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Nauru  
Statement of the representative of Belgium  
2. Programme of work  
3. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Nauru:  
Annual report of the Administering Authority [3c]  
Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission  
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Twentieth-ninth Session  
VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ELEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHTH MEETING  
Held at Headquarters, New York,  
Monday, 2 July 1962, at 10.30 a.m.

Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America)

- Statement by the representative of Belgium
- 2. Programme of work
- 3. Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Nauru:
  - (a) Annual report of the Administering Authority [3c]
  - (b) Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of Nauru [5a]

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.1188 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

## STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF BELGIUM

The PRESIDENT: The first thing we wish to do with regard to our agenda this morning is to take note of two facts, one happy and one sad.

Yesterday the new States of Rwanda and Burundi appeared on the international scene as free and independent States and, as the President of the Trusteeship Council, it is my duty and honour to take note of that fact and to express the pleasure of the Council. I sent telegrams to the respective Heads of Government, to President Kayibanda and to Mwami Mwambutsa IV, on the occasion. I shall read the telegrams, which were identical, in French, as they were sent.

"I am happy to address to Your Excellency as well as to the Government and people of Rwanda, heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for prosperity and happiness on the occasion of the accession of Rwanda to independence.

"Since 1947 the Trusteeship Council has attentively and sympathetically followed the progress of your country and is happy that Rwanda now, in turn, takes its place among the independent countries of Africa." The same telegram was sent to Mwami Mwambutsa IV of Burundi, with, of course, the appropriate changes.

The sad fact of which we have to take note today is that we must bid farewell to a colleague who has personally represented her country in this Council for a number of years and whom we will all miss very much.

Mrs. TENZER (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor on a point which is not, properly speaking, on our agenda, and I also thank you for giving the floor to one who is practically a ghost among you. But do not be alarmed; this ghost is not a facetious one and not one who intends to play a bad joke on you. It is an indulgent ghost who will always retain a great feeling of nostalgia for the years spent among you.

Since yesterday, Belgium, with a great feeling of pride, is no longer an Administering Authority within the terms of the Charter. Yesterday Rwanda and Burundi celebrated their accession to independence. Thus Belgium, having brought these territories, which it had voluntarily placed under the international Trusteeship System, to the basic goals of this system as set forth in the Charter, is no longer an Administering Authority and has no right any longer to be seated in the Trusteeship Council.

On this occasion I wish to say that during the four years I have spent in this Council I have come to understand that this body of the United Nations performs and will continue to perform a function which no other body of the United Nations can do. What particularly struck me in the declarations of what some have been pleased to call a club, was the open-mindedness, the true search for solutions that serve the best interests of the populations concerned, which animated and will continue to animate, I feel sure, the work of this Council. The deliberations which took place here through the years, specifically those concerning Ruanda-Urundi, have been of great assistance to the Administering Authority in the fulfilment of its obligations towards that Territory.

(Mrs. Tenzer, Belgium)

While I leave the Security Council feeling, as the representative of Belgium, that my country has performed the duty expected of it, personally, in leaving these precincts, I do so with a certain feeling of nostalgia. I have found here a friendly spirit and I have also found, with respect to myself who have been so unequal to the problems discussed, a great deal of indulgence, understanding and friendship. In saying this I am not thinking only of all you sitting about this table today, but also of all those who have preceded you in the Trusteeship Council, representing the States who were previously members. I shall not name them, for I fear that in doing so I might overlook one or two that are equally dear to me. I wish to thank all of you.

I wish also to address a few words to the Secretariat, for without the knowledge, and dedication of the Secretariat the work of the Trusteeship Council could not have been what it is and could not have contributed all that it has.

Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom): It came as something as a surprise to us that we had to face this morning the loss of one of the most distinguished representatives here in the Trusteeship Council. This, however, was inevitable because of the happy occasions which were celebrated yesterday.

I would like merely to say that the distinguished representative of Belgium has brought to our deliberations both a balance and a beauty which they otherwise sometimes lack. We shall sadly miss her. I almost congratulated her on her happy release from duties which have never been easy and have not always been pleasant, but it was good to hear her say to us today that she was sad to leave us. I am sure she spoke sincerely when she said that. They say that no one who has served on the Fourth Committee is ever the same again, and I can imagine that whatever promotion to higher rank may await her -- and we wish her every good fortune in the future -- she will not forget the tumultuous times that we have spent together in the Fourth Committee and the more dignified but often difficult circumstances which we have faced together here in the Trusteeship Council.

I think it is particularly appropriate that she should speak to us as she has spoken today, following the two occasions which were celebrated yesterday. After the hard weeks of discussions which have taken place on Ruanda-Urundi, she must feel a sense of achievement as she leaves us. The occasion towards which we were working over recent weeks has been achieved, and I shall always remember the comment made by one African representative, during the plenary session last week, when he said that, owing to the activities of the distinguished Foreign Minister of Belgium and those who worked with him and supported him, Belgium has brought its colonial responsibilities to an end with flying colours.

I speak, I am sure, for others when I say that we are extremely sad that the distinguished representative will no longer be sitting with us in this Council. We are happy that she leaves with that sense of accomplishment

Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): I do not think that I can add anything to what has been said by the representative of the United Kingdom and by yourself, Mr. President. Obviously, this is a moment of both joy and sadness for this Council: joy because of the independence of the two new States which were under a mandate for many years and whose problems have been discussed intensively both here and in the Fourth Committee. Possibly this may be the last year that Bolivia will be represented in the Council, but, despite this, you will recall, Mr. President, that I hesitated to accept the Vice-Presidency because it meant that I would be removed from the side of the colleague with whom I have worked for so many years.

I think that the President has expressed our feelings towards our colleague as to her humanitarian sentiments and her sensitivity, as well as her able representation of all the grace of her country. She has been a most distinguished representative of Belgium.

Mr. KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET (France) (interpretation from French): I would simply wish to repeat in French what you, Mr. President, and Sir Hugh Foot have said in English and what Mr. Salamanca has said in Spanish.

We are today hailing the accession to independence of two new States formerly administered by Belgium, our neighbour, ally and friend. And now Belgium leaves the Trusteeship Council with honour. At the same time I must also express a deep regret. I believe that the emotion of the representative of Belgium was not feigned as she spoke of the nostalgia that she will feel for the work of the Council. I hope that she will have a happy memory of the Trusteeship Council and that she will think of us from time to time.

Our family is becoming smaller and smaller, and the departure of the representative of Belgium means a further crippling and also the breaking of the famous parity of the Trusteeship Council. As an Administering Authority, Belgium does not have the privilege of passing from one category to another, as was the case with France. This is all the more reason for expressing our deep regret in saying farewell to Mrs. Tenzer.



Mr. KIANG (China): First of all, I wish to associate myself with what has been said by other representatives as to the departure of my colleague on my left. I really do not know what to say since, although the Council is to be congratulated on the work which it has done in the process of self-determination of two States, at the same time we feel sad indeed that one of our most able colleagues is leaving us at a time when we need so badly the particular touch which has been provided by Mrs. Tenzer during the time she has represented her country in the Council.

Nevertheless, I am sure that, although Mrs. Tenzer is leaving the Council, we shall continue to see her in the United Nations, and I hope she will continue to give us her counsel in the questions with which all of us are deeply concerned.

May I, in conclusion, extend my best wishes to Mrs. Tenzer and express the hope that our close co-operation with the Belgian delegation will continue.

Mr. NOYES (United States of America): The United States delegation would like to associate itself with the remarks that have been made on this occasion. It is with both pleasure and regret that we mark the withdrawal of Belgium from the Trusteeship Council. It is with pleasure because it marks the bringing to independence of another Trust Territory; it is with regret because the Council will no longer benefit from the assistance and valuable contribution of the delegation of Belgium, including, particularly, the representative who is with us today.

Just yesterday, Rwanda and Burundi, in achieving their independence, closed another chapter in the history in the work of this Council. The United States, like other members of the Council, has a particular interest in the future of these two countries and we hope that, on the basis of their own sovereignty, the future will bring a new and fruitful relationship between Rwanda and Burundi, the United Nations and Belgium, a relationship which will go a long way towards helping two new nations to overcome the challenging and difficult problems which they will face in the process of strengthening and fully realizing their independence.

For our part, we should like to express our appreciation to the representative of Belgium, the Belgian Government and the Belgian people, not only for the role which they have played in bringing Rwanda and Burundi to independence, but for the contribution which they have made to the deliberations of this Council.

Mr. HCOD (Australia): It is entirely proper that the Council should take note, as you have done, Mr. President, of one further event in the history of trusteeship under the Charter. It is also sad, but inevitable, that this further stage reached means the departure from this Council of one of its most valued members.

Some of us have been here, perhaps, longer than others. I can, myself, remember a long succession of representatives of Belgium in this Council and recollect very well the valuable and unstinted co-operation which they have given to the work of the Council. None of us, I think, has served his or her Government better than the representative who is now leaving us, and she has done so both with tact and, if I may say so, with welcome wit from time to time. I would join with others here in expressing the utmost good wishes for her future and add my voice to those who regret and, at the same time, feel gratification that events have made this necessary.



(Mr. Hood, Australia)

We have welcomed in another place and wish to do so here again today the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in respect of Belgium. The obligations of that Agreement have been faithfully and well discharged by Belgium. It is right that we should give proper acknowledgement -- and you have done this, Mr. President -- to the efforts of Belgium and that we should express the hope that the kind of co-operation which will be necessary for these two new territories will continue and will bear fruit.

Mr. CORNER (New Zealand): So many others have spoken so gracefully on this occasion that there is little that I can add; nor am I entitled to add much since, as a newcomer to the Council, I know of the work of the Belgian representative only by reports -- but those reports over the years have been so enthusiastic that I feel that I may add my personal tribute to Mrs. Tenzer.

The representative of Belgium and her country must be feeling a certain sense of liberation as they discharge their final responsibilities and take leave of the Trusteeship Council. In a way, it is strange that one should feel this sense of liberation. New Zealand remains an administering member of the Council in a kind of state of purgatory as a result of its tenuous association with one remaining territory. But we felt this same sense of liberation last year when Western Samoa achieved the aim of the Trusteeship System. The sense of liberation comes partly from the feeling that the whole aim of the trust has been achieved and that the people at last are standing on their own feet as they should do; but it also comes from the regrettable fact that a kind of taint has become attached to any country which is still administering even a Trust Territory. There is a sense of liberation not only in accomplishing the aim of the trust but also in being freed from this taint so that one can take an even fuller part in the general work of the United Nations.

I must say that it is probably the great aim of all Administering Powers, both of Trust Territories and of colonies, to have this entire process of decolonization completed so that they, and the whole United Nations, can at last turn their efforts to the many other problems and injustices which will still remain in the world after this process has been completed.

(Mr. Corner, New Zealand)

At this stage I wish only to congratulate Belgium on its achievement and to say how much we shall miss that country and its representative in this body as it completes the small amount of work remaining to it and how much we look forward to co-operation with this liberated Belgium in the other proceedings in the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT: I think that it is unnecessary for me to attempt to give a consensus of what has been stated here this morning. I should therefore merely like on behalf of the Council to say "Goodbye" officially, but not in any other sense, to the distinguished and charming representative of Belgium.

Mrs. Tenzer (Belgium) withdraw.

#### PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: The report of the Drafting Committee on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands will be available tomorrow.

This morning we expect to hear the introduction of the report of the Visiting Mission on Nauru and the opening statement of the Administering Authority, after which we can proceed with the questioning and general debate.

There will be a meeting of the Council this afternoon but, because of conflicting engagements, there will be no meeting tomorrow morning. We hope to be able to complete the questioning on Nauru today and proceed tomorrow afternoon with the statements on that Territory. After that and before taking up conditions in New Guinea, we shall turn to the report of the Drafting Committee on the Pacific Islands and other matters still pending in that regard.

## AGENDA ITEMS 3c AND 5a

## EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF NAURU

- (a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (T/1589; T/L.1039)
- (b) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO THE TRUST TERRITORY OF NAURU, 1962 (T/1595 and Add.1)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. McCarthy, Special Representative for Nauru under Australian administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

The PRESIDENT: We wish once again to welcome Mr. McCarthy to the deliberations of this Council. We are very happy to have him with us again.

I now call on Sir Hugh Foot, Chairman of the Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of Nauru, to introduce the Visiting Mission's report.

Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom)(Chairman, Visiting Mission):

After more than a decade and a half certain conventions are already established in the United Nations -- not yet old enough to be called traditions but nevertheless perceptible and increasingly respected. Perhaps not all these conventions are good, but there is a pleasant minor convention, already well established, that when a Chairman of a United Nations Visiting Mission presents a report to the Trusteeship Council he is allowed the rare luxury of making a few purely personal comments. In doing so he speaks for once not for the Visiting Mission and not for his delegation, but only for himself.

Our reports on Nauru and New Guinea which the Council has before it represent the highest common factor of our several opinions and our joint labours. The reports are agreed and unanimous, and we trust that we have set out our conclusions clearly and convincingly. I shall not attempt to elaborate them; still less shall I seek in any way to add to them. But for a few minutes let me avail myself of the agreeable convention to which I refer, and make one or two comments which are entirely personal.

(Sir Hugh Foot, United Kingdom)

Before I go any further, may I say what a special pleasure it is to present our reports to you, Mr. Bingham, as President of this Council. The membership of the Trusteeship Council has dropped with the rising success of its endeavours. All of us, as has already been stated here, extend to Rwanda and Burundi our earnest and anxious prayers for their peace and success in the independence which they celebrated yesterday. May these twins, the latest additions to the family of nations, thrive and grow strong. But as one Trust Territory after another has achieved its purpose, and as the membership of this Council has consequently diminished, we in this Council need all the more to be well guided and well led. We are indeed fortunate that as we approach the important deliberations of the next week or two we have the benefit of your leadership, Mr. President.

Your country and mine, Mr. President, have had occasional disagreements in the past. We approach the Fourth of July with perhaps somewhat different reflections. But we have the same origins and the same beliefs; and perhaps you will permit me to remind you that your ancestors who sailed on the Mayflower from my native city of Plymouth were Englishmen.

After paying my affectionate respects to our truly distinguished President, I should like to express my gratitude to the other members of the Visiting Mission. We are obviously very different -- different in nationality, appearance, character, outlook and tastes. But we regarded our striking diversity as an asset. In this four-man mission there were two diplomats and two administrators. And may I claim that in spite of the traditional superiority of the diplomats the two administrators made a noticeable, if more pedestrian, contribution.

(Sir Hugh Foot, United Kingdom)

We greatly benefited from the varied experience of our members. One combined the skill of diplomacy with the somewhat more free and easy charm which he no doubt acquired when he was a sailor. Another brought to our deliberations the invaluable administrative experience of many years in a post of the highest authority in the Pacific. Another, the Vice-President of this Council, who had led previous missions and United Nations Commissions, brought, amongst other outstanding qualities, unrivalled experience of the United Nations.

I do not pretend that our travels were all comfortable. We travelled and listened and learnt without any relief. We were constantly concerned by the representations we received and by the problems unfolded to us. It was an exacting and anxious experience. But while we debated amongst ourselves as we proceeded on our way, we came increasingly to the same general conclusions and we increasingly respected the views of the others. We started as casual colleagues: we finished as firm friends.

The fact that we survived in friendship and agreement was in large measure due to the team which the Secretary-General sent with us. This team was headed by Mr. Jim Lewis, who has been with every Visiting Mission to the Pacific since the United Nations was formed. He is looked upon by the people of Nauru and New Guinea as a symbol of the United Nations -- a kind of travelling talisman of the Trusteeship Council. While we were welcomed everywhere with polite interest, he was welcomed with enthusiastic affection. The part he and his Secretariat colleagues played in the work of the Mission was indeed invaluable, and to him, Mr. Hichame Rifai and Mr. Marshall Williams and Mrs. Bowles we shall always remain greatly indebted. Perhaps I might be allowed to express particularly our thanks to Mrs. Bowles. Conditions of travel were not always easy, nor no doubt were we, but throughout she performed her duties efficiently and cheerfully -- and in a way that kept us all cheerful too.

I am sure that all members of the mission would also wish me to express our special gratitude to our Australian hosts. As an Englishman I have always been fascinated by Australians. The challenge of this vast country has in only a few generations led them to develop qualities peculiarly their own. They are enthusiasts, they are practical, they have the fierce faith and determination and single-mindedness of pioneers, and they also have the pioneer's capacity for



hospitality and friendship. These are qualities not so often found perhaps in the more sophisticated societies which have not had to face the hardships and dangers of harnessing a great continent.

Everywhere we went we were received with the utmost kindness. Everywhere we were given every possible help. To the Minister for the Interior and the Administrator of Nauru and to all who work under them we wish to express our deep and sincere gratitude.

Finally, let me say a word to the people of Nauru through their Head Chief who is, to our great delight, here with us today. We shall never forget the day when he, leading his people, welcomed us on our arrival in his Island. We shall never forget the way he and his people greeted us and entertained us. Specially we shall never forget the way he and the other Nauruan leaders spoke to us -- with such seriousness and force and conviction.

I have heard it said that Nauru is so small that it can scarcely justify the attention devoted to it in this Council. No one who has been to Nauru can have any patience with any such contemptuous references.

Isolation is indeed a grave disadvantage anywhere in the world. How sad to see children grow up in places where they can have only a limited horizon, limited associations and limited opportunities. It is true too that small communities cannot carry the superstructure of modern States. Nothing is more depressing than to see small, poor countries having to allot their meagre resources and revenues to defence, bureaucratic cadres and overseas representation.

But the small communities have just as much right to freedom and the pursuit of happiness -- and to the sympathy and consideration of international authorities -- as the big ones. There are less than two and a half thousand Nauruans. But they have their own language and their own national feeling. We must think of them not as ciphers but as souls. These men, women and children have the same natural rights as men, women and children anywhere in the world. They are individuals, human beings -- and the rights of individuals are more important to us than the power of great States. It is the conviction of most of us that the liberty and dignity of the individual are sacred: and that governments should be the servants and not the masters of the people.



(Sir Hugh Foot, United Kingdom)

Moreover, in Nauru there is a concentration of problems just as exacting and just as important as there is in much larger countries. Here in this little island there are perplexities which demand our undivided and earnest attention.

As we discuss the needs and the future of these people we shall show that the United Nations can devote just as much sympathy and just as much concern to the few as to the many. I am sure that we approach our task in this Council today determined to do our utmost to serve the best interests of small people who face great anxieties. And may their Head Chief return to Australia and to Nauru fortified in the confidence that at the United Nations we take special pride in our concern for small peoples, and special pride, too, in the fact that justice and freedom are infinitely more important to us than size and power.

I have the honour to present to the Council the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Nauru.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Chairman of the Visiting Mission. I thank him also for his kind remarks directed to me.

It might not be amiss on this occasion in response to those remarks and in view of the fact that in these days we in the United Nations are very concerned about the role played by mercenaries in certain parts of the world, to recall a statement made by Lady Astor who, as the members of the Council know, was an American lady who married an Englishman and was then elected to the House of Commons. I believe that she was one of the first women elected to the House of Commons. She was asked why flags were displayed in London on the fourth of July and her response was that this was to celebrate a war in which several thousand mercenaries were defeated by a few regiments of Englishmen.

Mr. HCOD (Australia): On behalf of the Administering Authority, may I express very briefly my appreciation of the remarks made by the Chairman of the Visiting Mission in his introduction of the Mission's report. I have no doubt that this report will prove of great value and importance for the coming deliberations of the Council.

May I also thank the President for his introduction of the Special Representative, Mr. McCarthy, who is, of course, very well known to the Council, and also for his reference to the presence here, as Adviser to the Special Representative, of the Head Chief of Nauru, who in his turn will be glad to be of assistance in the Council's discussions.

The Special Representative, at your invitation, Mr. President, will have a statement to make in supplementation of the information already provided in the annual report. There will be a second part to his statement, which, with your permission, could perhaps be circulated to the Members of the Council in written form.

The PRESIDENT: I am indeed happy to welcome the Special Representative, who is well known to the Council, and also to extend the Council's welcome to the Head Chief of Nauru, whom we look forward to hearing from at a later stage.

I take it that there will be no objection from the Council to the circulation of the supplement to the statement made by the Special Representative.

Mr. MCCARTHY (Special Representative): Thank you very much, Mr. President, for your kind words of welcome and for your invitation to join you again at this table. May I offer you my own congratulations on your accession to the presidency of this Council and to wish you well -- even though these are necessarily very belated personal congratulations on my part.

Before proceeding to the details of this opening statement, I would like to express my personal satisfaction at having my friend Head Chief Hammer DeRoburt as a colleague here at this session of the Council. He is not only the elected Head Chief of his people, but he is one whose efforts for his fellow Nauruans in every way they may need his assistance are unsparing.

As the head of my delegation has already indicated, this statement is, as it was last year, presented in two parts. Part II is designed, once again, by

(Mr. McCarthy, Special Representative)

specific reference to the annual report, to bring up to date this Council's knowledge of events and developments on the island from the period with which the annual report is itself concerned as nearly as possible to the present time. A copy of this part in due course will be placed before each representative on this Council, so that he may consider it at his convenience and in detail.

Part I will address itself most particularly to the matters raised in this report of your Visiting Mission which travelled to the island in April of this year. In so doing, however, it will reflect the considerable disadvantage which arises from the fact that the Mission's report inevitably was not available until only a few days before I left Australia to attend this meeting. Just as unavoidably, therefore, I am not in a position to present in this statement considered and final observations by the Australian Government on all the matters raised in that report.

And now, before proceeding to look briefly at some of the details of that report, I would like to refer to the Mission itself. I was myself fortunate in being able to accompany it -- with instructions to assist it in every way possible. I was, therefore, most favourably placed to observe this Mission at work. This work was clearly animated by the ideals and purposes of this Council, and the Mission did not spare itself to addressing itself to its task. But its industry and its clear purpose never affected the human warmth and ease of its approach to this task, in its relations with the Nauruan people themselves, or the officers of the Administration, or the members of the British Phosphate Commissioners' staff, or the other people of the island. Nor, in its turn, did this warm and easy friendliness affect the dignity of the Mission or any of its individual members -- but rather added to it. If you will permit me, I would simply like to say that this Council was not only wise but fortunate in its selection of both the leader and the members of its 1962 Visiting Mission to Nauru.

Any reference to the quality of the Mission would, however, be incomplete without reference to those members of the Secretariat who served it -- Messrs. Lewis, Williams and Rifai and Mrs. Bowles. In these officials, as they went about their work, were manifested all the best qualities of public service, national or international. They won the respect and friendship of all the people of the island with whom they came in contact.

(Mr. McCarthy, Special Representative)

Representatives will recall that last year I tried to paint a picture of a small and very remote island, with an indigenous population of only some 2,500 people, gentle and generous, forming one extraordinarily homogeneous social group in which the individual members had developed a most marked sense of responsibility and affection for one another -- and increasing and prospering under an Administration which approached its task with a sense of no lesser responsibility and purpose than it would have developed towards a group of two or three million people instead of two or three thousand, thus reflecting the concern of the Australian Government for equality of treatment for every individual and for every group, however small, within its jurisdiction. This, it is clear from the Visiting Mission's report, is what the Mission itself also found.

It has written of the exciting moment "when, after flying for a night and part of the next day, at last the Island appeared looking like a small ball of green and brown in the vast blue ocean"; of its observations that "in many ways, the 2,400 people of Nauru are now exceptionally fortunate ... there is no want or hunger in the islands; and no taxes. Social services are free, including Government schools, electric light and water and even cinema shows". As a result of its visits to administrative installations on the island, "The Mission was very favourably impressed with the competence and thoroughness of the work undertaken" in all of the various public services provided for the people; "In particular the Mission was pleased to see the wide facilities provided by the hospital -- a modern, fully-equipped operating room, pathology and radiology departments -- a dental clinic and separate wards for surgical, pediatrics, maternity, psychiatric and tuberculosis cases." Of less tangible things the Mission noted that "Material benefits are accompanied by relations which are, on the whole, friendly and profitable. The Head Chief and the members of the Nauruan Local Government Council regularly meet with the Administrator and the officials of the Administration. They also meet with the Manager of the British Phosphate Commissioners from time to time to discuss in some detail matters affecting the company and the people".

In summing up this phase of its report the Mission noted: "It would be easy to extend this list of assistance and advantages. From so many points of view, the state of affairs in the island is indeed enviable".

(Mr. McCarthy, Special Representative)

Of such a nature have been some of the observations of your Visiting Mission on the day-to-day circumstances of the island. But against this background the Mission properly stressed the over-riding importance of the problem of the future of the people.

In this connexion, the Council will recall that last year I reported far-reaching proposals by the three governments concerning the resettlement of the Nauruans.



(Mr. McCarthy, Special Representative)

In brief, those proposals provided for resettlement of Nauruans in Australia, as Australian citizens from the moment of their arrival, with provisions for housing, education and special assistance of many kinds towards re-establishment, estimated to cost in the fairly near foreseeable future some millions of pounds. The Nauruans, while describing the proposals as very generous, found a number of objections to them, the chief of which was probably that they would not permit the Nauruans to continue as a single racial and social entity.

The three Governments, through the Australian Government, have, of course, made no attempt of any kind to force their ideas on the Nauruan people. They have recognized from the beginning of their investigations that any solution to the problem of the future home should be based on the freely expressed wishes of the people themselves. This recognition does and will continue. In the light of that, last year I assured this Council that the process of consultation and discussion with the Nauruans would go on and any suggestions the Nauruans might wish to make from time to time would receive the most earnest consideration of the Administering Authority.

Accordingly, the Nauruan leaders have since been invited to Australia for consultations there with the Australian Government and earlier this year examined islands off the Australian coast which they had thought might be suitable as a new Nauruan homeland. As a result, however, they decided that these islands did not have the advantages they were looking for. In discussions which followed they then requested that an officer of the Department of Territories should be made available to assist them to formulate their proposals further. So, in May of this year an officer was sent to Nauru with instructions that he was to place himself at the service of the Nauruan Council and people in assisting them in the manner they desired. As a result the Nauruans have now formulated a set of proposals for the consideration of the Governments concerned. They have expressed themselves as follows:



(Mr. McCarthy, Special Representative)

"In brief the Nauruan people propose the creation of a sovereign Nauruan nation governed by Nauruans in their own interest but related to Australia by a Treaty of Friendship, details of which are not yet developed, but which is to indicate the manner in which the Nauruan nation and Australia may co-operate for their mutual well-being and the matters on which the Nauruan nation would appreciate the advice and help of Australia and the extent to which Nauru accepts responsibility for preservation of Australia from enemy attack."

"... the Nauruan nation would appreciate being able to use some Government instrumentalities in Australia and would seek the advice of Australian Government authorities on many matters. We look forward to Australia taking a big brother interest in our affairs by giving us encouragement, and advice and help to govern our separate and sovereign state."

"In the same manner as the relationship between New Zealand and the now independent state of Western Samoa is to be formalized in a Treaty of Friendship, so should the Nauruan nation look forward to a Treaty of Friendship with Australia after we had gained our sovereign status."

"Without, at this stage, attempting to spell out the details of such a treaty we should expect it to indicate the manner in which our nations may co-operate, where desirable, to achieve mutual well being, for example, trade treaties, postal agreement, extradition etc., the extent to which Australia would be willing to act for and give advice on Nauruan external relationships with overseas countries and international organizations, both political and trade, and advice on external financial matters."

"We should hope that the earlier offers by Australia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand to finance the cost of resettlement of Nauruans in those three countries are an indication that finance could be made available for the establishment of a sovereign Nauruan nation following agreement on the method of creating our new state".

(Mr. McCarthy, Special Representative)

"We feel something should be said about Australian defence. Though we have earlier expressed our wishes to live in peace with all nations, we desire that the creation of the Nauruan nation should do nothing to weaken Australia's potential to defend herself against aggression and we should consider it appropriate that a treaty of friendship between our nations should examine ways and means of preserving Australia from attack."

"These matters and other matters of friendship and co-operation we believe would be possible without, in any way, breaching the sovereignty of either Australia or the Nauruan nation."

Immediately before his departure to attend this session of the Trusteeship Council the Head Chief placed these proposals personally before the Minister for Territories. They have not yet been considered by the Australian Government itself nor have any decisions required of that Government been formulated in relation to them. By arrangement with the Nauruan leaders the Nauruan Re-settlement Committee, led by the Head Chief, will again meet the Minister for Territories in Canberra in August of this year to determine there how the matter of the future home might now be furthered and best advanced.

The Australian Government is thus in continuing close and constructive touch with the Nauruan people with regard to the problem. The Government has before it Nauruan proposals which have been drawn up with assistance readily provided at the request of the Nauruan community. It will continue to pursue the matter vigorously and in doing so will have the advantages of the thinking and the recommendations of the Visiting Mission in this connexion. With regard to those recommendations I, myself, can offer no precise observations since, as I have already pointed out, they have only very recently been received and are at present receiving the close attention of the Australian Government itself, and will receive similarly close attention from the other two partner Governments.

(Mr. McCarthy, Special Representative)

This Council may be assured that the Administering Authority recognizes the intensely human nature of the problem and will continue with its efforts to find a just and generous solution which will meet the wishes of the Nauruan people. But vital though they are, justice and generosity are perhaps not the matters which are the most difficult of achievement. In this poignant situation, human emotion is one of the great complexities. Then there is the matter of individual hopes and aspirations, as against group aspirations and wishes; how far should any proposal which may perhaps not commend itself to the majority be made applicable to individuals? The question is further complicated by the fact that people of different ages in any community have different needs and hopes. The small size of the Nauruan community, which makes for ease of solution of certain aspects of the problem, brings great problems of its own which would not develop in relation to a larger group. Then there is the paradox in relation to this island peoples, referred to by the Visiting Mission in these terms:

"... the Mission doubts whether the search for an island home in fact offers the best hope of a solution for these people. The Nauruans are neither farmers nor fishermen, having lived for so long on the proceeds of the phosphate and the employment which the phosphate provides that it is more than doubtful whether they could happily survive even in an island of tropical fertility. More and more their young men and women are turning to the occupations and habits and tastes of highly developed societies. With steadily improving education it can hardly be expected that they will ever wish to go back to the restricted and isolated life of a remote island without the peculiar advantages of the island they now occupy. What then is the objection to the proposal for settlement in Australia which was put forward by the Australian Government last year? No one doubts that it is generous. No one doubts that it would offer wider opportunities. But the Nauruans fear that they will be submerged and lost in the population of Australia." (T/1595, pages 19 and 20)

(Mr. McCarthy, Special Representative)

In summing up in this matter, I would like to emphasize these points. The three Governments have already clearly demonstrated that the ample provision of means for developing a future home is not, and will not, be a stumbling block towards a solution. That being established, where does the major difficulty lie? I suggest that it lies in the fact of determining to the satisfaction of all concerned where the point of balance lies between all the other circumstances involved. And this determination must be a matter of patient negotiation, of compromise at many points, of soul-searching by the principals involved before final decisions can be arrived at. Time, though important, at this moment is less important than arriving at the right decision.

(Mr. McCarthy,  
Special Representative)

I should like now to leave this matter of the future home, as a separate matter, and to refer in some small detail to other matters raised by the Visiting Mission -- first, those relating to the basic phosphate operations. In the development of those operations, as with the development of the future home proposals, there has been a continuing search over the years to determine the due weight to give to all the factors involved and for justice for the groups of people involved, and these are complex and often difficult to come to grips with. The Mission has recognized the continuing nature of this endeavour in its observation that

"since the Trusteeship Agreement was concluded the percentage benefit to the Nauruans against the value of phosphate at the point of export has increased from just under four per cent to twenty-four per cent. Continuing its examination of the phosphate operations the Mission observed that

"No serious problem in regard to the returns from the phosphate industry to the Nauruans would arise if unlimited supplies of phosphate in the island were available. The current benefits enjoyed by the Nauruans (to the value of twenty-four per cent of the export value of the phosphate) are substantial".  
(Ibid. para 114)

At the same time the Mission exhorted the Administering Authority to be mindful of its great obligation to provide the most generous assistance towards the cost of whatever settlement scheme might be approved for the future home of the Nauruan people. There is no difficulty here. Even the critics of the resettlement scheme which has already been put forward by the Governments have not denied its generosity; nor is such generosity of approach merely a passing thing. In noting that "The scheme of resettlement already proposed by the Australian Government would necessitate the expenditure of many millions of pounds" (Ibid. para 115), the Mission clearly recognized the honourable and proper appreciation of their obligations by the Governments.

Associated with the whole matter of phosphate extraction is the matter of participation by the Nauruan people in the phosphate operations. The visiting Mission has referred to the discussions which have taken place between the







(Mr. McCarthy,  
Special Representative)

phosphate commissioners and the Nauruan representatives in the past and has recognized the value of these discussions in themselves and in assisting to maintain good relations between the commissioners and the people. The Mission proceeded then to a recommendation relating to the formal institution of a system of annual conferences. They have been informed by the responsible minister personally that he has no disagreement with this proposal and this Council may therefore accept that this recommendation of its Mission will be acted upon.

Important also in relation to the phosphate operations are questions of wages and hours of work. In this connexion the Visiting Mission has referred to the present system of basic wage determinations and I should like now to bring the information available to the Council under this heading up to date.

In May 1962 a commission of inquiry for the determination of a basic wage for Nauruans was appointed in Nauru. Public hearings were commenced in Nauru on Monday 21 May and were concluded on Thursday 31 May.

This was the second such commission to inquire into the Nauruan basic wage, the first having been held in November 1953. Following the first determination the basic wage was adjusted for price changes at six-monthly intervals until, in response to an authorization from the Administration in November 1959, the Nauruan Workers' Organization, in a submission of August 1961, requested a complete review of the basis, structure and size of the wage. It was as a consequence of the August 1961 submission that the Commission of May 1962 was appointed. Care was taken to appoint an experienced and neutral Commissioner from outside Nauru, and Mr. W.B. Wilson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of Labour and National Service in Australia, was selected. Mr Wilson had conducted the previous inquiry in 1953 and his recommendations on that occasion had been accepted without modification and had worked successfully for the nine years up to 1962.

Under the 1962 Commission, Mr Wilson was directed:

- "A. To consider the submission dated 31 August 1961, made by the Nauruan Workers' Organization to His Honour the Administrator of Nauru asking for a review of the Nauruan basic wage.
- "B. To examine the appropriateness of the regimen on which the basic wage is presently fixed.
- "C. To consider whether any change in the basis on which the basic wage is presently fixed is justified.

(Mr. McCarthy,  
Special Representative)

"D. To re-examine the appropriateness of the present provisions about --  
(i) the rates of females and juniors;  
(ii) dependants' allowances.

"E. To consider how, at what intervals, and on what basis, reviews of the regimen should be made.

"F. To make recommendations to the Minister for Territories regarding the matters referred to."

At the inquiry leave was granted to representatives of the Nauruan Workers' Organization, the Nauruan Local Government Council and the Administration to present evidence on behalf of their respective organizations. A representative of the British Phosphate Commissioners sought, and was granted, leave to attend the hearings as an observer. The Nauruan Workers' Organization was represented by two Nauruans, Mr Hammer DeRoburt and Mr D. Gideon, and also by Mr W.A. Baker, a professional arbitration agent from Sydney who had been recommended to the Nauruan Workers' Organization, in response to a request from them, by the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

This is as far as I can bring this matter up to date at the present time. The recommendations of the Commissioner have not yet been received but are expected in the near future.

Closely associated with the matter of wages is the matter of hours of work. To this matter, also, the Visiting Mission addressed itself, noting that the Trusteeship Council had previously made recommendations concerning the need for removing existing disparities in the standard working week based on the area of recruitment of the workers, and it considered that any differentiation in employment conditions that might be based on difference of race and nationality should be eliminated. The Mission supported this view and hoped that this discrimination in working hours would be removed.

This Council will recall that in referring to this matter last year I said that it was under examination between the Governments and the British Phosphate Commissioners. The present position now is that arrangements are being made to bring into effect a standard working week.

On the social as distinct from the economic side the Mission made some particular reference to education. Under this heading I myself would refer particularly to the following observation:

"Generally the Visiting Mission feels that the teaching provided for the Nauruan children is satisfactory and the standard of accommodation and teaching excellent.

"There remains, however, the question discussed at the twenty-seventh session of the Trusteeship Council regarding the continuation of three separate primary school systems for the three main ethnic groups. The Trusteeship Council urged that a single primary school system for all races should be established. The Visiting Mission is fully in sympathy with this aim, but it also recognizes that language difficulties -- particularly in regard to the Gilbert and Ellice Islanders -- place very real difficulties in the way of achieving it."  
(Ibid. paras. 130 and 131)

(Mr. McCarthy, Special Representative)

It is the hope of the Administering Authority that these difficulties are now lessening as a result of the emphasis which has been placed by the Administration on education, and, under that general heading, on the teaching of English. This Council should need no reminding that it is the policy of the Australian Government in all its territories that there should be one system of education open to all races. Accordingly, it has been the hope of the Administration for some time in Nauru that progress in education towards the development of common language and cultural background standards would permit the actual implementation of a fully integrated school system. On instructions from the Australian Government, the Administrator is now examining whether the difficulties, to which the Mission has referred, have been sufficiently overcome to permit a start to be made with this integration at the primary school level.

Under the political heading, the Trusteeship Council will have noted its Mission's observation that the ground has been well prepared, through the establishment and operations of the Nauruan Local Government Council, for a further step forward; and its observations regarding the development of a Legislative Council on the island.

As I myself have previously reported to this Trusteeship Council, this matter has been exercising the mind of the Administration for some time. In May of this year a newly appointed Administrator took up duty on the island. He is a man not only of particular qualifications and experience in government and the development of government machinery, but also one who has had previous extensive experience on Nauru and has long been familiar with the developing problems and requirements of the island. He enjoys to a marked degree the respect of the Nauruan Council from its previous association with him. He has been instructed to give particular attention to the development of the Nauruan Local Government Council and, in doing this, will be aware of the constructive suggestions which have been put forward by the Visiting Mission.

(Mr. McCarthy, Special Representative)

Before concluding this statement there is one other matter to which I would like to refer in general terms: that is the matter of positions for Nauruans in the Administration and on the staff of the B.P.C. Any differences here between the Administration and the Nauruans are not differences of principle but of detail. Both the B.P.C. and the Administration are anxious that Nauruans should come forward into the highest positions. More than anything else, this is a matter of education and standards. As education on the island has steadily progressed more Nauruans have come forward for the higher education that is necessary. And it is in the basic and longer-term interests of the Nauruans that those of their own people who are prepared for higher positions in their own community should have this higher education. Otherwise the Nauruan community itself will suffer.

Where Australians are in positions of the Administration which Nauruans may be seeking -- and these are really few -- this is because of an insistence on standards, simply because Australia seeks no lesser standards of community service for the Nauruan people than it does for the Australian people themselves. For example, a standard of health service for Nauru is not set lower than a standard for Australia, and, indeed, health services on Nauru are of a higher standard and a wider range than is available in many Australian communities. Australia has no need to seek any system of outdoor relief outside its own country for its own skilled people. In a robust and developing economy and society, it can use all its own skills, and many more. Nor does personal advantage become a factor. For most Australians serving on Nauru, the motivating spirit is one of service to the Nauruan people; from the point of view of material advantage, most would do better to seek the furtherance of their own careers in their own country.

I do not now propose to take up the time of this Council further with this address. It has before it the Administering Authority's annual report, Part II of this opening statement supplementing the detail of the information in that report, and the report of the Visiting Mission. I, myself, will be available at the Council's pleasure to assist it further to the best of my ability by providing additional information in answer to any questions which members may wish to ask.



Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom, Chairman of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru and New Guinea, 1962): There is one particular point I would like to mention at once. I know questions will come to the Special Representative later, but I thought it was necessary to emphasize one point which I thought perhaps would not be entirely clear from the statement to which we have just listened. F. L.

The Special Representative has quoted a very important statement made by the head chief of Nauru, and I think the statement carries the authority of the local council of Nauru about the future of the Nauruan people. It is very necessary, is it not, to make it quite clear -- and I am sure this will be agreed -- that the whole of that statement is dependent upon a suitable island being found for the Nauruan people to occupy in the future -- and it is only if a suitable island can be found. I think it is quite clear from the full document that I have before me that that was the intention; but I think it would be well, perhaps to confirm my understanding on that point at this stage.

Mr. MCCARTHY (Special Representative): That is my own understanding of the situation; and the full document from which this extract was taken can be made available to the Council as it wishes.

Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): Through a strange coincidence, I was going to ask the same question, but I will repeat it because, in my opinion, the question that I shall ask has more than one implication. Certainly, my question is of a preliminary nature, because we would have to read the document presented in May by the Chief of the Nauru population, Mr. Roburt, I see he is here, and I hope he will contribute to the discussions in this Council.

In his statement, Mr. McCarthy, whom I am pleased to see here again, has told us more or less that in May a treaty of friendship recognizing the sovereignty of Nauru in association with Australia was put before the Council. We would like to know whether this solution which, as yet, has not been finally considered

(Mr. Salamanca, Bolivia)

by the Administration would or would not have a prior qualification to resettle. I would like to tell the Special Representative that this would depend upon the possibility of finding an island. In other words, I see a kind of quid pro quo between one problem and the other, but, of course, I would like to make these observations that seem appropriate to me. I was not thinking of intervention in this debate, because our viewpoint, as indicated by the Chairman of the Visiting Mission, has been unanimously approved by all members; but this item introduced, incidentally, by the Special Representative, is going to create a few difficulties, I believe, in the Council. The reasons are obvious: At the time when possible solutions are being discussed on a question which is difficult, the debate can be open to a series of questions that are valid. In other words, the immediate future of the population of Nauru and the resettlement question are the central problem, as stated in the report. But now, of course, we are given information by the Special Representative that the representative of the Nauru population, in any solution, raises a different question. He raises, for instance, the question of the termination of the mandate.

In other words, I would like to know -- and I shall repeat this question to Mr. Robert when he speaks: Does the mandate leave pending the resettlement and the possibility of an agreement when we have known the viewpoint of the Administering Authority? Would this consist in bilateral negotiations between the population of Nauru and the Administering Authority?

(Mr. Salamanca, Bolivia)

I am not putting a concrete question on these implications but I should like to have, at the start of the debate, a little more detailed information with regard to the viewpoints which have been stated by Mr. McCarthy. For example, in the intervention that he just made, he stated that he has no opinion at this moment on the question of resettlement.

Finally, does Mr. McCarthy agree that the suggestion made by the representative of the population of Nauru is a feasible solution?

Mr. McCARTHY (Special Representative): It was not my intention -- and I do not believe that I have done so -- to express an opinion at this stage on these proposals which are now before my own Government. I did make it clear that my Government had formulated no opinion on them and that the proposals were only now placed before it.

That being so, I have no personal views to express on this matter in this Council, nor do I feel free to do so. I would like to take this opportunity, however, to perhaps contribute a little more to the understanding of this matter by referring to part of the background which led up to the preparation of this document.

I did say in my statement that, earlier this year, the Head Chief and certain of his colleagues visited Australia in order to discuss this question of the future home and it was from that visit and against its background that the present proposals arose in their present form. My understanding of the thinking of the Nauruan delegation on that occasion -- and this understanding was confirmed by the Head Chief himself -- was briefly set out by me at the request of the Nauruans at the conclusion of these discussions and it was as follows.

As a result of the discussions, regarding a future home for the Nauruans which had taken place over the past three days by the direction of the Minister between the Nauruan delegation, Head Chief Hammer de Roburt, Councillors Gadabu and Detsimea and the Officers of the Department of Territories, it now appears:

- (a) That having physically examined Prince of Wales Island and Fraser Island, the Nauruan leaders feel that neither of these is suitable for the future home plans which they themselves have in mind, although they consider Fraser Island considerably more suitable than Prince of Wales Island.

(Mr. Mc Carthy,  
Special Representative)

(b) That the Nauruan leaders still feel that their best hope for a future Nauruan home lies in the development of some island adjacent to the Australian coast.

(c) That being of this opinion, they would like:

1. Assistance to enable them to prepare a detailed plan whereby such an island, if one were to found to be available, could be developed as a Nauruan home where the Nauruans could have control of their own affairs to the greatest extent practicable.
2. The necessary assistance from the Australian Government to enable them to examine other islands off the Australian coast, in addition to Prince of Wales Island and Fraser Island, in order to test possibilities there for the development particularly of the fishing industry.
3. The Nauruan leaders feel that, following the development of the action indicated above, they would then be in a position to put positive proposals to the Australian Government for that Government's consideration.

Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): I have listened with great interest to the information given us by Mr. McCarthy; there is, however, a point which places the Council in a difficult situation.

If the Australian Government has not yet decided upon its position on this suggestion, I do not understand what subject this Council is going to discuss. My question is of a preliminary nature because I do not wish to intervene in the debates; our viewpoint is indicated in our report. But if this is the case, I should like to ask the Special Representative -- and I shall repeat the question to Mr. de Roburt perhaps -- what is expected of this Council. Can we be expected to give our opinion on a proposal on which the Government of Australia itself has not yet taken a position? If not, what alternative have we?

(Mr. Salamanca, Bolivia)

In order to be logical we have to know the viewpoint of the Administering Authority, if only as a matter of courtesy. Otherwise, this Council is bound to arrive at a contrary conclusion.

In asking for a statement of the position of the Administering Authority, I wish to emphasize that I am intervening in this debate only because such a statement is essential to the formulation of the Council's report.

Mr. McCarthy (Special Representative): I do appreciate the position of the Vice-President of this Council. My purpose in informing the Council as I have was to bring them completely up to date with what has thus far occurred in the negotiations between the Australian Government and the Nauruan people. What I have outlined is the stage that the negotiations had reached at the time of the departure of myself and my colleague, the Head Chief, from Australia.

As far as the Australian Government is concerned, discussions will proceed further between the Head Chief and the remainder of the Nauruan Resettlement Committee upon the return of the Head Chief from New York to Australia.

Of course, at the direction of the President, the Council will decide what attitude it should take in this debate. I have provided whatever information I have at my disposal but I am at a complete disadvantage in attempting to provide comment on the proposals because such comment, in my opinion, would be only personal and might or might not be endorsed by my own Government.

Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): It was not my purpose to create any difficulty for Mr. McCarthy. We have just concluded debates which were very difficult on Ruanda-Urundi. These debates were difficult precisely because questions that were somewhat outside the jurisdiction of the United Nations were raised, such as what might happen following independence.

It is in the nature of things for a debate to occur when uncertainty exists. It is the purpose of my intervention to eliminate any uncertainty of this kind. There is an immediate problem in this small island where the situation is difficult. Year after year we try to find a solution and year after year the possibility of finding a solution recedes and ultimately disappears. The Council realizes that impatience attends the seeking of a practical and humane solution. Of course, if an island were to be discovered, a new situation would present itself because we have no way of knowing what would happen in the future. We must face the possibility of sovereignty for the population of Nauru. We do not know in advance whether a treaty of friendship could be worked out.



(Mr. Salamanca, Bolivia)

The problem is of first importance. We need to have the opinion of the Administering Authority as to the direction such a treaty would take. Possibly the Administering Authority needs the opinion of this Council, and in that case the Council would find itself in a difficult position.

In any case, I put before you these considerations which are somewhat outside the scope of our report, since frankly, with the greatest goodwill, I see no way of discussing this problem intelligently unless we have clear-cut and definite opinions placed before us.

Mr. KIANG (China): I wish merely to inquire, before the Council embarks upon the questioning in its customary manner, whether the Australian delegation will inform us if the Head Chief intends to make a general statement. We have just heard, I think, a very concise statement from the Special Representative. I think many of us would like to give some thought to it before we start questioning. Above all I would like to know whether the Head Chief intends to make, or would be prepared to make, a statement to the Council before the Council embarks on the discussion.

Mr. HCOOD (Australia): I intimated that the Head Chief is at the service of the Council. He will have something to say, I understand, and of course he will also be happy to reply to questions so far as it is feasible. The stage at which this could be arranged is a matter, Mr. President, for you and the Council to decide. We are at the disposal of the Council.

The PRESIDENT: May I inquire of the representative of Australia whether the Head Chief would be in a position to make his statement at the opening of this afternoon's session?

Mr. HCOOD (Australia): Having conferred briefly, I wish to make it clear that the Head Chief actually is not here to make, as it were, a formal statement. When I said that he had a few things to say, I meant just that, and these things would perhaps better be said in reply to specific questions which members may wish to put. This could be done this afternoon, Mr. President, if you would invite the Head Chief to take a place at the Council table then.



Mr. KIANG (China): I wish the representative of Australia to know that in making my inquiry I did not intend to suggest that the Head Chief should make a statement before the Council. However, in view of the exchange of opinions between the representative of Bolivia and the Special Representative, we thought that it might be postponed until we hear something from the Head Chief, not necessarily on that particular question that has been asked.

Now, since the Head Chief is prepared to enter into the discussion with us when the questioning period is reached, Mr. President, I think the questioning period should start this afternoon rather than now.

The PRESIDENT: Unless any other member of the Council wishes the floor now, it will be so arranged. We shall be glad to have the Head Chief take his place at the table this afternoon, at which time the questioning of the Special Representative and, if appropriate, of the Head Chief will take place.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now stand adjourned until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.