 25 of the Trusteeship Agreement.

Still later -- much later -- on Thursday, 28 May 1959, the Administering Authority informed me that the plan was not yet ready for transmission to the Advisory Council within the next few days. I was also informed that one cause of the delay in transmission was the Administering Authority's desire to consult with the Somali Government, which at that time had not been formed.

On Friday, 29 May, the Advisory Council held its two hundred and twenty-first and last, meeting at its headquarters in Mogadiscio. Not having received the plan, the Advisory Council then decided to charge me, as its Chairman, with the task of making a statement before the Trusteeship Council.

(Mr. Baradi, Philippines)

In these circumstances, I desire now to bring to the attention of the Trusteeship Council, while it is discussing the agenda before it, the fact that the Advisory Council will submit its promised supplementary report to the Trusteeship Council after the Advisory Council receives this important document -- namely, the plan for the orderly transfer of all the functions of government to a duly constituted, independent Government of the Territory.

Mr. VITELLI (Italy): Mr. President, I noticed that you thought of ruling the representative of the Advisory Council out of order, and I appreciate that. I, of course, realize myself that his statement was not quite in order because we are now discussing the agenda, but I thought it was all right for him to make it. As a matter of fact, document T/1454 has just been circulated, and this document provides part of the answer at least to the members of the Council. I should like to refer the representative of the Advisory Council to this same document. Of course, my delegation stands ready to supply all pertinent information on this particular matter -- I mean the matter of the plan of transfer -- to the members of the Trusteeship Council as soon as practicable.

I think we stated in our letter to the Secretary-General the reasons why we were unable for the moment to submit the plan according to article 25 of the Trusteeship Agreement.

May I point out to the representative of the Advisory Council that I have the impression that he is not aware that consultation has been going on between the Administrator of the Trust Territory and the Advisory Council these last few days. He probably was not aware of this; anyway, that is a fact. Actually, the Administrator had been in touch with the Advisory Council and, as stated in the document I just mentioned, he is proposing to consult also with the Somali Government.

I repeat, as soon as practicable and feasible the plan of transfer will be distributed to the members of the Trusteeship Council.

Mr. BARADI (Philippines) (Advisory Council for Somaliland): I am very grateful to the representative of Italy for his statement. I noticed that he called my attention to document T/1454. I also noticed that the date of this document is 2 June 1959. I stated previously that I have just arrived from Mogadiscio and that I could not have received this document before my arrival because the document which was referred to bears today's date. However, I am very grateful that he called my attention to this document which I shall read later. He stated that perhaps I might not have been aware of the consultations between the Administrator and the members of the Advisory Council. I respectfully wish to differ with that statement. It happens that I was the very one that the esteemed Administrator in Mogadiscio consulted regarding not the plan of

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the transfer of powers, but the outline of the plan of the transfer of powers. As I said in the statement I read, I conferred with him on 28 May. The Advisory Council held its last meeting on 29 May, and there was no further consultation. If there was consultation at all, it was with the present speaker, and I so stated in the statement I have already made. I believe there is a difference between the outline of the plan and the official plan itself. I reiterate, that as of today the Advisory Council has not received the official copy of the plan of the transfer of powers.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): With reference to the comment made by the representative of the USSR concerning certain communications, I should like to consult the members of the Council as to whether they wish to have these communications mentioned in the agenda.

If there are no objections, we shall proceed accordingly.

Mr. KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET (France) (interpretation from French): I do not see very clearly the purpose of this proposal. Are we trying to transform communications into petitions? Obviously, I could not agree. Therefore, I fail to understand the purport of the proposal made by the representative of the USSR, and I should like some clarification on this matter.

Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I merely proposed that in the agenda we should list what has already been approved by the Trusteeship Council. The concern of the representative of France is, I think, quite unnecessary. The communications which are proposed for consideration, in accordance with rule 24 of the rules of procedure, will appear as communications and this in accordance with what was approved by the Council. We are not proposing any change in what was approved. I merely proposed that in the annex to the provisional agenda that we should list what has already been approved by the Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As I hear no objection from the Council, these communications shall be included in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We must now decide upon the agenda as a whole. If there are no objections, we shall therefore assume that the agenda is adopted.

The agenda was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 2

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As yet, the Secretary-General has not received credentials for all representatives. Therefore, the report has not been prepared for presentation at this opening meeting. This will be done as soon as all credentials have been received. I therefore propose to the Council that we defer consideration of the report of the Secretary-General until a later date. We shall proceed accordingly.

It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As I already pointed out, the Secretariat has prepared a provisional working programme for the session. This programme is found in a mimeographed document dated 11 May 1959. The programme provides for eight weeks of meetings. Despite this very busy agenda, we feel that the Council can finish its work within this time schedule. But in order to do so, ~~the Council must meet twice day quite frequently.~~ I hope that all members of the Council will follow this working programme very closely.

I also hope that the members of the Council will be prompt so that we shall not waste too much time at each meeting. I am sure that I shall have the co-operation of all my colleagues, because this was the case at our past session.

AGENDA ITEMS 3g and 5

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

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 1958 (T/1450)
- (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. Arthur Lall, Chairman of the Visiting Mission to Western Samoa, 1959, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I now call upon the representative of New Zealand, the Administering Authority concerned.

Mr. McINTOSH (New Zealand): Mr. President, thank you for your kind words of welcome. It is a very great pleasure to me personally to be able to be here today, and I think I should preface my remarks by a brief explanation of my presence. This privilege has fallen to me because of the misfortune of my old friend and colleague, the New Zealand representative in the Council, Mr. Shanahan. His wife's illness has prevented his attending the early stages of this meeting, and my Government felt, in view of the great pains which the Visiting Mission had taken and the special attention given by the Trusteeship Council to appointing the Mission, that in Mr. Shanahan's absence New Zealand should send a special representative to present the Government's views on the Mission's report, to express appreciation of the report, to try to provide answers for any questions the Council members might ask of the Administering Authority and, above all, to carry back to New Zealand information and views of the Council -- information and views which will, I am sure, prove invaluable in working out the final stages and the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and the preparation of a new agreement between independent Samoa and New Zealand.

A year ago the New Zealand representative suggested in this Council that a separate visiting mission with special terms of reference should visit Western Samoa in 1959 and that it should examine thoroughly matters which would have to be taken into account when the question of terminating the Samoan Trusteeship Agreement was considered. Today it is my pleasant duty to express the New Zealand Government's gratitude to the Council for sending out the Mission and to the Chairman and members of the Mission for the way in which they have discharged their duties.

Mr. Lall, the Chairman, has just presented to the Council the comprehensive, thorough, unanimous and admirably written report of the Mission. The production of such a report, especially when it had to be prepared under certain unavoidable but unfortunate difficulties, is in itself an impressive achievement. But the work of the Mission consisted of much more than writing this report. Both in Western Samoa and in their consultations with the New Zealand authorities, the Chairman and members of the Mission not only most persuasively explained the United Nations point of view but also drew on their own wide and varied experience in making many constructive suggestions, some of which have already been accepted. Others are still being considered by the relevant parties.

We in New Zealand appreciate the fact that no Mission could have been better qualified to undertake the important and rather delicate task allotted to it; never can a Mission have discharged its functions more admirably. On behalf of the New Zealand Government and of the Government and people of Western Samoa I warmly thank the four representatives who served as members of the Mission and the Governments that nominated them.

I should also like to thank the Principal Secretary and other members of the Secretariat party who travelled with the Mission and assisted it so much. A special expression of appreciation is due to the Council's own Secretary, Mr. Wieschhoff, who joined the Mission for its final series of meetings and discussions with the New Zealand authorities.

The Mission's report is indeed a document of historic importance: it marks a significant step forward in the progress of the people of Western Samoa towards the attainment of the goals laid down by the Trusteeship System of the United Nations. It also contains much essential information concerning recent developments

in Western Samoa in the constitutional, political, economic, social and educational fields. This information will be supplemented in the opening statement of the special representative, Mr. G.R. Powles, High Commissioner of Western Samoa. The statement I am about to make will also contain some supplementary information but it will consist for the most part of the observations of the Administering Authority on the main questions discussed in the Mission's report. The occasion for further and more detailed comment will no doubt be taken during the examination of the report.

The Administering Authority is glad to give a general endorsement to the report. But in the short time that has elapsed since the report was finished it has unfortunately not been possible to discuss it in detail with the Western Samoan leaders or to consult with them fully concerning the Mission's recommendations. The New Zealand Government regrets that, for this reason, it cannot give the Council detailed and final comments on all of the points that the report raises.

The attainment by Western Samoa of the objectives of trusteeship is dealt with in Chapter II. On this question the Administering Authority has every reason to believe that there is a close correspondence between the general views of the Samoan leaders and those of the New Zealand Government. It is natural that this should be so, because the New Zealand Government has based its thinking on the expressed desires of the Samoans. In this matter New Zealand has no interest of its own beyond a willingness to assist an independent Samoan Government in whatever way that Government may request. The Samoan leaders have expressed a wish to enter, as a signatory of equal status, into a Treaty of Friendship with New Zealand. The terms of such a Treaty would be considered before the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, but the Treaty would not be ratified until afterwards.

The Administering Authority wishes to emphasize 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. Basing their view on what they know to be the wishes of the Samoan people, the New Zealand authorities at present envisage the Treaty of Friendship as a short document recognizing the

independence of Western Samoa, declaring the goodwill between the two countries and arranging for the conduct of Western Samoa's external relations by New Zealand save with regard to those matters which it is agreed should be dealt with by Western Samoa. It is also envisaged that there would be consultations between New Zealand and Western Samoa on matters of external affairs which concerned Western Samoa. The Treaty would, moreover, be one between independent countries and, as such, terminable by either party after a specified period of notice.

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The Samoan leaders have suggested that New Zealand should undertake the protection or defence of Western Samoa. The Council may be assured that New Zealand is willing to maintain responsibility for the defence of Samoa. While it has not yet been possible to consult the Samoans on defensive arrangements, the New Zealand authorities at present consider that it may not be necessary to make specific provision for this in the Treaty of Friendship. Western Samoa would not be a party to any of New Zealand's defence alliances unless it so wished, nor is it intended that provision be made for the creation of bases in Western Samoa or the stationing of New Zealand troops there.

It is also expected that a series of minor or ad hoc agreements on arrangements could also be worked out as proved necessary to cover such matters as the recruitment of New Zealand staff by the Samoan Government, civil aviation, audit, posts and telegraphs, superannuation, the judiciary and so on.

While the Visiting Mission was in the Trust Territory an assembly consisting of the Fautua and elected members of the legislature agreed that a plebiscite by universal suffrage should be held before the Trusteeship Agreement is terminated. The assembly also suggested in general terms the matters with which this consultation should be concerned - namely, the termination of the agreement, the proposed constitution and the Treaty of Friendship. The Administering Authority concurs in the Mission's view that the resolution adopted by the Samoan representatives meets the particular circumstances of the Territory. It considers that, at the appropriate time, the form and more detailed substance of the questions to be put in the plebiscite should, in consultation with the Administering Authority, be agreed upon by the General Assembly. The New Zealand Government will co-operate fully with the United Nations and the Samoan authorities in making the necessary arrangements for the holding of the plebiscite under United Nations supervision.

The Prime Minister informed the Visiting Mission, during the final discussions in Wellington, of a broad and tentative timetable which had been prepared to assist in the planning both in Samoa and New Zealand, of the steps leading to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. At the same time he stated that, until such time as it was possible to gauge the success of the proposed Cabinet system of government, any specific timetable must be regarded

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as an ideal one. As the Mission points out, the draft timetable is of course based on the premise that satisfactory progress will be made at each stage of political and constitutional development. In short, the various stages interlock and any marked delay or deviation would inevitably affect the completion of the programme as a whole.

The Western Samoa Executive Council has now considered the timetable, which appears on page 63 of the Mission's report, and which the Mission endorses in its broad outline while recognizing that some of its details may require later modification. The only suggestion made by the Executive Council concerning the timetable, which members will note would aim at having the Trusteeship Agreement terminated at the end of 1961, was that the proposed Constitutional Convention should be held before, not after, the general elections in 1960. There are arguments both for and against this proposal. For various reasons the Administering Authority favours the retention of the existing timetable and doubts the wisdom of advancing the date of the Convention as now suggested. However, this is essentially a matter which must be discussed between the Administering Authority and the Samoan leaders.

The Administering Authority has also noted the Mission's view that, in preparing the relevant stages of the timetable, it should be ensured that at least the main terms of the draft constitution and electoral laws are made public in a definite form well before the expiry of the twelve-month period during which certain persons may be required to opt for or against Samoan citizenship. The New Zealand Government agrees with the Mission on this point and wishes to assure the Council that the necessary action will be taken.

The Visiting Mission has given full details of the first stage of Cabinet Government which the Administering Authority in March 1959 formally proposed should be brought into effect earlier than had previously been intended. The New Zealand Government felt that in this way the Samoan leaders would have a better opportunity of gaining experience in the responsibilities of self-government. The Administering Authority was most gratified that the Samoans so readily accepted these proposals, and it therefore had no hesitation in agreeing to the several modifications they suggested. The New Zealand Government had come to the conclusion that Cabinet Government should be introduced

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as soon as possible and the speed with which the leaders of the Trust Territory have accepted the proposals has made it possible to plan the legislative arrangements necessary for the establishment of the new system on 1 October 1959, the earlier date suggested by the Samoan representatives themselves.

It should be stressed that this first stage of Cabinet government is meant to be of a temporary and transitional nature. One of its principal objectives is to accelerate the political experience of the Samoan leaders and the members of the Legislative Assembly. The final form of Cabinet government must put leadership and responsibility firmly in the hands of a Prime Minister and Cabinet responsible to the Assembly. It follows, therefore, that on the attainment of self-government the provision for review of Cabinet decisions by the Executive Council would be removed.

The current discussions concerning the adoption of a Western Samoan citizenship have also been covered in the Mission report. Agreement has already been reached on all but one or two points and the Administering Authority is hopeful that it will be possible to prepare a draft citizenship bill in time for its presentation to the Samoan Legislative Assembly in August of this year. The New Zealand Government feel with the Mission that a common Western Samoan citizenship should be related not to race or blood but to loyalty and allegiance to Western Samoa.

For many years the policy of the Administering Authority has been to develop a united Samoan people. It is hoped that the creation of Western Samoan citizenship - by providing evidence of the common aspirations and loyalty of all who have their home in the territory, will furnish both an incentive and an opportunity for the removal of distinctions which have become outmoded and unnecessary. The New Zealand Government therefore endorses the Mission's view that the leaders and people of Western Samoa should give the most careful consideration to the abolition of legal distinctions based on race.

The Administering Authority also agrees that it is most desirable that some non-racial basis should be found for the registration of those persons who elect representatives to the legislature by universal suffrage, as distinct from matai suffrage. The suggestions put forward by the Visiting Mission on this

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matter are very helpful and the New Zealand Government is confident that the leaders of all sections of the Western Samoan community, in their efforts to find some solution to this problem, will give them every consideration.

The Administering Authority has noted the Mission's comments on that provision of the present electoral system, whereby, in matai constituencies, if one candidate is nominated by a majority of registered electors he is considered considered elected. It is hoped that the Samoan leaders will be able to accept the Mission's suggestion that, whenever two or more candidates present duly completed nomination papers, an election should be held under secret ballot.

The Administering Authority is in full agreement with the Mission's approach to the question of protection of human rights in the future Samoan state. It is believed that the recent statement of the Council of State concerning respect for land and property rights will be received with great satisfaction in the territory. The inclusion in the constitution of adequate provisions relating to human rights is, of course, one of the matters which will be discussed with the Samoan leaders during the coming year. The opinions expressed by the Mission will be taken into account during the discussions on the drafting of the constitution and should greatly assist all those concerned with its preparation.

It is noted that, in considering the subject of the Head of State, the Mission adopts an attitude similar to that of the Administering Authority. It is necessary that the method of filling vacancies in this high position should be made more definite and be prescribed in the constitution. The New Zealand Government will continue to encourage the Samoans to reach a decision on this and allied problems and will keep the Council informed of developments.

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The Administering Authority adheres strongly to the view, endorsed by the Mission, that appropriate provision should be made in the constitution for the independence of the Public Service. It favours the Mission's suggestion that the Public Service Commission should consist of the Public Service Commissioner as full-time administrator and two part-time members. It considers also that the Samoan government should in practice be consulted by the Public Service Commission on all appointments to senior posts in the Public Service, but that, with one or two exceptions, the appointments should be made by the Commission. Certain important posts, such as the Senior Financial Adviser and the Senior Legal Adviser, should possibly be Cabinet appointments. It is agreed that the Appeal Board should be retained.

The Mission refers to the two investigations -- one into public service salaries and wages, and the other into its organization and methods -- which are being arranged. More details of these arrangements will be given by the special representative. The New Zealand Government is fully conscious that it has a responsibility to ensure that, at the time when trusteeship is terminated, Samoa has an efficiently organized Public Service and, to the limited extent that it has the power, is working to achieve this.

The training of public servants is a matter with which appropriate territorial authorities have been dealing for some time. The list of posts for which Samoans ought to be trained, mentioned in paragraph 89 of the Mission's report, has been drawn up and is being submitted to the Administering Authority which will make arrangements for the required training whenever possible. The Council may rest assured that the New Zealand Government is conscious of the need for further training of Samoan public servants and will co-operate fully in this work.

The New Zealand Government agrees with the Mission and the Samoan leaders on the importance of providing in the constitution for the independence of the judiciary. In answer to a request from the Samoan leaders, the Administering Authority has indicated its willingness to continue to make suitably qualified persons available for appointment as judges of the High Court of Western Samoa, subject to satisfactory conditions of service being offered by the Samoan Government.

(Mr. McIntosh, New Zealand)

The New Zealand Government favours the Mission's suggestion about the setting-up of a Judiciary Committee "under the chairmanship of the Chief Judge with the Attorney General and other non-political personages as members" which would make recommendations to the Cabinet concerning appointments to subordinate judicial posts and on other matters concerning the judiciary. These matters, and the question of a suitable appeal system, which it is considered must also be provided for in the constitution, are being discussed with the Samoan Working Committee.

Economic development in Western Samoa is something on which, over the last ten years, the Administering Authority has placed great emphasis, pointing out that the Territory's basic problem is to increase production at a rate which will maintain and improve the living standards of a rapidly-increasing population. In recent years the Administering Authority has assisted with the basic surveys which are the prerequisite to long-range economic planning. While it welcomes the adoption of a limited development plan by the Legislative Assembly this year, it fully concurs in the Mission's view that

"there is scope for formulating a planned long-range programme which would take into account all the natural resources of the territory".

The Administering Authority thanks the Mission for its recommendation that favourable consideration should be given to any requests which the New Zealand Government should make on behalf of Western Samoa for assistance under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund. It will be pleased to transmit requests from the Government of Western Samoa for assistance of the kind mentioned in the report.

The Mission has made some imaginative and positive comments on the educational development of Samoa. The New Zealand Government's thinking is exactly along the lines the Mission has set out. As the Prime Minister informed the Mission in Wellington, a great amount of direct and indirect assistance has been given to Samoan education, and the New Zealand Government is prepared to give further assistance during the period of transition and in the early years after self-government is attained. Indeed, it feels that in no other way can so effective a contribution be made to the country's real development and independence.

(Mr. McIntosh, New Zealand)

In order to establish precisely what is required and what form of assistance should specifically be considered, the Government has arranged for the New Zealand Director of Education, Dr. Beeby, to go to Samoa on the 9th of this month, together with the Territory's new Director of Education, Mr. Leggatt, and Dr. Lee, the Superintendent of Technical Education in New Zealand. It will be their objective to review the educational system generally, giving particular attention to the co-ordination of government and mission schools, technical education, the completion and development of the Samoa College, and the provision of additional overseas teachers. Upon his return, Dr. Beeby will report to the New Zealand Government, which will decide in what way it can as quickly as possible do more to improve Samoan education.

The Council will appreciate that it is essential for the New Zealand Government to receive expert guidance before embarking on any additional expenditure in respect of the needs of Samoan education -- the cost of which could be very considerable.

I hope that these observations cover the main points raised by the Visiting Mission. If I have not done justice to them -- there are other points affecting the role and functions of the Administering Authority -- I shall no doubt be presented with the opportunity to comment further. I am afraid that, in trying to confine my remarks as briefly as possible to the specific questions raised in the Mission's report, I have failed to give the emphasis the New Zealand Government would wish to the broad aims of its trusteeship policy and its sincere attachment to the advancement of the so-called dependent peoples for whom the Trusteeship System was devised in San Francisco in 1945. We in the New Zealand delegation at that time little thought that within less than a decade we should be planning the hastening of the self-government and independence of Western Samoa. We thought in 1945 of a much slower tempo of development and the acquisition of administrative experience and skills. Our early plans for Samoa were based on a modest but gradually increasing body of educated Samoan young people with a balanced economy suited to the needs of the Territory. Mr. Powles was selected and appointed in 1949 to assist in the acceleration of this process.

(Mr. McIntosh, New Zealand)

The trend of the times, the growing aspirations and confidence of the Samoan people increased the tempo in a most encouraging manner and, although we have lagged in certain respects, it was deemed wiser to push on as quickly as the Samoan people themselves felt desirable. It is possible that political development in Samoa has outstripped educational and economic progress, but on all counts it seems desirable to continue to press on towards the achievement of the goals set forth in the time-table conveyed to the Trusteeship Mission. The Council may be assured that the Administering Authority will do everything possible to attain the final stages of Samoan self-government without delay.

The complexities of the problems of the modern State admittedly tax the resources and skills of the greatest of the world States, but we in New Zealand are satisfied that given the continued help of the more advanced and more fortunate countries and of the United Nations organization in its various agencies young communities like Western Samoa will overcome their difficulties and establish themselves on sound lines.

Samoa with its resources, its rapidly growing population, its matured leaders, its tradition of social organization and discipline and its political aptitude will not fail, given the requisite assistance and encouragement, to solve the problems and carry the responsibility that falls to an independent Government.

I was informed by my Prime Minister on Sunday before I left that I should stress to the Council that Samoa may be assured of New Zealand's assistance in the future as in the past. I am sure the Mission, in its meetings with us in New Zealand and in Samoa, will agree as to the sincerity of New Zealand's friendship for Samoa. I should like to stress that the bonds between the people of New Zealand and those of Samoa go much deeper than the formal relationship of trustee and of those under trust. Warm feelings of affection, friendship and esteem for Samoans who are such near kindred to New Zealand's own Maori people -- it is these feelings which will form the real basis of a future relationship between Western Samoa and New Zealand.

Once again, my delegation would like to thank all those concerned with the preparation of that excellent document. There are still problems to be solved in connexion with the final stages of trusteeship in Western Samoa, but the Mission's work has made much clearer both the nature of the problems and the possible solutions to them.

(Mr. McIntosh, New Zealand)

The spirit which motivates the New Zealand Government in its approach to such questions is described in its memorandum of 19 March 1959, which appears as annex II to the Mission's report:

"... the Administering Authority is acting in accordance with its consistent faith that the Samoans will rise to the challenge of these problems, the better as they receive and realize fuller responsibility for their solution. The Administering Authority believes that to press forward is in accordance with the best interests of Samoa, and with the opinion in the Territory and the Trusteeship Council."

(T/1449, Annex II, page 11)

The report of the Visiting Mission would seem to endorse this attitude of the New Zealand Government. My delegation is confident that the debate in this Council will do likewise.

I now have great pleasure, Mr. President, in asking you to invite H.E. Mr. G.R. Powles, High Commissioner of Western Samoa and special representative for the examination of the report on that Territory, to take his place at the Council table. Both Mr. Powles himself and the outstanding part he has played in the development of Western Samoa towards self-government are so well known to all members of the Council that for me to attempt a lengthier introduction is unnecessary.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should like to thank the Secretary for Foreign Affairs for the very important statement he has just made.

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.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Mr. Powles is well known to the members of the Council because he has already participated in our work. I welcome him on behalf of the Council.

(The President)

I now recognize the representative of India, Mr. Lall, who is the Chairman of the Visiting Mission.

Mr. LALL (Chairman of the Visiting Mission to Western Samoa): May I say that I am not speaking as the representative of India but as the Chairman of the Visiting Mission which went to Western Samoa.

The report of the Visiting Mission is not only before the Council in document T/1449, but we have just had the advantage of hearing the views of the New Zealand Government on that report through its representative, Mr. McIntosh. At this juncture therefore, on behalf of the Visiting Mission, I would like only to say a few words to express the appreciation of the Mission to the New Zealand Government, to the Government and people of Western Samoa, and also to those members of the Secretariat who helped us, including the Council's Secretary and our Principal Secretary, Mr. Berendson, in all the work which went into the preparation of our report.

We are grateful for the kind reception that the report has had from the Administering Authority, and may I say that I am sure it gives all the members of the Visiting Mission great pleasure to see at this table, as the representative of New Zealand, Mr. McIntosh, who played such an important part in our discussions in Wellington, and to see H.E. Mr. Powles, the High Commissioner of Western Samoa, who was not only helpful and co-operative when we were in his Territory, but whose counsel was always available to us, and, if I may say so, who showed constantly that the activities of an Administering Authority in a Trust Territory can be carried out with the confidence of the people of the Trust Territory. That is something we saw in Samoa.

It is not my intention to say anything on the substance of this report because all of us members of the Mission hope that the report has the necessary degree of clarity to speak for itself and we do not wish to try and embroider a piece of work which we have only just completed and laid before the Council. But may I say just two things very briefly. First, I have referred to the co-operation and assistance that we received in Samoa, but I should like to add that I am sure it was for all of us members of the Visiting Mission a new experience to carry out fruitful discussions with all the members of the Legislative Assembly and with the Fautua of Samoa. That is in fact what we did. Therefore, in a sense, our

(Mr. Lall, Chairman, Visiting Mission)

observations in the report are based not just on our talks with a few people right at the top, but with the open Assembly of Samoa. Of course, they are backed also by our talks with groups in the country and more private conversations with some of the leaders. But by and large we had our main discussions with the Legislative Assembly and the Fautua as a whole. I think the Mission would wish me to mention that point because it is a relative context in which consideration might be given to the report itself.

Then there is one small matter in paragraph 122 of the report which I would wish to mention. I am sure that the other members of the Mission would agree with what I am going to say. While at the end of paragraph 122 we have said that should Western Samoa ask for the ~~services of an agricultural expert from FAO to assist in the work of the Agricultural Department~~, the Mission hopes that the Administering Authority would take the necessary steps in this matter, while we have said this, the Mission would like to make it quite clear that in making the statement, no reflection whatsoever is meant to be cast on the Director of Agriculture in Samoa or on his colleagues.

In fact we were very impressed with the agricultural work in Samoa and we were impressed with the Director. It was because the work was going on so well in this field that we thought that it was ripe perhaps for a little further advice should the Western Samoan Government think it was necessary to ask for that advice. There is no suggestion that they must do so. It is for them to decide whether they will do so, and indeed should the Western Samoan Government wish to have assistance from the United Nations bodies which might be in a position to help, it is our view, in general, that the Administering Authority might consider bringing it to the attention of the United Nations bodies for further action. The point here is that we do not in any way wish to cast any reflection on the excellent work being done in the agricultural field in the Territory.

That is all I have to say. I will just repeat that we want the New Zealand Government and the Government and people of Western Samoa to accept our thanks and our appreciation for all the co-operation which they gave us.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of India, and I repeat this once more because I realize that as the representative of India he was the Chairman of a Visiting Mission. I therefore thank him for the statement he has just made.

Mr. POWLES (Special Representative for the Trust Territory of Western Samoa under New Zealand administration): It is with great pleasure that I am with the Trusteeship Council once again for a consideration of things Samoan. I look forward with keen anticipation to the opportunity of discussing with the Council matters of great moment to the Territory of Western Samoa.

The outstanding event of 1959 for Western Samoa has been the visit of the Special Visiting Mission. I should like, as High Commissioner, and also personally to endorse very fully the remarks of sincere appreciation which have been made by the representative of New Zealand. I cannot find words to express the profound and beneficial effect which the visit of this Mission has had upon the trend of developments in Western Samoa. The members of the Mission not only rapidly displayed a keen interest and sympathetic understanding of the problems of this small Trust Territory -- problems which perhaps are not very large in scope but some of which are intrinsically very difficult -- but also, by their personal goodwill and readiness to meet all sections of the community and individuals of any station, impressed the whole Territory with the feeling that the United Nations in general -- and the Trusteeship Council in particular -- was a very real living, and human organization, very concerned with their welfare.

Over the course of years past, the attitudes of various sections of the community in connexion with some of the deeper issues had tended to become frozen, in the sense that certain positions had been taken up and could not be modified without loss of face, and it did not seem to be possible to secure the will to compromise and the move towards a national solution which would be so necessary if the new Samoan state were to be launched in an atmosphere of unity and harmony. The Mission was most helpful in these matters. A particular instance was the question of citizenship and domestic status.

Members of the Council may recall that when I was here last year in company with my Samoan colleagues, the Honourables Tamasese, Malietoa and Mata'afa, I pointed out that there had been an unfortunate confusion in the minds of a number of people between common citizenship and common status. I said that there was probably no great difficulty about the question of common citizenship and that a series of general citizenship rules would very likely be drawn up. But, so far as the question of common domestic status was concerned, I said that it seemed

(Mr. Powles,
Special Representative)

both to me and to my colleagues that there could not be a completely common domestic status in the foreseeable future. I went on to say that I thought the actual abolition of dual status was very far away. Since then, we have had the visit of the Mission; and the pleasant but searching contacts, both personal and official, which the members of the Mission had, not only together as a body, but also individually with the Samoan leaders, and with the leaders of that section of the community which now consists of persons of European status, undoubtedly tended to thaw out those frozen attitudes. The Working Committee on Self-Government, to which I shall refer again in a few minutes, did agree upon a comprehensive set of rules for Samoan citizenship shortly after the departure of the Mission, and, while these rules still need some further detailed scrutiny and still require consideration by the New Zealand Government, there seems no doubt that they do lay down an acceptable pattern for the future. The issue of these rules as a public document, which has already taken place, and the issue of the draft law on citizenship, which will take place as soon as the draft act is prepared in New Zealand, will go a long way towards removing the confusion between citizenship and domestic status.

The remaining points of difference on the citizenship question will be discussed and solved when the draft legislation is presented to the Working Committee and to the Legislative Assembly. On the question of domestic status, Mr. Lall, as Chairman of the Mission and on behalf of the Mission as a whole, made a most important final statement at the Mission's last meeting with the Fautua and members of the Legislative Assembly. This statement, the substance of which appears in the Mission's Report, has been given wide publicity in the Territory and should go a long way towards assisting in a solution of this problem. Thus, while twelve months ago I felt, with some sadness, that the abolition of dual status was very far away, now I believe that there is new hope in this matter, and that it is within the bounds of possibility that a single domestic status will be evolved in the Territory along the lines so ably suggested by the Mission in its report.

This is only one outstanding instance of the work of the Special Visiting Mission. There are others whose effect will become apparent as time goes on.

(Mr. Powles,
Special Representative)

I should like most heartily to commend the Mission's report as a whole, which seems to me to contain a most valuable, and, incidentally, very well written, blueprint for the guidance of the activities not only of the Samoan authorities, but of myself, over the next few years.

My task as special representative at this session of the Trusteeship Council is, I venture to think -- and perhaps hope -- easier than on previous occasions. The Council has before it the Mission's report, which, as a broad compendium of the situation in the Territory as of April 1959, cannot be improved. It remains therefore for me to make a few extra comments upon events of the first half of the year, and upon one or two other salient features of the Samoan situation which may be of interest to members of the Council.

As to the year 1958, the Council, of course, has before it the annual report of the Administering Authority. This report, as unfortunately had to be the case, was prepared very soon after the close of the calendar year, and the haste with which it was necessary to gather together the various figures and comments resulted in the report's containing quite a number of minor errors. I shall, however, not worry the Council by referring in detail to all the errors at this time. It may be that during the question period I shall have an opportunity of correcting some of them.

An error which should be corrected now, however, is in the table of Expenditure on Education at page 154 of the report. The figures for expenditure on Education Maintenance, Capital Development and Scholarships should read, respectively, £200,590, £3,080 and £16,940.

There is another small, but not insignificant, point I should like to mention, and that concerns the reference on page 10 of the report to the belief that the Samoans have lived on their islands since 500 A.D. Modern research is pushing this date back, and there is now good reason to believe that the Samoans have been there since before 1000 B.C. I mention this because it is useful to realize that we are considering a very old civilization.

In order to present to the members of the Council as full a picture as possible of the situation in Western Samoa, and perhaps more particularly of the trends of the various developments, not so much in the political field as in the economic and social fields, we have provided for each Council delegation a small brochure of documents, which will be distributed this afternoon. This brochure contains the following papers:

(Mr. Powles,
Special representative)

- 1, Bank of Western Samoa Ordinance; 2, Status Disabilities Removal Ordinance; 3, Financial Statement containing the 1959 Budget; 4, Government Accounts 1958; 5, Estimates 1959; 6, Estimates of Expenditure for Development 1959; 7, Estimates of Expenditure for Maintenance 1959; 8, Paper on Limitations upon the Powers of the Legislative Assembly and High Commissioner; 9, Graphic presentation of production data; 10, Graphic presentation of economic and financial statistics.

There are two other documents which may be of interest to Council members, which I understand the Secretariat were successful in retrieving from Western Samoa during their recent visit and which are available here for consultation by Council members if they wish. These documents are: The Preliminary Economic Development Plan passed by the Legislative Assembly last year, and the tentative new proposals for local government which have just been issued by the Minister of Local Government. I also call the attention of members of the Council to the paper on the formation of the Working Committee on Self-Government which is published as an Annex to the Mission's Report. It had become fairly clear that there were so many matters requiring consultation between New Zealand and Samoa that it would be highly desirable if something in the nature of a permanent consultative body could be set up in Western Samoa which would have the opportunity of considering these matters in detail and of hammering out, in consultation with the New Zealand Government, the various problems which needed to be solved in order to provide a sound foundation for the new Samoan State. Toward the end of the year, therefore, I suggested to the Fautua that they might like to consider, in consultation with their colleagues, the formation of some fully representative committee which would be perhaps larger and more representative than the Executive Council, and yet not so large and cumbersome as the Legislative Assembly. So after careful consideration, they decided that the best body for the purpose would be one comprising the seven elected Ministers on the Executive Council, together with seven other members of the Legislative Assembly nominated by that body. The Fautua themselves would be the joint chairmen of this body, which it was decided to call the "Working Committee on Self-Government".

(Mr. Powles,
Special representative)

At the same time it was felt that this Committee, and indeed the Samoan people as a whole, really needed the services of a separate and independent constitutional adviser of their own. Of their own volition, therefore, they decided to approach Professor J.W. Davidson, who is the Dean of the School of Pacific Studies at the Australian National University in Canberra. Dr. Davidson had previously had close association with Western Samoa, first in the early days of the preparation of the initial advances to self-government in 1947, and the drafting of the important Samoa Amendment Act 1947; and then, in 1949 and 1950, when he served in Western Samoa attached to the Government in the capacity of Trusteeship officer. He served in this capacity as an adviser to the Government and as a member of the Legislative Assembly. He was also Chairman of the Special Commission of Enquiry into Local Government, and was actively interested in several other fundamental enquiries which were undertaken at that time. He had gained the full confidence and friendship of the Samoan people, and everyone, including the New Zealand Government and myself, felt that he was fully suitable for this position. He duly accepted the offer, and has since spent several periods in Samoa conferring with the Working Committee. He was also there during the time of the visit of the Special Visiting Mission, and he has had several opportunities of conferring with the New Zealand Government's own adviser, Professor C.C. Aikman.

The Working Committee has shown a commendable assiduity in considering the difficult and detailed problems that it has had before it and, as events have already shown, it has fully justified its existence. It is expected that it will continue to sit fairly regularly, ironing out and settling the details of the Constitution, of the Relationship Agreement with New Zealand and of the various ancillary departmental arrangements which will be necessary.

I think that apart from the visit of the Mission and the formation of the Working Committee, probably the most important event of the last six months has been the commencement of operations of the Bank of Western Samoa. The Bank of Western Samoa Ordinance, which is included in the brochure handed to members of the Council, contains in full the constitution and establishment of the Bank, and it was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 4 February 1959. The Bank itself was duly opened for business on 1 April, and it was not only significant but also very pleasing to all concerned that Mr. Lall, the Chairman of the Mission, was able to officiate at the opening ceremony.

(Mr. Powles,
Special representative)

I should like now to turn to the financial situation of the Territory. Members of the Council, I am sure, will recall that last year I gave a rather unhappy forecast of what the future might hold, but what has happened has been an outstanding example of how the economy of a territory such as ours is dependent upon the somewhat violent fluctuations of world prices for its principal products. Furthermore, even twelve months ago, which was halfway through the year, when it was apparent that banana exports were running at a very high rate, no one then felt optimistic enough to expect that this high rate would not only continue throughout the year but would be increased. The net results of the operations of 1958 has been that the Territory finished the year in a markedly sounder financial position than was expected even six months before. In the matter of banana production, the response of the Samoan grower, greatly assisted by the extensive developmental activities of the Agriculture Department, was indeed phenomenal and the total number of cases exported, namely 844,000, was nearly double the previous record set in 1955. In cocoa also there was a substantial increase in production, and the exports exceeded 4,000 tons for the first time. The production of copra fell most alarmingly during the first six months of the year when the price was low, but with the almost fantastic increase in price production leapt up to most satisfactory levels with the result that the total exports for the year, although not as great as in some former years, were still reasonably satisfactory. To illustrate the major and unexpected increase in copra prices, I should like to mention some figures -- these are the dollar prices per short ton c.i.f. West Coast United States. I take these figures because they are easily available here and they show the general world trend, but the London prices, which are secured by most of the Samoan copra production, have been a little higher. The average of the monthly price for 1957 was \$157. By June 1958 this had risen to \$179, but it then started to rise sharply, and by May of 1959 it had reached \$269. As to trade as a whole, total exports by the end of the year had reached the record figure of £2,896,000, which was some £675,000 in excess of imports, which were also a record at £2,221,000. This is the first time that the total trade has exceeded £5 million.

(Mr. Powles,
Special representative)

Reference to the graph supplied to members of the Council in the brochure circulated today will show that, so far as copra is concerned, not only have there been, over all the years, wild fluctuations in the money value of the crop, but there have also been erratic movements in the volume of exports over a period of many years. As to cocoa, the trend of the volume of exports is fortunately steadily upwards and there seems no reason to suggest that this trend will not be maintained. An encouraging feature has been that coffee is now appearing as a money earner for the second year running, with four tons being exported. This is only a token amount, but as many more trees are coming into bearing, one can expect a reasonable and steady increase.

In the end, the year 1958 finished with total receipts -- that is, governmental receipts -- at £1,305,000 and total payments at £1,037,000, which resulted in a surplus of £268,000. This surplus is a valuable addition to the budgetary stability of the Territory and is now available for use for future development expenditure. As at 1 January 1959 the Samoan Treasury had cash funds and investments of £503,000, and no debt.

In the budget for 1959, a copy of which is contained in the brochure circulated to members of the Council, a total of £1,104,300 is provided for maintenance expenditure, together with £243,700 for development or capital expenditure. To meet these charges ordinary receipts come to, as estimated, £1,128,000. In addition to that there will be grants from the New Zealand Government of £53,950, profits from the Trust Estate Corporation £30,000, donation from the Estate of O.F. Nelson £5,000, Banana Account £2,000, Loan Account £47,000, and a withdrawal from the budgetary surplus already mentioned amounting to £127,000.

The £47,000 loan is interesting. This arises from the resolutions of the Legislative Assembly, under the Financial Powers Ordinance which was passed last year. These moneys are to be borrowed from the Copra Reserve Fund and are to be spent as to £17,000 on the new telephone exchange, and £30,000 upon the roading portion of National Development. These loans had been agreed to by the Legislative Assembly coincident with its approval of the Preliminary Development Plan, and, while perhaps the large surplus at the end of the year would have

(Mr. Powles,
Special representative)

made them not strictly necessary, it was considered advisable and prudent under the circumstances to make use of the loan authority given by the Assembly. The most important items of Capital Expenditure for Development are as follows:

Agriculture (including Avele College)	30,500
Public Library	15,000
Health - Buildings and Equipment	13,900
New Telephone System	15,500
Public Works: Bridges	9,500
Plant	20,900
Roads	51,200
Water Supplies	23,100
Electric Power	31,900
Printing Plant	10,550

The Samoan Government has engaged the services of an English consortium of engineers known as Group One Limited to carry out surveys for a deep water dock in Apia and for a deep water harbour in Savai'i. These surveys, which are at the present moment actually in progress in the Territory, are expected to provide data upon cost and economic feasibility as well as upon practical marine engineering matters. The Legislative Assembly last year rejected the proposed appropriation (£10,300) for these surveys, but early this year, on a private member's motion, reversed itself and approved the expenditure, so that the Samoan Government was able quickly to conclude with the engineers an agreement, the terms of which had already been settled.

The easing of the budgetary position has meant that some of the restrictions can be removed from the estimates for the major social service departments of Health and Education. It has not, however, been thought wise at this time to carry out any particularly energetic expansion in either of these fields. The Samoan Government believes that it is better to go quietly in this matter at present and not to rush into a situation which might repeat the budgetary crisis of the end of 1957 and the beginning of 1958.

(Mr. Powles,
Special Representative)

While the Legislative Assembly had in 1958 sat for very many days and had more than one special sitting during the year, and while there was a tendency on the part of some observers to feel that the Assembly was proving difficult and cumbersome and not facing up to its tasks as the legislature for a self-governing territory, yet its record of achievement, when viewed in retrospect, is, I think, commendable. It is true that it failed to pass, as mentioned in this Council room last year, the important Government proposal relating to the amendment of customs duties, and certain other Government proposals were defeated. Nevertheless it did, in the end, pass the Financial Powers Bill, approved the Preliminary Development Plan, and authorized the necessary appropriations under that Plan. In addition to that, its legislative record was no mean achievement. A reference to Appendix XXIV in the Annual Report will show that the Assembly passed no less than fifteen ordinances and had before it forty-nine important papers for consideration. Naturally not all of these papers were in fact considered, but the majority of them were. On the question of legislative activity generally, it is also interesting to notice that no less than fifteen separate sets of regulations were considered and approved by the Executive Council for issue under the signature of the High Commissioner. All this legislative activity in Western Samoa should be contrasted with the fact that no acts or regulations affecting Western Samoa were passed or made in New Zealand during 1958. I think this shows a very interesting pattern for the future.

One matter which was before a select committee of the Legislative Assembly, and which is still causing considerable difficulty, is that of the proposed Bill for the Control and Regulation of the Sale of Intoxicating Liquor. The question is fully covered on pages 88 to 90 of the annual report, but I must say that the bill has not yet been considered by the Legislative Assembly. I believe that the Assembly may do so this year, although, because there is a great pressure of legislative business, it is not possible to be sure. The difficulty is that there are several important Samoan leaders who have a profound suspicion of the effects of alcohol in any form and would really like to see a system of complete prohibition enforced within the Territory. I think myself

(Mr. Powles,
Special representative)

that the difficulties in the way of such a proposal are almost insuperable, but the attitude of these gentlemen, which is very understandable, has meant a considerable delay in the consideration of the control measures.

The legislative programme for the next two years will be a very heavy one. The laws in force in Western Samoa today consist of a number of acts of the New Zealand Parliament, a number of regulations made by Order-in-Council in New Zealand, a number of Samoan ordinances and a number of regulations made under those ordinances in Western Samoa. Some of these acts, regulations and ordinances are obsolete and should be repealed, others are out of date and should be revised, while nearly all of them need consolidating into a compendious and easily ascertainable series. The New Zealand Government is specially retaining the services of a legal officer in the Department of Island Territories in New Zealand to assist in the work of compiling these statutes and regulations, while in Western Samoa the Attorney-General is busily engaged upon drafting ordinances to provide basic law where at the present none exists.

(Mr. Powles, Special representative)

For example, ordinances are now being drafted to constitute in legal form each one of the main Government departments, to place it under the control of the relevant Minister; and to specify the functions of the Department and the powers of the Minister. It is estimated that some fourteen of these ordinances will be required to be passed by the Legislative Assembly within a comparatively short time. It would, of course, be highly desirable if most of them could be dealt with before the onset of Cabinet Government on 1 October 1959, but it is doubtful whether it would be practically possible to do so.

In reference to paragraph 93 of the Mission's Report, the Salaries Tribunal referred to has been formally set up and constituted as a Commission of Inquiry. The Chairman is Mr. A.G. Rodda, a member of the New Zealand Public Service Commission and there are two members nominated by the Public Service Association of Western Samoa, and two by the Government of Western Samoa. The terms of reference of the Commission of Inquiry are, to quote from the Warrants of Appointment:

"to inquire into and report upon and make recommendations to the Government upon:

"a. A set of Public Service Salary and Wage Scales appropriate to the cost of living and the economic and social conditions of Western Samoa.

"b. The minimum salary or wages to be paid to adult males and females respectively employed in the Public Service of Western Samoa.

"c. Any other matter arising out of or affecting the premises which may come to your notice in the course of your inquiries or which you may consider should be investigated in connection therewith".

The organization and methods investigation also referred to by the Mission can, it is now felt, be more conveniently held next year or perhaps late this year.

The Governments of the United States and New Zealand have nearly completed negotiations for an Agreement permitting the establishment of a local air service between the two Samoas, and in the meantime the United States has designated a company known as Samoa Airlines as an approved operator for this service and New Zealand has issued a temporary licence to operate non-scheduled service. There have been various delays, and the service is not yet operating, but it should be able to begin quite soon.

(Mr. Powles, Special representative)

I should now like to refer to the vexed question of education. I fully endorse everything that has been said by the Visiting Mission in its report. Later this month the Director of Education in New Zealand, Dr. C.E. Beeby, together with the new Director of Education for Western Samoa, Mr. J. Leggatt, will visit the Territory with the object of conducting what might be a somewhat agonizing re-appraisal of the whole education problem. The solution will not be easy, because I believe that the prime necessity for the new Samoan state is that it should be economically viable, and it ought not to be encouraged to nourish within it an education system of such a nature that it could grow to proportions sufficient to wreck the economy. An indication of what I mean can be gathered from the graph in the brochure handed to members of the Council and entitled "Maintenance Expenditure per capita in relation to Exports". There are two pages in this graph, one dealing on a two-yearly basis with the years from 1947 to 1957, and the other dealing with the year 1958. This graph shows in pictorial form how the education costs had started to get out of hand and run away. The drastic action taken in 1958 in chopping off the excess expenditure of 1957 was no doubt harsh and produced many unfortunate results.

The Samoan administration would be the first to agree that this drastic action was an unhappy consequence of the financial stringency which it had to face, as was discussed in the Council last year, and will take every step to ensure that the needs of education will not be sacrificed in seeking a proper balance in the economy of the territory. Indeed, with the improvement in the financial situation, renewed and steady expansion of the educational services can be confidently expected.

One aspect of education in Western Samoa which has come very prominently to the fore more recently is that the Mission schools play an important and indispensable part in the whole system. I believe that any integrated system of education for Samoa in the future will have to comprise a full and active partnership between the Government and the Missions. This has already been acknowledged, not only by the meeting with the Mission representative referred to in the Report of the Special Visiting Mission, but also by a further meeting which I held at the beginning of last month, when it was recommended that an Advisory Board of Education should be set up, with certain agreed representation

(Mr. Powles, Special representative)

from the Missions. The Attorney-General is now in the process of drafting an ordinance which will give effect to this and will provide a basic legal background for the education system as a whole. I am afraid that the Council has several times before been told that an education ordinance is in the process of being drafted, but on this occasion I have positive hope that something will reach the Legislative Assembly before too long.

Of course there are certain differences of attitude on the part of certain sections of the Legislative Assembly which tend to make imaginative educational progress a little difficult. In the early months of this year the Assembly, for example, reduced the appropriation for the Samoan Government's half share of the maintenance of Avele Agricultural College, as mentioned in paragraph 145 of the Mission's Report. However, owing to the very commendable efforts of the Minister of Agriculture, assisted by his Ministerial colleagues, this particular item was re-committed to the Assembly and the appropriation restored, but not by any means by unanimous vote. On another aspect, the Education Department has tried to maintain a stock of stationery and books, not only for supplying its own children but also for supply to Mission schools. This item of appropriation was also reduced by the Legislative Assembly, and not restored, which means that many pupils now have to go to the trading stores to buy their exercise books etc. This is just a little thing, but it indicates some of the difficulties that have to be contended with.

In the international field, I would like very much to endorse what has been said before about the very great appreciation we have in Western Samoa for the assistance given to us by the World Health Organization. The Annual Report shows very clearly how outstandingly successful was the yaws campaign. Indeed, I understand that in WHO circles the Western Samoa yaws campaign is written up as a project to be emulated. We now have great hopes of the tuberculosis control project. The position here is that, while the actual formal agreement between the New Zealand Government and WHO has not yet been signed, its terms have been agreed to and the arrangement is that the resources within the Territory and also of WHO will be mobilized for the project in 1959, with the intention of beginning operations very early in 1960.

(Mr. Powles,
Special Representative)

Another organization from which Western Samoa derives considerable benefit is the South Pacific Commission. This year, at Rabaul in New Britain, was held the biennial South Pacific Conference, which is organized by the South Pacific Commission, and consists of delegates from the indigenous inhabitants of all the territories within the sphere of the operations of the Commission. A wide range of subjects of common interest to these various peoples is discussed, and the Conference is coming to be regarded as a very valuable feature of South Pacific contact, intercourse, and development. The two Western Samoan delegates were Miss Teresa Hunter, a young Samoan lady who graduated with her B.A. from the University of New Zealand and is now Senior Warden of Women at the Training College in Western Samoa; and Mr. Sosene Feagai, a Samoan medical practitioner who graduated from the Central Medical School at Suva, and is now one of our most senior and experienced men. The Conference divided itself into two committees--the Economic Committee and the Social Committee--and Western Samoa is proud to record that Miss Hunter was elected Chairman of the Social Committee, a responsibility which she discharged with considerable ability and charm. Through the kindness of the Australian authorities, Mr. Sosene Feagai, while in New Guinea, is to be given the opportunity of inspecting medical institutions there.

Now, there are naturally many other matters which could be mentioned, but I think that, because of the wealth of documentation which is before the Council at this time, and particularly in view of the outstanding importance of the report of the Visiting Mission, it is not incumbent upon me at this stage to say anything more. I shall of course be only too pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions which Council members might wish to ask during the appropriate question periods. May I conclude therefore by expressing once more my great pleasure at being here. I have found that my visits to the Trusteeship Council are to me a source of guidance and great inspiration.

The meeting rose at 5.5 p.m.

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Trusteeship Council
24th Session, 1st Mtg. (PM).

Press Release TR/1483
2 June 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 1

The 24th session of the Trusteeship Council was declared open at 3:11 p.m. today by its President, MAX H. DORSINVILLE (Haiti).

The main task before the session,*which is expected to last approximately eight weeks, will be a review of political, economic, social and educational conditions in four Pacific and three African trust territories.

According to its tentative timetable, examination of conditions in the first of these territories -- Western Samoa -- is scheduled to begin today. The order in which the other territories will be examined is as follows: Nauru, 10 June; Ruanda-Urundi, 17 June; the Pacific Islands, 25 June; New Guinea, 2 July; Somaliland, 10 July; and Togoland, 17 July.

In declaring the meeting open, the PRESIDENT said he first wished to pay tribute once more to John Foster Dulles who, as United States representative at the 1945 San Francisco Conference, had helped to draft the trusteeship provisions of the UN Charter and who later had played an active role in the elaboration of nine Trusteeship Agreements.

Mr. DORSINVILLE then welcomed A.D. McIntosh, Secretary of External Affairs of New Zealand, who, he noted, had been appointed head of the New Zealand delegation during the Council's examination of conditions in Western Samoa.

He also welcomed the new representative of the Soviet Union, Valentin I. Oberemko, who succeeds Ivan I. Lobanov.

The PRESIDENT then pointed out that the Council at this session would examine four reports of visiting missions, seven annual reports of administering authorities, hundreds of petitions and a number of specific questions. Particularly important, he noted, would be the conclusions of the Council concerning two territories -- Somaliland under Italian administration and Western Samoa under New Zealand administration -- since the trusteeship for these two territories was about to be terminated.

The Council then took up its first item of business -- adoption of its provisional agenda for the session (Doc. T/1445 and Add.1).

(more)

*An annotated agenda has been issued as Press Release TR/1480.

As the agenda concerned the trust territory of Somaliland, the PRESIDENT invited the members of the UN Advisory Council for Somaliland, the representatives of Colombia, the Philippines and the United Arab Republic, to take their seats at the Council table. (The United Arab Republic is a member of the Council and was already represented.)

The Council then began a discussion of the agenda. The first comments were by the representative of France concerning item 3, examination of annual reports on trust territories.

JACQUES KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) said, with respect to the 1957 annual report on Togoland, that the discussion no doubt would not deal with the future of the trust territory, as this problem had already been settled by a decision of the UN General Assembly.

Moreover, he added, discussion of the 1957 report, covering matters already "outmoded by events," would be "somewhat academic." He felt certain the Council would not wish to spend its time discussing this report.

As a matter of courtesy, Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET said, his government would, at the appropriate time, make a statement on Togoland to keep the Council informed of developments since the last General Assembly. It would also inform the Council of the date agreed upon for Togoland's independence.

Mr. OBEREMKO (USSR), after thanking the President for his remarks concerning him and his predecessor, said he had no objection to the adoption of the agenda. However, he made certain remarks concerning the enumeration of petitions.

MARIO BARADI (Philippines), speaking as Chairman of the UN Advisory Council for Somaliland, announced that that body had been unable to submit to the Trusteeship Council its promised supplementary report because it had not as yet received from the administering authority the plan for the orderly transfer of powers to Somalia, as provided for under Article 25 of the Trusteeship Agreement.

GIROLAMO VITELLI (Italy) said that consultations between the Administrator and the Advisory Council had been going on during the past few days. He drew attention to a document published today (Doc. T/1454) which explained the situation, and said that the plan for the transfer of powers would be made available to the members of the Council as soon as possible.

Mr. BARADI said he had not yet seen the document referred to by the Italian representative but he wished to reiterate that "as of now the Advisory Council has not yet received the official plan of transfer."

There being no other comments concerning the agenda, the PRESIDENT asked if there were any objections to the Soviet proposal concerning the listing of petitions in the annex to the agenda.

There were no objections.

The Council then adopted the agenda.

(END OF TAKE 1)

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Trusteeship Council
24th Session, 1st Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1483
2 June 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 2

The Council turned next to the second agenda item, the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General on the credentials of the members attending the present session.

The PRESIDENT said that not all credentials had been received. Accordingly, he suggested, and the Council agreed, that the item be taken up at a later stage.

The Council then began the examination of conditions in the trust territory of Western Samoa administered by New Zealand. It had before it the annual report of the administering authority, together with the report of the Council's visiting mission which made a first-hand study of the situation in the territory from mid-March to mid-April this year.

A.D. McINTOSH (New Zealand) said that the mission to Western Samoa had discharged its functions "admirably." Its report was of "historic importance" and marked a significant step forward in the progress of the people toward the goals of the trusteeship system.

He said that the administering authority gave a general endorsement to the report but that it had not yet discussed the details with the Western Samoan leaders.

He told the Council that the Samoan leaders had expressed a wish to enter into a Treaty of Friendship with New Zealand and he emphasized that the attainment of self-government or independence by the territory "will be in no way conditional" upon such a treaty. The treaty would be one "between independent countries" and terminable by either party.

He also explained, in this connection, that Western Samoa would not be a party to any of New Zealand's defense alliances unless it so wished. No bases would be created in Western Samoa, nor would New Zealand troops be stationed there.

Referring to the plan for a plebiscite by universal suffrage before the termination of the trusteeship, he said that the New Zealand Government "will cooperate fully with the United Nations and the Samoan authorities" in making the necessary arrangements for the holding of the plebiscite under United Nations supervision.

(more)

Mr. McINTOSH said that the Western Samoa Executive Council had now considered the timetable which appeared on page 63 of the mission's report and which aimed at having the Trusteeship Agreement terminated at the end of 1961. The only suggestion made by the Executive Council concerning the timetable, he said, was that the proposed Constitutional Convention should be held before, not after, the general elections in 1960.

The New Zealand representative announced that the legislative arrangements necessary for the establishment of a Cabinet government would be introduced on 1 October 1959, the earlier date suggested by the Samoan representatives.

On the question of Western Samoan citizenship, he said that the administering authority would prepare a draft citizenship bill in time for its presentation to the Samoan Legislative Assembly in August of this year.

He said that his government also concurred with the mission's views on economic development of the trust territory and its "imaginative" comments on education.

Concluding, the New Zealand Foreign Secretary reiterated the administering authority's faith that the Samoans would "rise to the challenge" of their problems as they received fuller responsibility for their solution.

The Council then heard ARTHUR S. LALL (India), speaking as Chairman of the visiting mission to Western Samoa, who introduced the report of the mission on the territory.

Mr. LALL said he would not speak on the substance of the report which, he suggested, spoke for itself. However, he did wish to point out that the mission was impressed with the way the activities of the administering authority were carried out in the trust territory with the confidence of the population.

The mission, he said, held consultations not only with the fautua* but also with all members of the Samoan Legislative Assembly. Therefore the mission's observations, as given in its report, were based not just on talks with a few leaders of the top, but with an "open assembly," backed up by talks of a more informal nature.

Mr. LALL concluded by expressing appreciation for the cooperation the mission received from the New Zealand Government and the people and government of Western Samoa.

(END OF TAKE 2)

* The two fautua are representatives of the Samoan kingly lines.

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Trusteeship Council
24th Session, 1st Meeting (PM)

Press Release TR/1483
2 June 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 3

The Council then heard an opening statement by G. R. POWLES, the New Zealand High Commissioner for Western Samoa, who spoke as the special representative of the administering authority.

The visit to the territory by the visiting mission, Mr. POWLES said, had had a "profound and beneficial effect" on the trend of developments in Western Samoa. The mission, he said, "impressed the whole territory with the feeling that the United Nations in general and the Trusteeship Council in particular was a very real, living and human organization very concerned with their welfare."

The mission's report, he said, appeared to him to contain a most valuable "blueprint" for the guidance of the activities of the Samoan authorities, and his own activities, over the next few years.

The report, he said, gave an account of the situation in the territory as of April 1959. It remained for him only to add a few comments on events during the first half of this year and "upon one or two other salient features of the Samoan situation."

Apart from the visit of the mission and the formation of the working committee on self-government, the most important event of the last six months, in his opinion, was the commencement on 1 April of operations of the Bank of Western Samoa.

Financially, he said, the territory had finished the year 1958 "in a markedly sounder" position than was expected even six months before. He recalled that last year he had given the Council a "rather unhappy forecast" of what the future might hold, in view of Samoa's dependence on world prices for its principal products.

Samoa's banana exports, he said, had nearly doubled the previous record set in 1955; cocoa exports exceeded 4,000 tons for the first time; and copra production, which "fell most alarmingly during the first six months of the year when the price was low, had "kept up to most satisfactory levels," with the result that the total exports for the year, although not as great as in some former years, "were still reasonably satisfactory."

(more)

The easing of the budgetary situation, Mr. FOWLES continued, had meant that some of the restrictions could be removed from the estimates for the major social service departments of health and education. However, it had not been thought wise at this time to carry out any particularly energetic expansion in either of these fields, he added.

Touching upon other aspects, the special representative then spoke about the problem of education. With the improvement in the financial situation, renewed and steady expansion of the educational services could be "confidently expected." However, in his view, the prime necessity of the new Samoan state should be economic viability; it ought not to encourage an education system which would grow to proportions sufficient to wreck its economy.

The examination of conditions in Western Samoa will be continued by the Council at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow, 3 June. The first part of tomorrow's meeting, however, will be taken up with a number of other trusteeship matters, such as the review of procedures for examining petitions.

(END OF TAKE 3 AND OF PRESS RELEASE TR/1483)

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CAUTION: ADVANCE RELEASE

Not to be made public
before 6 PM EDT (2200 GMT)
Thursday, 4 June 1959

JUN 3 - 1959

Press Release TR/1479
2 June 1959

UN VISITING MISSION FINDS 'ADVANCED' STANDARD OF LIVING IN NAURU
Economy of Territory Entirely Dependent on Phosphate Industry

A United Nations visiting mission, recently returned from Nauru, a small phosphate-producing island in the Pacific, has stated that it was impressed by the "advanced standard of living" of the local indigenous population which it said was "much higher than that generally found in other Pacific islands."

The mission's report*, made public today, said for the most part the 2,158 indigenous people of this smallest of UN trust territories were on a "cash economy." Quite a number of them receive royalties from their phosphate lands, and many jobs were available either in the administration, the phosphate industry or in private enterprise.

These impressions were gained by the mission following a four-day visit to Nauru from 10 to 14 March, its report said. The mission, the fourth of a series sent by the UN Trusteeship Council to report on conditions there, was composed of Chiping H. C. Kiang (China), Chairman; Alfred Claeys Bouuaert (Belgium); U. Tin Maung (Burma); and Sergio Kociancich (Italy).

Located near the equator, Nauru has an estimated land area of 8.2 square miles and a population of 2,158 Nauruans, 645 Chinese, 363 Europeans and 1,133 other Pacific islanders, mostly from the Gilbert and Ellice group. The territory is administered by Australia on behalf of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, the joint administering authority.

Nauru, the report said, is entirely dependent on the phosphate industry, worked by the British Phosphate Commissioners--a board including one commissioner appointed by each of the three partner governments--and employing all the non-Nauruans on the island, except for the small number of Europeans in the administration. The island offers virtually no agricultural potential, although garden vegetable growing, pig and poultry keeping and fishing could help alleviate the people's subsistence needs.

During its stay, the mission met local officials and representatives of the Nauruan and immigrant communities. It visited the phosphate industry, various

*Doc.T/1448

(more)

departments of the administration, government and religious mission schools, the administration hospital, the public library, the Nauru Cooperative Society and the living quarters of immigrant workers in the phosphate industry.

The "main substance" of the mission's report consists of the 11 subjects discussed with the Nauru Local Government Council, an elected advisory body to the Administrator on Nauruan affairs, the observations on these matters furnished by the administering authority and the mission's own comments on them. The mission said it held two meetings with this Council and was "much impressed" by the manner in which the proceedings were conducted.

The mission's report, already transmitted to the administering authority and to other members of the Trusteeship Council, will be examined by the Council at its 24th session which opened 2 June at UN Headquarters.

Future of Nauruan People

One of the key issues which has been under study for some time both by the administering authority and the Trusteeship Council is the future of the Nauruan community, in view of the progressive exhaustion of the island's phosphate deposits. According to the estimate of the administering authority, the deposits might be exhausted in another 40 years.

The Nauru Local Government Council, in its discussion of the matter, the mission reported, considered that the question had "long been at discussion stage and they felt that something more definite ought to be reached by now."

The administering authority observed that practically all occupiable areas in the Pacific to which the Nauruan people might be sent for resettlement when that step becomes necessary, had been considered. It said the results of the investigations were being assembled by a committee and would be examined shortly with a view to the possibility of formulating concrete proposals to be discussed with the Nauruans.

For its part, the mission expressed the "decided opinion that, in the event that an island suitable in all respects for the resettlement of the Nauruan community cannot be found, earnest consideration should be given to its gradual integration into the metropolitan country of one of the three administering authorities or in a territory of any one of them where the standard of living is comparable to that at present enjoyed by the Nauruans."

General Advancement

The powers of government over the island are vested in the administrator, directly responsible to the Australian Government, the report notes. In all Nauruan affairs, however, the administrator is assisted by the Nauru Local Government Council.

(more)

The mission said that, at its first meeting with the Nauru Council, that body asked that more powers should be given to it. The Nauru Council pointed out that 31 years had gone by, but its functions had remained largely advisory in character. It felt that the "time has come for some sort of change," especially since the population now has "a very high degree of literacy (95 per cent)."

The Nauru Council submitted six proposals specifying spheres where it felt more power should be given to it. That body expressed hope that its proposals would be made effective as from the beginning of 1960 and suggested that at the end of four years the "whole situation be reviewed with the aim of elevating the Council to the status of a legislative council."

The administering authority, besides furnishing detailed observations on the specific proposals presented, stated that the exercise of the "extensive powers" which the Nauru Council now have would enable that body to "gain experience and skill in public affairs as training for further responsibility."

It added that "a close examination of the several limitations (on that body's powers) will show them to be merely checks in the interests of the Nauruan community during the period of training. Demonstration of the effective performance of existing responsibilities will lead to the extension of additional powers to that council."

The mission considered that the administering authority "should not be too reluctant to take a certain amount of risk in carrying out both its declared policy and the objectives of the Trusteeship Agreement." It added that "only by the exercise of responsibility may self-government be attained."

Nauruan Participation in Trusteeship Council's Work

The Nauru Council, the mission went on, also asked that indigenous representatives be allowed to attend meetings of the Trusteeship Council when a visiting mission's report on conditions in Nauru are discussed.

The mission pointed out that in the United Nations the member states alone had the authority to appoint their accredited representatives to any UN organ. If the administering authority were to accede to their request, the Nauruan selected would participate as a member of the Australian delegation in an advisory capacity and if asked to speak would be authorized to express only the official viewpoint of the administering authority.

The mission observed, however, that it was "so impressed by the maturity of some of the Nauru Local Government councilors that it cannot but consider that there might be mutual advantages in associating such a Nauruan in an advisory or consultative capacity with the Australian delegation to the Trusteeship Council at the meetings during which a visiting mission's report on Nauru is under consideration."

(more)

Phosphate Royalties

On the question of phosphate royalties paid to Nauruans, the Nauru Council said it had tried without success to obtain information on the world prices of phosphate in order to ascertain how the price of Nauru phosphate stood in relation to them and so enable the Council to have a basis for negotiating the royalty payments. The administering authority stated that pending the discussions regarding royalty payments held in April in Canberra, it had no further information to communicate.

The mission, while unable to give the information requested, said it was pleased to learn that the Head Chief and the Treasurer of the Nauru Council were to participate in negotiations regarding future royalties with the British Phosphate Commissioners. It considered Australia should be commended for directly associating representatives of the Nauruan people in a matter which "so closely affects their future well-being."

In the medical field, the mission said, on the whole, it was "very favorably impressed" by the facilities provided and the measures taken by the administration to care for the health of the people and to train Nauruans in medical work.

Regarding working conditions, the Nauruan Workers' Organization presented a number of requests. They asked that Nauruan workers should be treated in the same way as Australian workers in having a 40-hour week, in place of the present 44-hour week; that male and female workers, as well as Nauruan and European workers, should have the same pay for doing the same work; and that the basic wage for Nauruans should be calculated on the basis of a man, wife and two children.

The administering authority said employment conditions in Nauru were at present under review by the administration and upon completion information would be furnished the Trusteeship Council.

Education

The mission said the Nauru Local Government Council raised eight points dealing with different aspects of education on Nauru. These are treated in detail in the report.

From its own observations, the mission said it was "most favorably impressed with the excellent facilities and standard of education provided for the Nauruans, including those of the Catholic Mission...." It was particularly pleased to learn that two Nauruans were now attending the University of New South Wales, one studying medicine and the other, science.

However, in view more particularly of its comments on the future of the Nauruans, the mission "fully supports" the request for instruction in "commercial subjects," such as typing, stenography, bookkeeping and business management, and recommended that more instruction be given to vocational and technical training, such as teaching, automotive engineering, building and carpentry.

The mission added that it was "somewhat astonished" that neither the Nauru Council nor the administrator had "any definite knowledge" regarding the scholarships offered by UN member states to inhabitants of trust territories.