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Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 3 July 1959, at 10.30 a.m.

President:

Mr. DORSINVILLE

(Haiti)

1. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of  
Tonga-Urundi [3a and 4] (continued)

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the  
Pacific Islands [3e, 4, 6]

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Note:

The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.999 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

## AGENDA ITEMS 3a and 4

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF RUANDA-URUNDI (T/L.909)  
(continued)

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR 1957 (T/1406, 1442, 1452, 1461)
- (b) PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS RAISING GENERAL QUESTIONS (T/PET.GEN/L.2, 3; T/PET.3/L.9; T/COM.3/L.23 to 25)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Reisdorf, special representative for the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi under Belgian administration took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The examination of the present report on Ruanda-Urundi has given the Trusteeship Council the opportunity of conducting a broad examination of the situation and of eliciting from practically all delegations comments and remarks which will be seriously taken into consideration by my Government. I wish to thank the delegations for their statements which have brought to light the scope of the work being conducted by Belgium in Ruanda-Urundi. Quite naturally the attention of this Council centred this year on the announcement of the future reforms in the political field. In this connexion I should like to make the following statement on behalf of the Belgian Government.

The entire policy of Belgium had continuously been directed along the line of conduct which it set for itself, and which had subsequently been approved under the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreements, the trend of which was to favour and foster the progressive development of the populations of Ruanda-Urundi towards the ability to administer themselves or towards independence.

As was pointed out by the last Visiting Mission of the United Nations, the tempo of the adaptation of the traditional society of Ruanda-Urundi to the ideas and forms of modern democracy has accelerated itself, and the Territory has reached the point where deep-rooted reforms may be contemplated, which will enable it to go, from a regime which is still feudally infested, to more democratic institutions.

Through a statement made on 13 January 1959 by the Prime Minister, the Government indicated what were the reforms which it intended to introduce in the administration of the Belgian Congo. It indicated at that time that the Territories of Ruanda-Urundi had reached an important turning point in their evolution and that an increasing number of reforms adapted to these regions would be proposed. In order to make it possible to provide Ruanda-Urundi with institutions which would adapt themselves to the best advantage and to the aspirations of the population, a Working Group composed of eminent personalities, and well aware of the matter, have conducted an inquiry; this group has lived on the spot from 22 April to 6 May 1959, and has transmitted to the Belgian Government the results of its investigations. The Government will appraise the Belgian Parliament of this. The reform contemplated confirms the will of Belgium to lead the population of Ruanda-Urundi to the point where they will be able to decide freely upon their own destiny.

It is in this very same spirit that efforts are being made in order to disseminate ideas of public law, in order to define rules of efficient administration, in order to create a sense of responsibility, and to introduce all the essential standards for promoting the bases for a healthy democratic regime.

I shall leave it to the special representative to reply to the comments and observations which in the eyes of my delegation are proof of inadequate information or any errors in interpretation on the part of the authors of such questions. I shall, however, myself, come back to certain considerations which have been expressed by a few representatives in connexion with a question of general policy: the European Economic Union and its relations with the Trust Territory.

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

The measures with respect to the associated overseas territories agreed to by the signatories to the treaty instituting the European Economic Community have once more given rise to comments which were unfounded. The same suspicions which lack any justification or objective motivation oblige me to repeat what I already have had the opportunity of stating in the Council.

First of all, there is no fiscal union between Ruanda-Urundi and any other State or group of States, whatever they may be. Such a union does not exist even with the neighbouring Territory of the Belgian Congo, to which the Administering Authority has been given the right to bind Ruanda-Urundi physically and budgetarily under the very terms of the Trusteeship Agreement.

Secondly, Ruanda-Urundi is not a member of the European Economic Community and is not subject to any of the obligations contained in the treaty. The only effects of this treaty as regards that Territory are that the products which it exports will benefit from a lowering of the import tariffs in the metropolitan markets of the member States and that it has the possibility of having recourse to a fund supplied by the contributions of members for financing its economic and social investments.

Thirdly, the commercial currents for imports could not be affected by the provisions of the Rome Treaty because Ruanda-Urundi is subject to an open door customs regime. All goods, whatever their origin, are imported into the country on an equal footing. The Territory remains fully free to apply any customs duties for fiscal purposes or for protective reasons on any products or merchandise. It cannot, by virtue of the clauses of the Treaty of Saint Germain en Laye, establish any preferential treatment according to origin.

Fourthly, exports will continue as in the past to be directed quite freely towards the consuming markets offering the most advantageous prices. There has been in the past a large number of fluctuations in these markets and there will probably be similar fluctuations in the future. But the only element which will influence the movement of the exports is and will remain the interest of the producers of Ruanda-Urundi.

Fifthly, the local authorities and the representative organs of the population of Ruanda-Urundi are and will be consulted in respect of everything relating to the implementation within the Territory of mechanisms instituted by the Treaty, namely, in respect of everything concerning utilization of the investment funds, because there is no other obligation or implementation which would be entertained under the very terms of that Treaty.



(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

I do not wish to conclude my statement on these somewhat abstract juridical considerations. I would prefer to conclude by referring to a passage of very lofty value made by the representative of India, Ambassador Jha. He said:

"Man has other requirements than the one to eat and satisfy his hunger. The human spirit also need faith, a conviction or religion. A third fundamental need of human nature is freedom which, in its collective form, is expressed by a desire for independence."

In truth, we could not say it better, and the greatest good which the Belgian authority has brought to the people of Ruanda-Urundi is precisely freedom. It is an independence and a self determination which goes on growing in harmony with the development of knowledge and the sense of responsibility by the population. This work will be continued by the Administering Authority as long as necessary in order to give a solid foundation to the institutions which will make it possible for the inhabitants of the Territory to administer themselves in peace and freedom.

Mr. REISDORF (Special representative) (interpretation from French): The debate and the declarations which have been made here have dealt with practically all the important matters concerning the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi in the political field. Nevertheless, the fact that the Belgian delegation was not in a position to give any information to the Council about structural reforms which are about to be introduced in the Territory left a blank in our discussions. The representative of the United States pointed out that his delegation, before making any observations, would wait until the Belgian Government had read the report of the Working Party.

The representative of the United Arab Republic, in so far as he was concerned, analysed in an objective way, to which we must pay tribute, the different alternatives for reform which are capable of changing the domestic structure of the Territory, the legislative functions and of promoting the democratization of institutions. We can give full assurance to the representative of the United Arab Republic that the reforms which are now being studied are based on the exclusive interest of the Territory and will constitute a new step towards the attainment of the purposes of the Trusteeship System.

(Mr. Reisdorf, Special representative)

Belgium is carrying out in Ruanda-Urundi a long-range task which is adapted to the special traits and conditions of this Territory. The evolution of the past few years represents the finest proof of the orientation which the Administering Authority intends to give to its future policies. Moreover, we should like to assure the representative of the United Arab Republic that the relaxation of administrative links between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo and the closer connexion of the Territory to the Department are based on the concern of concentrating the attention of the Department on the special needs of the Territory and of bringing about a quicker liaison and a more satisfactory organization of services. But this does not represent any change in the policy because the policy has been well known and constant.

I should now like to consider several political matters which have been the subject of observations by several delegations. The establishment of a time-table for the accession of Ruanda-Urundi to self-government or independence was raised during final statements that were made. The representative of Belgium had confirmed beforehand the impossibility of laying down any date which would not be an arbitrary one and which would not place before the Administering Authority the alternative either of carrying out a very premature reform or of not being able to fulfil its obligations.

On the other hand, the Administering Authority will not fail to bring to the attention of the Council at the yearly examination of the situation in the Territory any information, whenever the opportunity arises, with regard to a specific date which will give the entry into effect of immediate or future reforms. Moreover, it seems important to us to draw the attention of the Council once more to the very special nature of Ruanda and Urundi, a fact which several delegations seem to be hesitant to accept. In the past, we pointed out that national feeling is being crystalized in Ruanda and Urundi around the State Councils and developing in a direction of separatism rather than integration.

(Mr. Reisdorf,  
Special representative)

The Administering Authority, which is aware that such a division would represent a very serious weakening of the potential of the Territory, particularly the day when the Belgian administration, which represents the truest link between both countries, will be eliminated, has multiplied its efforts so that Banyaruanda and Barundi may be able to attain what is in their common interest. If the Administering Authority can attain these objectives, form central organizations and institutions, encourage the formation of a middle class and the orientation of the new generation through common studies, it must take into account the current aspirations of the Banyaruanda and the Barundi.

Each country has virtually its own flag and its own national anthem, and the purposes which are aimed at will not be attained by the imposition on the part of the Administering Authority of a flag and a national anthem which will be common to all nationals of Ruanda-Urundi, because such a measure would not satisfy any true aspiration.

The same applies to the political status. The impossibility of creating for all the nationals of Ruanda-Urundi a single political status is made even greater by the particularism of Banyaruanda and Barundi than by social differences which the Administering Authority is gradually reducing. Several recommendations have been made in particular by the representative of Burma, whose fine statement has held the full attention of the Belgian delegation. The administration is normally fully in favour of universal suffrage for men and women, but the present state of society in Ruanda-Urundi does not make it possible, of course, to extend the vote to women, if we are to judge by the reactions of local opinion. But in this matter it is not possible to prejudge any conclusions of the report of the working group and the decision of the Belgian Government.

Nor can we share the opinion held by the representative of India when he characterized as rudimentary the existing political institutions in Ruanda-Urundi. These institutions in their successive improved forms have expressed the political and social growth of the country and have marked the important dates of their institution of history without any upsetting features. However, along with the representative of India, we feel that the political, social and economic

(Mr. Reisdorf, Special representative)

development cannot be separated because they are only different aspects of the very same progress along the road towards true freedom. The Administering Authority, which is desirous of maintaining this parallelism, is introducing reforms in each of these fields as soon as society shows itself ready to absorb them.

I shall not deal with other matters which are customarily discussed when we examine the political progress of the Territory. They are at the very heart of the present reforms which are now being studied, and at the present juncture I do not think they call for any special comment. Nevertheless, to close this matter, I should like to point out that several delegations regretted that a plan for Africanization of the central Administration has not been drawn up as yet. First of all, it might not be superfluous to point out certain figures. The central Administration includes at present 1,940 agents of whom 1,141 are Africans, 213 of whom are carrying out functions in the fourth category which formerly were reserved to Europeans. This mass promotion clearly shows that the objective which is being pursued by the Administration is to open up positions to all the indigenous people which their merit and their ability entitle them to have, and this rule applies to employment in the opening grades as well as to promotion of the staff which is there at present. The practical consequence, therefore, is that no position which an African is capable of filling is reserved to a European.

Moreover, in this field the Administration is opposed to any form of directionalism which would affect the employment of the Banyarunda and Barundi. We are encouraging the training of natives who have the proper education and diplomas, but we intend to respect the full cultural freedom of each in his choice of a career. When we speak of freedom, this naturally leads us to the regime which the Administering Authority intends to have respected in the field of commerce. This concept was criticized by several delegations which feel that the freedom of action which has been established by the Administering Authority as a fundamental principle has unfortunately played in favour of the Europeans in a country where Europeans and Africans possess unequal means. This is a poor approach to the matter. As a matter of fact, it is the European companies which created foreign trade and industry with their capital and their

(Mr. Reisdorf, Special representative)

technicians. The Africans thereafter benefited from the provisions which were thereby set up. No discrimination whatsoever is practised against Africans. On the contrary, very clearly defined measures protect their activities in the fields where it is useful and favourable to do so. But, generally speaking, the Administration does not feel that it must through a system of artificial protection bring about an outburst of local monopolies which would be reserved to Africans. This would be the poorest possible service which we could render to individuals who must sooner or later tackle foreign and outside competition. It is by assimilating the practices of free trade that the Africans will acquire experience and the savoir faire which will enable them to succeed to more and more important positions in the economic organization of their country.

Already, in basic trade, Africans hold preponderant positions, as well as in practically all of the commercial agricultural production, whereas the trade of non-Africans is diminishing in this field. In 1957 the number of commercial lots occupied by non-Africans amounted to 1,833, in 1958 it was 1,813; whereas the parcels and lots which are used by Africans in the trade and business centres increased from 1,483 in 1957 to 1,597 in 1958.

(Mr. Reisdorf, Special representative)

In all spheres of activity where Africans are showing interest and competence, the Administration is giving them its support. The activities of the special fund providing credits to Africans, the saving fund and the banking organizations were sufficiently referred to during the discussion. Reference was also made to the development of co-operative movements, which include agricultural co-operatives, consumer co-operatives and business and trade co-operatives.

With further reference to the field of economics, may I say that we intend to give additional information to the representative of India who is somewhat disturbed by the closing of certain tin mines which allegedly were operating satisfactorily in the past. The reason for its closing was precisely the fact that the operation was no longer satisfactory and profitable and could not be continued except with the help of subsidies coming from the community. The representative of India felt that the closing of these mines was not in keeping with the economic interests of the Territory. This is an obvious fact. But the reasons for it are the unfavourable prices for tin and other minerals, a situation which was in opposition to the economic and financial interests of Ruanda-Urundi.

But such a situation does not apply to Ruanda-Urundi alone and it gave rise to an intervention by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and by its Co-ordination Committee on International Agreements with reference to commodities. The machinery of this International Tin Agreement, which came into effect on 1 July 1956, is described in particular in document E/3118 of the Economic and Social Council, dated 25 May 1958.

In the field of social advancement, some delegations criticized restrictions which would still confine freedom of movement in Ruanda-Urundi. In point of fact the indigenous population is free to move about throughout all of Ruanda-Urundi and beyond Ruanda-Urundi after having carried out the necessary frontier formalities. They are free, in particular, to go to the extra-tribal centres, but a stay of over thirty days is subject to obtaining employment or to special authorization in the form of a passport which enables them to travel about the country and to leave their point of residence. Any



(Mr. Reisdorf, Special representative)

transfer gives rise to an administrative recognition or certificate for all inhabitants of Ruanda-Urundi. The formalities to which non-indigenous inhabitants must comply are the most consequential and logical.

Lastly, I should like to point out that the restrictions for a stay in the extra-tribal centres and the curfew in Usumbura are measures which exist as a result of the specific requests made by these indigenous councils.

Turning to the field of education, I should like to correct one figure which was quoted by the representative of Haiti -- and he made a very fine statement, I might add -- when he said that the special representative had agreed that at present more than 6,000 classrooms were necessary to satisfy current needs. I should like to assure the representative of Haiti that 6,033 elementary classrooms were already operating in Ruanda-Urundi in 1958. Having pointed this out, I have nothing further to add, in so far as education and public health are concerned, to what was already stated in the course of our discussion. I should like to thank UNESCO and WHO for their very useful reports, which will be taken into consideration by the Administration of the Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi.

Before taking leave of the Trusteeship Council, I should like to thank its President, its Vice-President, and all the representatives for the very kind words they spoke about me and for the courtesy which they showed me. I should like to also assure the personnel of the Secretariat, in particular the interpreters, of my gratitude.

Mr. Reisdorf, special representative, withdrew.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The statement which we have just heard concludes the general debate on the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi. The Council now has to designate the members of the Drafting Committee and I therefore propose the following members: United States of America, France, Haiti and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. If there are no objections, we shall consider that the members who have been proposed are acceptable to the Council.

It was so decided.

## AGENDA ITEMS 3e, 4 and 6

## EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(T/L.912) (continued)

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1958 (T/1453, 1470)
- (b) PETITIONS RAISING GENERAL QUESTIONS (T/PET.GEN/L.3; T/PET.10/L.3)
- (c) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO THE TRUST TERRITORIES OF NAURU, NEW GUINEA AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, 1959 (T/1447)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Nucker, special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under United States administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

General debate (continued)

Mr. EDMONDS (New Zealand): It is axiomatic that each Trust Territory is unique. But when considering the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, one is tempted to adapt a famous phrase and say that some territories are more unique than others.

It is, of course, the only strategic Trust Territory; that is it is unique in its formal status. It is also unparalleled in its physical characteristics. Merely to attempt to administer such a Territory, whose population of 71,000 lives in about seventy small remote island groups scattered over an ocean area of 3 million square miles, is to face highly complex and variegated problems. The Administering Authority, however, has to do more than merely administer; it has to develop, ab ovo, the polity and economy of an arbitrary and artificial agglomeration of isolated islands which, for all practical purposes, were first organized as an entity after the Second World War.

My delegation believes that the geographic uniqueness of the Territory can hardly be over-emphasized. Physically, it resembles nothing so much as minute specks of dust scattered haphazardly over a vast blue carpet. Until recently one speck often had no real awareness of the existence of the next. The world consisted of half a square mile of coral atoll, or a rather larger volcanic mountain isolated by, and sometimes almost a part of, the ever-present and seemingly boundless ocean. To administer such a Territory poses problems of transportation and communications which are as expensive as they are fundamentally insolvable. At least they have no economic solution.

(Mr. Edmonds, New Zealand)

The inhabitants of the Territory do not have a common language, culture or tradition. Although they have been given the label "Micronesian", the people of the tiny islands, for reasons mainly of academic convenience, the Micronesian nation is still in the process of formation. The people are slowly being guided towards an awareness of fellowship and the realization of common interests and loyalties. That is the high romance which lies behind the official statements and reports of the Administering Authority.

This process of growing into a nation must take a long time, and in what precise form the objectives of trusteeship may be achieved is still by no means clear. But it is clear that the Territory is making progress and that in the circumstances much of this progress has been gratifyingly rapid. It would be at present unprofitable to attempt seriously to forecast the future of this small, scattered Trust Territory. Its total land area of less than 700 square miles is only three-fifths the area of Western Samoa. Of this total area, only half is considered to be productive or potentially productive. Its population is already using half the potentially productive lands and while the statistics may not be conclusive, the population is increasing so rapidly that it will quite probably double in twenty years or so.

To what extent can the growing population be supported at an adequate standard of living from the Territory's own meagre resources, even if these are fully developed and exploited? This is a vital question which will one day confront the Administering Authority, the people of the Territory and this Council. My delegation, therefore, welcomes the statement of the Administering Authority that it should be soon possible to arrive at a more accurate population projection for the Territory. Such a projection would seem to be one prerequisite of any comprehensive long-term plan for the development of the Territory's resources of the sort recommended by the Visiting Mission. It is clearly desirable that there should soon be some fairly definite estimate of both the Territory's economic potential and the probable demands upon it, say, in ten or twenty years' time.

(Mr. Edmonds, New Zealand)

But while believing that the Administering Authority would be prudent to devote some thought to the long-term possibilities and problems of the Territory, we consider that such an approach should in no way defect energy or resources from the present policy of concentrating planning capacity on specific projects which will be of immediate benefit to the islanders individually and to the Territory as a whole. This policy has proved itself in practice.

The increase of more than 50 per cent in Micronesia's national income in the last few years, is evidence of that. Long-term planning is important, but it is certainly no more important than are the efforts being made to establish, for instance, a fisheries industry or the programme of homesteading which is calculated to meet successfully the real and immediate needs of those islanders who are already short of land. The present needs and immediate welfare of the people are rightly the first concerns of the Administering Authority.

At present the Territory is kept afloat financially by the direct subsidies of the Administering Authority in the sum of \$5,700,000 a year. That is more than three-quarters of the territorial budget or \$80 for every Micronesian man, woman or child. These indeed are generous grants. The Visiting Mission, however, suggests that even greater expenditure should be incurred, especially in the fields of economic development and education. That opinion should differ concerning the right level of subsidies is to be expected. So many factors, political and psychological, as well as economic and social, have to be taken into account.

It does appear to my delegation that, especially in the field of economic development, the Territory in the next few years will need more rather than less assistance, both financial and technical. Yet it is the Administering Authority which has the responsibility of gauging and keeping the delicate balance between granting the Territory ample funds for development, on the one hand, and, on the other, doing nothing to impair seriously the self-respect and self reliance of the islanders. Once these psychological and moral qualities are destroyed, what money can replace them, what future could the Territory have? As the representative of the United Kingdom suggested yesterday, there does appear to be a certain dilemma or at least a tension between what may be considered the ideal services and living standards which could be immediately

(Mr. Edmonds, New Zealand)

provided if enough money were expended and the best interest of the Micronesians themselves. It is clearly undesirable for money to be pumped into the Territory in such a way that the inhabitants find themselves enjoying social services and living standards dangerously out of proportion to the country's own economic potential. Some lack of proportion is, in the circumstances, inevitable, but this aspect of the matter should be carefully watched. Where the line should be drawn is a matter of judgement.

My delegation believes that the history and traditions of the United States justify our confidence that no one is better fitted to exercise that judgement than the Administering Authority. We believe that the Administering Authority will decide to place even greater emphasis on economic development and allied matters such as the improving of roads and transport services. The Administering Authority is in a position to assess accurately and with an adequate appreciation of all the relevant factors -- many of which are not economic -- the optimum rate of economic growth for the Territory. It is the capacity of the Territory and its people, not the wealth or willingness of the Administering Authority, which is the key factor.

The Administering Authority is to be commended for the work being done to experiment with and introduce new export crops. It is to be hoped that success crowns its efforts to find a market for possible banana exports, as agriculture is likely to remain the basis of the Territory's economy, the development of agricultural education is essential.

The implementation of the fisheries project is highly commendable, and we are confident that every possibility of establishing or expanding secondary industries such as handicrafts or the local manufacture of ready-made clothes, recommended by the Visiting Mission, will be fully investigated by the Administering Authority.

My delegation welcomes the statement of the special representative concerning the beginning of one credit society and the Administration's intention of encouraging the establishment of others. Such societies, by providing both savings and loan facilities, may prove of great importance in the small scattered communities of the Territory, especially as banking services are lacking.

(Mr. Edmonds. New Zealand)

As members of the Council know, three disastrous typhoons last year seriously set back the economy of the Territory, as well as destroying houses and food supplies and rendering homeless hundreds of islanders. The United States Government and the Territorial Administration deserve the commendation of this Council for the way in which they have so ably and unselfishly gone to the aid of the people of the affected areas. Such speedy, sympathetic and tireless efforts to relieve suffering and rehabilitate the distressed areas are true to the humane traditions of the people of the United States and will, we are sure, be greatly appreciated by all the inhabitants of the Territory, making even more cordial the close and friendly relations which the Mission reports already exist between Americans and Micronesians.

The same spirit has inspired the Administering Authority in its treatment of those islanders who were displaced as a result of nuclear experiments. It is to be hoped that as time passes and medical and scientific examinations become less frequent, the unfortunate people of Rongelap will be able to resolve their emotional and psychological problems and adjust themselves to normal life. The Administering Authority, we are confident, will do everything in its power to accelerate this process.



(Mr. Edmonds, New Zealand)

Political planning in the Territory is directed towards the encouragement of a territorial consciousness and the development of a territorial legislature. But first villages had to be organized into informal and then formal municipalities, next groups of municipalities covering several islands were organized into Districts, and the progress made at both the municipal and District level is most reassuring. It is to be hoped that Saipan and Yap Districts soon agree to set up district congresses. The adoption by the new Ponape District Congress and the reconstituted Marshalls Islands Congress of a unicameral basis indicates the growing adaptability of island customs to the new political institutions which have been introduced over the last few years by the Administering Authority.

Some success has also been achieved in reducing to order the rather chaotic diversity of regulations governing elections, the registration of voters and other electoral procedures connected with these District and municipal bodies. It was the very complexity of these procedures which facilitated the establishment of municipalities and District Congresses, but now that these bodies are firmly established the trend is rightly towards greater uniformity. The systematization of those regulations and, when it is possible, of taxation legislation should do something to assist in the long process of developing that territorial consciousness and sentiment of unity which we all agree is desirable.

The work of the Inter-District Advisory Committee is of even greater importance in attaining that end. My delegation notes with approval that the question of moving the Territorial headquarters from Guam to somewhere in the Territory itself will be discussed with the Committee in October. At the same time, my delegation believes that good and efficient administration for a Territory such as this is so very essential and so very difficult to achieve that it should not be lightly risked for the sake of moving the headquarters to somewhere in the Territory itself. We shall be interested to hear what the Inter-District Advisory Committee thinks on this subject.

We welcome the statement that it is expected that this Committee will eventually grow into or form the basis of the future territorial legislature. We also welcome the information that a simple book on the Territory is now being prepared, as the 1956 Visiting Mission recommended. It is to be hoped

(Mr. Edmonds, New Zealand)

that this book will also help to bring together the hearts, minds and aspirations of the inhabitants of Micronesia. We are also pleased to hear that the Organic Act for the Territory may be before Congress next year. The Administration's policy of placing emphasis on the encouragement of local and District bodies, and of gradually building up democratic institutions from the taro roots -- since the representative of the United Kingdom has suggested that the term "grass roots" would be botanically inappropriate -- has proved to be realistic and sometimes quite amazingly successful. We hope the Council will congratulate the Administering Authority for its efforts in this field.

Members of the Council are aware of the reason why Saipan District is under the administration of the United States Navy. We have heard with interest the special representative's statement that there is every possibility that in the near future Rota, Saipan and Tinian will be under one administration. My delegation sympathizes with the Visiting Mission's view that with due regard to whatever arrangements are made to reunite Saipan and Rota, all districts of the Territory should, as far as practicable, share common services and common administrative arrangements. How far this is practicable can be determined only by the Administering Authority, but the Mission has made suggestions concerning the Copra Stabilization Fund and the Micronesian Title and Pay Plan. The practicability of appointing the Chief Justice of the Trust Territory Chief Justice in Saipan might also be investigated.

The Administration has drawn up fairly comprehensive plans for the replacement of American public servants by Micronesians. The progress being made at present seems to be most satisfactory and it is to be hoped that it continues. My delegation was especially pleased to learn that there will shortly be implemented a training programme intended to result in the eventual employment of Micronesians on a permanent basis at the Territory's headquarters. We are confident that every assistance will be given to Micronesians suitable for training for the higher administrative posts and to acquire full professional qualifications. A Micronesian public service should do much to assist in the creation of a Micronesian nation and a Micronesian State.

(Mr. Edmonds, New Zealand)

My delegation does not wish to speak at length on social development, but the preparation of a book on the many and various traditional systems of land tenure is of considerable interest and importance, and no doubt all members of the Council will look forward to consulting this work in the United Nations library. The promotion of Micronesian medical practitioners to the responsible posts of District Directors of Health indicates the Administering Authority's faith in the ability and competence of those offices. It should also be noted that supervision by fully qualified overseas doctors will continue until such time as fully qualified Micronesian doctors are available, and that steps are being taken to enable Micronesians to become fully qualified. The Administering Authority should be commended for the effort it has made and is making to train more medical practitioners and to provide further training for those already in service.

It is to be hoped that the question of replacing the medical field trip vessel, and perhaps even of increasing the number of such vessels, will receive prompt and sympathetic consideration. The Administering Authority's efforts to combat tuberculosis are apparently meeting with substantial if not outstanding success. With regard to dysentery and the control of flies, I should like to assure the special representative that my Government would welcome any inquiries he might make concerning the possibilities of obtaining fly-catching and dung-eating beetles from Western Samoa. For the sake of accuracy I should perhaps mention that those beetles were themselves introduced into Samoa originally, I think, from South-East Asia.

Providing adequate medical services for such a sparsely inhabited and widely scattered Territory poses many technical and administrative problems, each of which must be fantastically expensive to solve when compared with the smallness of the population of each island. This applies equally to the problems associated with the education of the people, especially when the textbooks for elementary schools have to be published in nine indigenous languages and more advanced books in English as well. That the system bears fruit in spite of all difficulties is shown by its ability to produce an alumnus like Mr. Henry, whom members of the Council have had the pleasure of meeting.

(Mr. Edmonds, New Zealand)

The movement of the Pacific Islands Central School to new and well-equipped quarters on Ponape is most welcome. The Administering Authority apparently fully shares the opinion of the Visiting Mission concerning the importance of this school and plans to expand and develop it. This policy the Council will no doubt wish to endorse. The Administering Authority should be both commended for and encouraged in its announced policy of increasing facilities for vocational and agricultural education, as well as its decision to grant a greater number of scholarships for four years rather than for two. The generous policy of the United States with regard to scholarships merits an expression of especially warm appreciation. We would suggest that the Administering Authority should be unremitting in continuing its efforts to work towards a uniform system of education despite the great difficulties of finance, language, geography and the many divergent cultures. This is a Herculean task which may not be completed for a generation, but gradually to work towards such a system will undoubtedly contribute to the growth of Territorial awareness as well as to the development of a more adequate educational service.

(Mr. Edmonds, New Zealand)

The educational system must grow and improve, and an expanding and improving system means greater costs. In the case of this Territory, it would seem too much to expect this additional cost to be met fully from local sources; the Administering Authority will have to bear a share. It can be expected to do so willingly. It can also be expected to supply the necessary impetus towards improvement and expansion which an educational system tied too closely to such limited local finances could hardly acquire.

Before I conclude, I should like to thank the Visiting Mission and its secretariat for its informative, practical and positive report. My delegation has found it most helpful. The paper submitted by the World Health Organization has also been of great assistance. I should like also to thank the special representative, Mr. Nucker, for the patience, courtesy and care with which he has answered my many questions. He has been most co-operative and well-informed. My delegation also greatly appreciated the statement made by Mr. Bethwel Henry, to whom we extend our thanks and our best wishes. If I may attempt a phrase used by one branch of Mr. Henry's Polynesian cousins, I shall say: "Malié le tulafale", which means, "Well done, O orator."

I should like also to thank the representative of the United States for his contributions to our discussions. Mr. Sears is a modest man of few words, but his honesty, integrity and deep sympathy for the aspirations of the people of Trust Territories and other dependent territories is manifest and recognized by us all. My delegation is convinced that, no matter what the future holds for the people of Micronesia, they could have found no better guide or truer friend than the nation which Mr. Sears represents.

We also believe that, when future histories are written of that great nation whose 183rd birthday is commemorated tomorrow, the story of America's administration of Micronesia should form a lustrous page. Left to themselves, the islanders could exist in ignorance and isolation with an economy at a bare subsistence level. Under the administration of the United States they are growing in health, in prosperity and in happiness and are acquiring that sense of relationship to and responsibility for those people, once complete strangers, who live beyond the reef that encircles each tiny island. Such a process cannot be

(Mr. Edmonds, New Zealand)

rushed if its results are to be secure. But the Government and people of the United States are not inexperienced in the great work of building nations and in the difficult art of adapting free and democratic institutions to such changing conditions and varying cultures. They know it is a work of which they can be proud.

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) (interpretation from French): The very name "Pacific Islands" evokes in us, who are inhabitants of continental masses, a reflex of curiosity and nostalgia. In fact, these islands do not disappoint those who, as I had, have the opportunity of visiting them. Their great beauty and, even more, the amiability of their inhabitants, their charming hospitality and their true refinement in the very complex art of human relations cannot fail to make a very vivid impression, adding to the grandiose charm of the ocean and the coral atolls around the islands which on maps are only little dots strewn haphazardly over the wide ocean.

No Trust Territory resembles any other. That is a truth which has been repeated on many occasions, and it is particularly true of the Pacific Islands. However, we around this table are holding discussions on the basis of an immutable and abstract structure which is a reflection of the eminent persons who met in San Francisco in 1945 with the ambition of remedying the ills of the world. As a matter of fact, this scheme of theirs is not a bad one, provided that it is possible to take things in stride and to adjust universal principles to realities, because the ambitions and wishes of men are always comparable but at all times and places they must be in balance with factual circumstances and practical possibilities.

Much has been said, in the course of our debates, of the political and economic independence of the Territory. If we take the Territory as a whole, these concepts have not very much meaning and lack realism. Imagine Micronesia as an isolated entity which had to draw from within itself the means of establishing a political structure which would unify its various parts and which had to create on the basis of its own resources an economy which would make it possible for its own inhabitants to attain a better living standard -- all that is pure illusion. No matter where they may be, 70,000 or 100,000 inhabitants spread over an immense area of our planet could not, left to their own resources, offer even a satisfactory



(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

postal service. As a matter of fact, this situation is not one that would give rise to any concern or would be offensive to the Micronesians in any way. We are coming more and more into a phase where interdependence is the rule, where we find movements towards the pooling of resources, towards the study, within an ever broadening geographical framework, of the means of satisfying the needs that arise.

After this general introduction, I should like briefly to give the views of my delegation on some of the aspects of the existing situation.

On the political level, the development of democratic institutions is in constant progress. The traditions of the Administering Authority are well known and guarantee continuous development in the future. The granting of statutes or charters to twenty municipalities from 1 July 1958 is a remarkable realization and worthy of praise. It is very appropriate that the Administering Authority should concentrate its efforts on the establishment of these local government bodies, this being the only basis for a democratic form of government rooted in the people, particularly in a country which is as fragmented by nature as Micronesia.

The only suggestion that I might allow myself to make is to hope that the Administering Authority, which deals with considerable efficiency with the imparting to the people the principles of operation and the procedure of democratic institutions, might couple its educational work with equally energetic activity devoted to the introduction, through these institutions, of programmes of community development. I know that very many officials devote themselves to that, and I have admired the enthusiasm of many of them. I do not doubt that the Administering Authority will know how to inspire the activities of its officials and of the local government agencies in the conduct of their work in respect of these political and practical programmes.

The economic programme of the Administration is a healthy and reasonable one. I was struck, as all the members of the Visiting Mission were, I think, by the scope, which is difficult to visualize, of the damage caused by typhoons in the Jaluit atoll and in some of the neighbouring islands, and also by the efficiency of the emergency measures which were promptly adopted by the authorities. I have equally admired the vital and calm energy of the Marshall Islanders, who imperturbably came back to rebuild their destroyed houses and replant their plantations destroyed by the typhoon.

I should like to say a word in connection with the remark in the Visiting Mission's report to the effect that the (economic) development programmes might have more generous financing on the part of the Administering Authority, in the field of studies as well as in that of actual implementation.

(Mr. Claeys Bouuaert, Belgium)

This comment is not intended to cast any blame on what was done, and what is being done; far from it. But it appears to me that the relatively slow evolution might in certain instances be carried out with more massive means, and this would make it possible to achieve a break-through in the economic front which is still somewhat stagnant; this seems to be wished for by some of the indigenous inhabitants themselves. I do not have any intention at all of casting doubt on the judgement of the Administering Authority which has the sole responsibility; to do so would be very bold on my part, particularly after what I have seen when I was in the Territory. Also, I do not challenge the statement of the special representative to the effect that the present needs of the Territory are being suitably met.

I shall not dwell at any great length upon an analysis of the situation since I had the opportunity of visiting the Territory, and since the majority of my comments have already been incorporated in the report of the Visiting Mission. Very much could be said to the credit of the Administering Authority in many fields. I hope that the road network will be attended to on a continuous basis, because I am convinced that this would definitely benefit the vast majority of the population.

The fisheries development programme has acquired a promising impetus, and the plan which the special representative mentioned in his opening statement is both prudent and reasonable at the level of the aptitudes of the Micronesians who, in accordance with the invariable line of conduct of the Administration, must themselves be at the head of their own enterprises.

I should like to conclude this brief statement by thanking warmly the High Commissioner, Mr. Nucker, not only for his participation in our debates, but also for the generous hospitality which he and Mrs. Nucker -- and I have had the opportunity of welcoming her among us -- extended to us only five months ago in the beautiful Territory which he administers with admirable competence and wisdom.

I should also like to extend my thanks to Mr. Henry, whose statements were very useful to our Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): It seems to me that there are no other representatives ready to speak this morning.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.



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Trusteeship Council  
24th Session, 33rd Meeting (AM)

Press Release TR/1516  
3 July 1959

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 1

JUL 7 - 1959

The Trusteeship Council this morning is scheduled first to hear the closing statements of the representative and special representative of the administering authority on Ruanda-Urundi, administered by Belgium. Statements by other members of the Council in the debate on this territory were concluded earlier this week.

The Council is then expected to continue the general debate on conditions in the Pacific Islands administered by the United States. The debate on this territory was begun yesterday.

The President, MAX H. DORSINVILLE (Haiti), first gave the floor to the representative of Belgium to make his closing statement.

ALFRED CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said that his government would "seriously take into consideration" the remarks made by Council members during the general debate on conditions in Ruanda-Urundi.

He declared that the administering authority had continuously sought to further the ability of the peoples in the trust territory to **govern** : themselves or to become independent.

A stage had been reached where Ruanda-Urundi seemed ready for important reforms, he continued. Therefore, a study group of Belgian officials had surveyed the situation to recommend reforms. The proposals which would soon be made by this group would be submitted by his government to the Belgian Parliament.

The representative of Belgium then noted that certain "unjustified" comments in the debate, particularly on the effects of the European Economic Community on the trust territory, had reflected "suspicions." He wanted, therefore, to again emphasize the following:

-- There was no fiscal union between Ruanda-Urundi and any other state or group of states, not even between Ruanda-Urundi and the Belgian Congo, he declared,

-- The trust territory was not a member of the European Economic Community, nor was it subjected to any obligations provided for by the Rome Treaty which had established that community;

-- The only effect of the Rome Treaty on the trust territory was that the

(more)

exports of Ruanda-Urundi benefited from lower tariffs in all country members of EEC and that the trust territory could benefit from the development fund established by the members of the EEC;

-- Ruanda-Urundi, as a trust territory, was governed by an "open door policy" and its imports, regardless of source, treated on an equal basis. Customs duties to protect domestic industry could be leveled on all merchandise and no preferential customs duties could be applied;

-- The only element of the Rome Treaty which would affect the movement of exports would be in the interests of Ruanda-Urundi;

-- The territory's local authorities would be consulted on the utilization of funds for investment in Ruanda-Urundi deriving from the EEC's development fund.

In conclusion, the representative of Belgium gave assurances that the administering authority would conduct its work in the interests of the peoples of the trust territory as long as necessary so as to provide a sound foundation for the people to govern themselves in peace and freedom.

(END OF TAKE 1)



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TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 2

The Council then heard the administering authority's special representative for Ruanda-Urundi, Ivan Reisdorff.

Mr. REISDORFF, replying to various points made by Council members during the general debate on the territory, assured the representative of the United Arab Republic that the reforms for the territory, now being studied, were based on the "exclusive interests" of the territory. Those reforms, he said, constituted a "new step" toward the attainment of the purposes of the trusteeship.

Belgium, he declared, was carrying out in Ruanda-Urundi a long-range task adapted to the needs and circumstances of the territory.

Several members, the special representative went on, had referred to the question of setting a time-table for self-government or independence. The representative of Belgium, he recalled, had pointed to the "impossibility" of laying down dates which would not be "arbitrary" in nature and which might place the administering authority in a position of having to carry out reforms "prematurely" and hinder the carrying out of its obligations under the Charter.

The administering authority, Mr. REISDORFF said, would not fail to bring to the attention of the Trusteeship Council any specific date concerning the entry into force of any future reforms.

Several delegates, he thought, seemed to have been hesitant to accept the "very special nature" of Ruanda-Urundi. In the past, he recalled, the administering authority had pointed out that national feelings in the two states centered around the councils, and was developing toward separation rather than integration.

The administering authority, he said, considered that such development toward separation would necessarily weaken the potential of the territory as a whole. It had accordingly multiplied its efforts to promote the development of common interests between the two states. It had encouraged the development of common institutions and the growth of a middle class. However, it must take into account the wishes of the people themselves, he said.

(END OF TAKE 2)



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TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 3

Replying to other points raised in the debate, Mr. REISDORFF, the special representative, explained that the administration favored universal suffrage for men and women. However, the stage had not yet been reached for extension of suffrage to women. The people were not ready to accept it, he said.

Mr. REISDORFF added that these views should not in any way prejudice any conclusion which the working party might reach on the matter, or the decision of the Belgian Government.

Mr. REISDORFF assured the Council that the administering authority was doing everything possible to encourage African participation in various aspects of the territory's economic life.

He also explained that Africans were free to move throughout the territory and beyond its borders after fulfilling the necessary frontier formalities. The restrictions which still applied for extended stay in "extra-customary centers" and the night curfew in Usumbura, he said, existed because of the specific requests of the local councils.

On education and public health, he thanked UNESCO and the World Health Organization for their "useful observations," which, he said, would be taken into consideration by the administration.

The PRESIDENT said the debate on Ruanda-Urundi was concluded. On his proposal, the Council established a drafting committee, composed of France, Haiti, USSR and United States, to prepare a report on the territory in the light of the general debate.

The Council then resumed general debate on conditions in the trust territory of the Pacific Islands administered by the United States.

P.K. EDMONDS (New Zealand) said that it would naturally take time before a sense of national unity could be developed in the widely scattered islands which had only a total land area of some 700 square miles.

The population, he noted, was increasing rapidly and, in his delegation's view, an estimate of the territory's economic potential and a projection of demands in the next 10-15 years should be undertaken.

(END OF TAKE 3)



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TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 4

Continuing his statement on the Pacific Islands trust territory, Mr. EDMONDS (New Zealand) said his government believed that "more, rather than less," assistance by the administering authority would be needed in the future.

However, he said, it was up to the administering authority "to guard the delicate balance" required; clearly, it would be undesirable to pump money into the territory in a way that would result in a standard of living for the people out of proportion to the economic potentials of the country.

In his delegation's view, the United States could be trusted to assess the accuracy of any optimum rate of economic growth for the territory. The capacity of the people and wealth of the territory, not the willingness of the administering authority, must be the determining factor.

The representative of New Zealand then praised the "tireless efforts" of the administration in alleviating the hardships caused by the recent typhoons.

He then went on to comment on various issues of political and social organization, and suggested, among other things, that continuing efforts be made to secure a more uniform system of education. This, he commented, was "a Herculean task," which might well take a generation to accomplish. But, he added, it was only through uniformity in education for all the peoples in the diverse and widely scattered islands that their awareness of a common national future could be brought about.

(END OF TAKE 4)





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TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL -- TAKE 5

Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium), the next speaker, recalled that much had been said in the Council about political and economic independence for the territory. If the territory was taken as a whole, he felt that these concepts were rather "illusory" and lacked "realism."

The territory, he observed, had a total of only 70,000 inhabitants living on islands scattered over a wide ocean area. Left to their own resources, they would have difficulties, for example, in operating territory-wide services.

Steady progress, he declared, had been made in the development of political institutions, and the record of the administering authority was a guarantee of continued future progress. He believed the administering authority was right in concentrating present efforts on the development of institutions at the local level.

The only suggestion he would make in this field, he said, was that, in teaching the population the principles and procedures of democratic government, the administering authority should also consider the introduction of community programs to supplement the present educational effort.

The economic program, the Belgian representative said, was a healthy and a reasonable one. As a member of the visiting mission to the territory, he was particularly struck by the scope of the damage done by typhoons and by the efficiency of the emergency measures immediately taken by the administering authority. He was equally impressed by the qualities of the Micronesians in rebuilding their devastated islands.

The visiting mission, he observed, had felt that the administering authority might give more generous financing to the economic programs. This suggestion, he explained, was put forward in the hope that an extra effort might be made to effect a "breakthrough" on the economic front to speed-up the present rather slow pace of development.

The debate on the Pacific Islands will be continued by the Council on Tuesday, 7 July, at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

(END OF TAKE 5 AND OF PRESS RELEASE TR/1516.)