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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWELVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 5 June 1964, at 3 p.m.

President:

Mr. CORNER

(New Zealand)

1. Examination of annual reports of the Administering Authorities on the administration of Trust Territories: Conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands [4(b)](continued)
2. Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1964 [6](continued)
3. Examination of annual reports of the Administering Authorities on the administration of Trust Territories: Condition in the Trust Territory of Nauru [4(c)](continued)

Note:

The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.1233 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

AGENDA ITEMS 4 (b), 6

EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF TRUST TERRITORIES: CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1624; T/L.1073; T/PET.10/L.5, L.6, L.7 and Add.1) (continued)

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO THE TRUST TERRITORY of the PACIFIC ISLANDS, 1964 (T/1620) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: At our last meeting the representative of the Soviet Union put a question to the representative of the World Health Organization, the answer to which was delayed. I now call on the representative of the World Health Organization.

Dr. LEROUX (World Health Organization): Mr. President, thank you for this opportunity to reply to the question which the representative of the Soviet Union addressed to the World Health Organization at the last meeting. As indicated on page 11 of the annual report of the Administering Authority, a World Health Organization representative visited Saipan for two days during September 1963 for the purpose of discussing the 1966 WHO programme of assistance to the Trust Territory. As a result of that visit a programme of work has been agreed between WHO and the Trust Territory. The final details have not yet been settled but the programme is likely to provide fellowships in the fields of nursing, public health, leprosy and health education. It is also expected that the Trust Territory will participate in a WHO regional seminar in leprosy control to be held during 1965 and will be able to call upon the services of the WHO Regional Advisory in Leprosy Control for the Western Pacific region.

It may also interest the Council to know that a WHO maternal-and-child health team visited the Trust Territory in August 1963 and made recommendations to the Administration.

While we have no other information available at this time concerning these visits, perhaps the Council will permit me to make a brief comment on the annual report for 1962-1963 with respect to developments in the field of public health. The WHO

(Mr. Leroux, WHO)

has noted with gratification the decision of the Administration to provide opportunities for professional qualifications of a higher standard than previously for medical and dental students. In the Observations which WHO submitted to the Council at its twenty-fourth session (T/1470) attention was called to the fact that it was essential that supervision and guidance in medical and health matters should be in the hands of fully-qualified doctors, as the training received by assistant medical practitioners did not enable them to undertake the full responsibility for medical and health care. The new policy of the Administration in this respect is therefore particularly welcome.

The WHO has also noted from the report that the serious poliomyelitis epidemic in the Marshall Islands has been successfully controlled and that effective preventive measures have been taken.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to the Council, Mr. President, and I thank you again for your courtesy in giving me the floor at this time.

Mr. YATES (United States of America): Mr. President, I asked for the floor in order to suggest a correction of the Press release issued on 3 June 1964. On page 3 of this Press release, which is identified as TR/1821, at approximately the middle of the page, it is said:

"Mr. Shakhov then asked how many high-ranking posts in the public service were filled by indigenous staff".

It is then stated that Mr. Goding replied that none was.

Now if I may refer to the verbatim record, it will be noted that the representative of the Soviet Union made reference to a particular list of positions in connexion with his inquiry, and in this connexion I read from page 27 of the verbatim record, where the following appears near the bottom:

"Page 19 of the report of the Administering Authority lists fourteen posts in the Territory. How many of these fourteen posts are occupied by representatives of the indigenous population of the Territory?"

To which Mr. Goding, the Special Representative, replied:

"In that particular list there are none that are occupied at the present time by indigenous members of the staff". (1232nd meeting, p. 27)

I suggest that this is different from the abbreviation of the verbatim record that appears in the Press release.

Further, near the bottom of page 3 of the same Press release the following appears:

"Continuing his questions, Mr. Shakhov asked when would the Territory reach the stage when it would not have to import so much of its essential needs".

The question and the answer that is appropriate for that abbreviation appear on pages 33 to 36 of the verbatim record. On page 33 Mr. Shakhov asked the question:

"At our last meeting the Special Representative stated, concerning the economic level of development, that for production to reach such a level in this field, the Territory would have to be self-sufficient. When will the Territory reach such a level of development as to make it unnecessary to spend money on the purchase of commodities beyond the limits of its own area?" (1232nd meeting, pp. 33 and 34-35)

To which Mr. Goding replied:

"I would consider that, in view of the growing sophistication of the demands, the time will probably never come when this area -- or any other area -- will be completely self-sufficient. I think that we have commodities that we can certainly produce to the point where we will not have to import them as much as before, canned fish, for instance, and certain other commodities. But to assume that we will be, as an area, self-sufficient in the sense that no imported products will be needed -- that will be a long time in coming; in fact, the trend is in the opposite direction." (1232nd meeting, p. 36)

I suggest that that interchange too needs correction in the Press release.

The PRESIDENT: I am sure that the Secretariat has taken note of these corrections.

Mr. DOISE (France)(interpretation from French): The consideration of the problems involving the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under United States administration this year gives rise to particular interest in the light of the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission that has just visited this Trust Territory. This document, notably elaborated as it is, strikes us for the loftiness of its views and the high quality of its recommendations. Its criticisms, as addressed to the Administering Authority, are objective and constructive; far from hampering, they can only aid the Administering Authority in pursuing activities which we can be sure will soon bear fruit.

The Trusteeship Council in 1963 was able to notice a change in the rate of development of the Territory which was in marked contrast with a certain slowness in the past, or, as the Mission recalls in its introduction, with conceptions of administration which certain critics at one time had compared to the management of an "ethnographic museum". This change is once more confirmed this year.

On page 104 of the report of the Visiting Mission we read:

"If the Mission were to sum up its strongest single impression it would be this: that Micronesia, once literally a geographical expression, is now welding itself into a unified people".

New conditions are coming into being which make possible as well as necessary a more rapid political development. This is because in point of fact, in human societies progress cannot be conceived of as following a constant and uniform path; there are periods of acceleration and of sudden change. It is this new phase that the Territory is now entering, under the administration of the United States, and the Mission, while paying tribute to the efforts of the Administering Authority which are making it possible to envisage a more decisive stage, considers it necessary therefore to accelerate progress in all fields. Now, the fact of impelling a people along the road to responsibility is itself a factor in progress, not only political but also economic and social.

This is the reason why the recommendations of the Visiting Mission seem to me extremely interesting and worthy of endorsement by the Trusteeship Council. Lengthy comments on this would certainly be superfluous; in fact, it would be presumptuous to expect any other possible recommendation on the part of the Council.

In the political field interest is centred this year on the plan to create a local parliament, the Congress of Micronesia, which the Special Representative has assured us will be a genuinely legislative body. This fundamental reform is by way of living up to a previous promise made by the Administering Authority as well as being in conformity with the desires and the detailed studies of the present consultative body, the Council of Micronesia. The French delegation noted last year that this Council of Micronesia could be transformed into a legislative body sooner than the Administration itself anticipated. It seems that this wish is now being realized, for it has been announced that elections under direct universal suffrage will be held next autumn. It remains for us to know what will be the exact attributes of the future Congress. The text is now under study by the Department of the Interior and it will not be long, it would seem, before it is promulgated.

The representative of the United States, Mr. Yates, made it clear on 2 June that the suggestions of the Visiting Mission concerning the future Congress were being studied at the same time as the initial American draft. The importance of these suggestions undoubtedly will not escape the attention of the Administering Authority. The Mission, as we know, has suggested a close re-examination of the draft statute of the Congress of Micronesia so that its powers will correspond with the hopes which have been placed in that body. Stress has been placed particularly on the creation of three large parliamentary commissions endowed with permanent and extensive powers. It was also considered by the Visiting Mission that the powers of the Congress in the budgetary field should be as broad as possible and should extend particularly to the distribution of credits from United States subsidies. Undoubtedly, this is a particularly delicate problem to resolve since these subsidies -- the amount of which, it will be noted, has been maintained and even slightly increased by President Johnson's Administration -- actually represent nine-tenths of the Micronesian revenue. But it should be possible to find a solution which will satisfy at the same time the desire to manage this affair properly and the necessity of giving to the deputies a sense of responsibility for budgetary and financial questions.

In view of the rather limited personnel resources of the Pacific Islands, the Mission feels that for the time being priority should be given to the legislative power. The Congress, therefore, in the immediate future will be the only centre of indigenous guidance in the new life of Micronesian collectivity. But the Mission has also suggested -- and with this we agree -- that soon a really responsible executive body should be created, which would be designed to balance the present legislative power and to reinforce the rather precarious unity of the Territory.

This strengthening of unity and collective consciousness is a prerequisite for the future of Micronesia. It is sufficient for me to say in this connexion that the French delegation fully approves and endorses the report of the Visiting Mission, which has insisted that the Micronesians should be fully informed of the three possibilities open to them concerning their future: independence, integration and association. We would express the wish that the population may be able to express their choice in complete liberty and with full knowledge of the situation.

The economic life of the Pacific Islands, which has often been handicapped in the past by violent typhoons, is based mainly on copra. Nevertheless, the Council will note that efforts have been made by the United States to guarantee diversification of production. A fishing industry has been set up and the training of technical personnel has been undertaken at an accelerated pace. This is an important potential resource which could go far beyond the revenue likely to be produced by agriculture. Credit banks for economic development are also being expanded rapidly. Finally, a great effort has been made in the field of transport, which, in view of the scattered nature of the islands extending over a vast area, is the key to unity and economic and political progress. We also note with interest the next achievement in the construction programme, namely, an airport for heavy aircraft in each of the six administrative Districts.

We are justified in feeling that the Administering Authority would be bold enough to devote its efforts to implementing the recommendations of the Visiting Mission concerning the elaboration of a general plan of economic development, the creation of an administration entrusted with its execution, and the close association of representatives of the population with the idea as well as the implementation of this undertaking.

When previously we spoke of social and educational problems in the Pacific Islands, it could have been said that it was astonishing that so much could have been done with so little. As we have seen above, the means, and especially the financial means which are available, have recently been increased.

In the field of public health, it will be noted that the budgetary credits for 1962 to 1965 have been tripled; in that of education, the first results of the new policy launched in 1962, of which Mr. Remengasau has spoken, can be seen. This new policy, which followed a complete reassessment of the needs of the Territory in this field, was observed with great interest by the Visiting Mission. All Districts, from next year forward, will be endowed with a complete establishment for secondary education, similar to the Central School of the Pacific Islands, which has done so much to strengthen Micronesian unity. Furthermore, regarding higher education, we note that the offer of scholarships for 1964 has been doubled. The Council last year emphasized with satisfaction that these scholarships would soon be adequate to cover the needs of the Territory.

More generally speaking, the French delegation has considered with interest the conclusions of the Visiting Mission in the field of education. We were particularly struck by what was said concerning adult education or professional and technical training, and also the request to the Administering Authority for reconsideration of the question of creating a higher education institute, or junior college.

In conclusion, we feel that the Trusteeship Council should fully endorse the recommendations of the Visiting Mission. The Administering Authority should bear them in mind, undoubtedly with the adaptations as they become necessary. It does not seem to us that there is any divergence of view about the ends to be achieved, and Mr. Yates himself told us recently that his Government would bear in mind all these recommendations in the elaboration or revision of its policy and its programmes.

Without the major assistance given by the American Administration, scarcely any development would be possible in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. This assistance has already had striking results and it clearly confirms the will of the Washington authorities to intensify their efforts and to make it possible for the populations for whom they are responsible rapidly to achieve the ability to administer themselves and finally to accede to self-determination.

Finally, I should like to express my gratitude to the United States delegation, especially Mr. Yates, and the Special Representative, Mr. Goding, who, as we know, is responsible for the administration of the Territory. I would also express my thanks to the Micronesian advisers of the United States delegation, particularly their spokesman Mr. Remengasau, whom we had the pleasure of hearing last week. I would ask them to convey to their people our good wishes for the well-being and the future of Micronesia.

I cannot conclude my statement without addressing the thanks of my delegation to the Visiting Mission for the remarkable work which they have done.

Mr. JACKLING (United Kingdom): The Trusteeship Council has before it very complete and detailed documentation and information concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. There is the report of the Administering Authority circulated in document T/1624 and the report of the Visiting Mission contained in document T/1620 and, finally, there is the statement that the Special Representative made here on 28 May. Furthermore, we have heard the answers given to the numerous questions put to the Special Representative, and in the light of this very extensive information and in view of the fact that my colleague, Mr. King, who is in London this week on other United Nations business, was himself a member of the Visiting Mission and contributed to the production of that report, I do not wish to add more than a very brief comment.

The basic objectives of the Trusteeship System are set out in Article 76 of the Charter, and the duties and responsibilities of the Trusteeship Council are set out in Articles 87 and 88. Therefore, our work here with respect to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under United States Administration is to see that these objectives are kept in sight and that the duties and responsibilities of the Administering Power are being performed in accordance with the Charter. It comes to this: the Council should examine the reports and statements submitted to it and determine whether, in all the particular circumstances of the Territory, appropriate and adequate progress is being made toward self-government and independence in accordance with the wishes of the people of the Territory.

My delegation has examined the reports, has visited the Territory and has concluded that, indeed, the Territory is being administered in accordance with the Trusteeship System and with the high principles contained in the Charter, that there is peace and security in the area, that politically, economically and socially, the people of the Territory are being prepared for their ultimate destiny through the exercise of enlightened self-determination, and that in the Territory there is respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It seems to us important to emphasize this. So much has been said and written, the Council has gone into so much detail, the Administering Authority has been subjected to so many questions, some pertinent, some less so, and has given clear answers, that we may be in danger of overlooking the simple fact that the United States Government is out its obligations conscientiously and efficiently

and that Micronesia, as the Visiting Mission has said, "is now welding itself into a unified people", a striking phrase to which the French representative has already drawn attention. The Administering Authority is providing, through its accelerated programme of education, the means for the people of Micronesia to know and understand the choices before it. The Administering Power is arranging for an elected Congress in which the peoples of Micronesia will be represented and will be able to legislate for the present and decide for the future.

The representative of the United States has told us here that the goal is self-determination for the people of Micronesia and that the Administering Power is working to promote this. My delegation commends the United States for the progress it is making towards this end. As for the present, the Administering Authority is clearly constantly improving and developing social conditions.

I am not suggesting that everything in Micronesia is perfect and that no improvements can be made. Indeed, as a member of the Visiting Mission, my delegation has made a number of suggestions and recommendations concerning conditions in the Trust Territory, and these are embodied in the report of the Visiting Mission. Since my colleague was a member of this Mission, and since he took part in the preparation of its report, it goes without saying that my delegation endorses the opinions and conclusions expressed in that report.

In this connexion, perhaps I might be allowed to express my personal opinion that this report is a most admirable and valuable document. We consider the recommendations concerning education and economic advancement to be particularly worthy of serious consideration by the Administering Power. I must say that I find in many respects the comments of the Visiting Mission on the economic possibilities that may be capable of development both interesting and encouraging, and I think we are indebted to the Mission for the very great care and detail into which they went in these matters.

I was interested to hear on Wednesday from Mr. Goding that the United States Administration of the Territory proposes to use the report of the Visiting Mission in their consideration of their problems and to consider the application of many of its recommendations. If I may say so, this seems to me an excellent example of the proper and effective use of this Council, and because I believe that you, Mr. President, were the main architect of this report, I should like to offer you my personal congratulations and those of my delegation.

In conclusion, may I add that Mr. King has asked me to tell the Council that he greatly appreciated the welcome and hospitality accorded to him and to the members of the Visiting Mission by the people of Micronesia and by the representatives of the Administering Power. He told me that he will not soon forget this memorable experience and he asked me to accord his thanks and best wishes for the future to the people of Micronesia. Perhaps Mr. Remengesau, who spoke so very eloquently about his country last week, will take this message back to his colleagues in the Pacific Islands.

The PRESIDENT: We shall return to the examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands at our next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4 (c)

EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF TRUST TERRITORIES: CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF NAURU (T/1619; T/L.1072)
(continued)

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

Mr. YATES (United States): May I first state that my delegation listened with very great interest to the statement made by the representative of Nauru, and we were very much impressed by what he had to say.

There are only a few questions we want to ask at this time. One of the questions relates to the perennial shortage of water that exists in Nauru. I note that the Special Representative declared that they propose the construction of twelve steel storage tanks for the purpose of relieving the water shortage. How many of those have been completed, and what is the construction schedule for those that have not yet been completed?

Mr. MARSH (Special Representative): As I said in my statement, the storage capacity is being increased by three 1,000,000-gallon tanks. The present capacity is 7 million gallons.

I would like to add that the position should hardly be described as a perennial shortage, but rather as an intermittent shortage. In other words, as I said in my opening statement, there has been bountiful and fairly well-spaced rain so far this year, and there has not been a situation of shortage. However, if we run into a year in which, instead of 161 inches, we get 12 inches, there is no question that this reserve storage capacity will have to be drawn on. But the capacity, together with the regularity of shipping, is such that we apprehend no danger of an absolute water shortage.

Mr. YATES (United States of America): In view of the Special Representative's answer, there is no need, is there, for the utilization of desalinisation processes ?

Mr. MARSH (Special Representative): The Administering Authority believes that it can more satisfactorily and more economically assure the availability of water by the method that it is pursuing. This is due to the fact that there is a regular flow of shipping between Australia and the island, and an ample supply of storage capacity.

Mr. YATES (United States of America): I think the most serious problem facing the Administering Authority, of course, is the question of resettlement. Can the Special Representative amplify his initial statement and tell the Council what is proposed to be done in such matters as retraining of the people, which is, of course, an important corollary to physical relocation itself?

Mr. MARSH (Special Representative): This question underlines the importance of an early decision on the fundamental question of resettlement, because the nature of the retraining, if any, and the general line of planning depend upon where resettlement is to occur.

(Mr. Marsh,
Special Representative)

In my opening statement, I mentioned very considerable steps that are now being taken in order to increase the technical training of Nauruan youth. I mentioned that such technical training would not only provide a better balance of employment within the existing community but would fit the Nauruan people to take a much more constructive part in the creation of a new home. It is strongly the view of the Australian Government that the creation of a new home is not a matter of employing funds and contractors to build some sort of new place but rather of providing a place which is naturally endowed with the means whereby the Nauruan people themselves can make a contribution. It will not be a new home unless it involves the sweat and the effort and the co-operation of the Nauruan people. For this reason, we believe that the fundamental kind of training for resettlement is a technical training to provide a body of craftsmen -- builders, bricklayers, mechanics, plumbers, electricians -- the whole gamut of skilled trades which are necessary to set up a community and to operate the services on which an advanced community depends for a high standard of living.

If resettlement should be based on Nauru, the Administering Authority has in mind that there would be certain kinds of special training necessary. For instance, one particularly important kind of training would be in the operation of a long-range fishing industry. It is not practicable to undertake special training of that kind at this time, and not until there is a decision. This is not critical. The important point in regard to a fishing industry is that the Nauruan people have specifically asked that this be possible in their new home. The second thing is that the Nauruan people, being an island people, have learned to live with the sea and to know the sea. The training is not training to fit them to go down to the sea in ships, but rather to fit them for the particular kind of ships that the particular kind of place where they resettle will require.

I hope that that sufficiently answers the question by the representative of the United States. I could perhaps go into greater detail.

Mr. YATES (United States of America): I am still not clear with respect to this retraining programme. I note what the Special Representative has said with respect to the need for the decision before any steps are taken. Have any of the programmes for retraining been laid out as yet? Are there any retraining classes going on? Is this something that will be started only after a final decision is taken?

Mr. MARSH (Special Representative): I am not sure that the use of the term "retraining" is appropriate. What we are engaged upon is a programme of training -- training in the normal range of skilled trades necessary in any community. This is the key to our approach: that we are training the Nauruan people as an advanced people to fit into any situation where they will be required to exercise the skills normal in any advanced community.

I would imagine that the only form of retraining -- or training -- beyond that which I have mentioned might be in a case where particular Nauruans on resettlement might desire to get employment in adjacent mainland industrial undertakings, and I have said in my opening statement that, to the extent that Nauruans desired such employment, we would undertake such training. But it is not possible in advance to do these specialized forms of training, because we do not yet know where the place of resettlement is. We must therefore concentrate on this general technical and other training.

Mr. YATES (United States of America): I appreciate the reply of the Special Representative and his amendment with respect to my use of the word "retraining". I agree that the word should have been "training".

How far away is the Administering Authority from a decision with the Nauruans?

Mr. MARSH (Special Representative): This takes me into the realm of speculation -- but I am prepared to speculate. I believe that we are within five years, at the longest, of such a decision. I hope that we are much closer to such

(Mr. Marsh,
Special Representative)

a decision -- remembering that it has been repeated and confirmed by the Nauruan people that they see no permanent future, no secure future, without resettlement. I believe that such an estimate is justified because I also understand that, since resettlement is accepted as a necessity, there is an anxiety that young Nauruans, who by education have been given a concept of a fuller and wider life, should be given this opportunity earlier rather than later.

I believe that there will be a necessary period of further negotiation between the Nauruans and the Administering Authority on details of resettlement, and particularly on aspects of the political arrangements. I think there will be little necessity for much negotiation as to the place, about which the Nauruans have made a decision, or as to the general economic and social arrangements which have been proposed in the broad outline plan already submitted to these people.

Mr. YATES (United States of America): The Special Representative has indicated that in his judgement -- and I use the word "judgement" rather than "speculation" inasmuch as he is certainly a qualified and trained civil servant with vast experience -- the maximum period for such a decision will be five years. Can the Special Representative tell us whether it is possible that such a decision will be taken in less than five years? For example, could such a decision be taken within the next two, three or six months?

Mr. MARSH (Special Representative): It is possible that such a decision could be taken in this calendar year. Representatives of the Nauruan people have indicated that they want to discuss this further with the Australian Government in July coming. It would be possible that those discussions could lead to a quite quick decision.

Mr. YATES (United States of America): I recall last year a rather interesting discussion on the problem of dust control over the island of Nauru. Has this been found to represent a real health hazard? What measures have been taken by the Administering Authority to deal with this problem?

Mr. MARSH (Special Representative): This problem has been referred by the Administering Authority to the British Phosphate Commissioners. The British Phosphate Commissioners undertook certain experimental work on a smaller location where phosphate is being extracted. They have now, in the light of that experimental work, placed orders for precipitators which should reduce the problem of phosphate dust.

I think I should add that there is no indication whatever that the dust represents a health hazard. Rather it represents a nuisance when the wind sets in a certain direction and the plant is operating. It is a nuisance which is pretty well impossible to avoid, for instance when the phosphate is being loaded from conveyor belts down a chute into the ship's hold. It is just not possible to have phosphate pour from an elephant trunk type of loader into a hold without a certain amount of dust, as I myself learnt, to my discomfort, when I was leaving Nauru recently. It is a question of, if the wind is blowing against you, shutting the wind out until the loading operation is finished. But this does not involve any health hazard. I think that I absorbed over a period of two or three hours a considerable amount of phosphate dust and I am pleased to be able to be the Special Representative here after so doing.

Mr. YATES (United States of America): I observe with some interest the model of the home that is laid out on the table near the wall. Can the Special Representative tell us what the cost of such a home would be?

Mr. MARSH (Special Representative): In my opening statement I indicated that as soon as the Australian Government decided to take steps to begin the acquisition of Curtis Island so that it would be in a position to honour the offer which it has made to the Nauruans, it also felt that in order to reduce delays later on it should ask the Queensland Housing Commission to design what it thought was a suitable kind of house for the larger family. The design which is present in this room lends itself to a construction by concrete block or by reinforced concrete, particularly so that a maximum number of unskilled Nauruans could be employed in producing the materials and in forming the house. With this in mind, the cost estimate is between \$4,000 and \$5,000 (Australian), incorporating a maximum of Nauruan labour paid at Australian award wages.

Mr. YATES (United States of America): Can the Special Representative translate the Australian pounds into American dollars?

Mr. MARSH (Special Representative): I have not been here long enough to master the intricacy of the nickel and the dime, whose sizes are contrary to their value, but I would guess that this value would be about \$10,000. However, I would seek a certain amount of forbearance in my estimate.

Mr. McCARTHY (Australia): The present rate of exchange between the Australian pound and the American dollar varies from 2.23 to 2.24 American dollars to the Australian pound.

Mr. YATES (United States of America): I must say that is a very attractive design and a very reasonable price for the construction of that size home. Can the Special Representative tell us the number of square feet in the house?

Mr. MARSH (Special Representative): I am afraid that I cannot. Perhaps I might take counsel with the plans later and answer this question at a later stage. But I would say that the size of the rooms and so on is the size of rooms in the average Australian home. This house is of the order of thirteen to fourteen squares, that is to say of the order of 1,300 to 1,400 square feet.

Mr. YATES (United States of America): How many houses is it contemplated will be constructed if the decision is made and the transition takes place?

Mr. MARSH (Special Representative): The answer to this question depends of course in part on when the resettlement takes place. There is a population explosion in Nauru not only in total terms of births, but in a rising percentage of female births. At the present time if resettlement took place, some 600 homes of this kind would be required. There would be some three-bedroom houses, but a fairly large percentage would have to be four-bedroom houses, as shown in the design present in this room. If resettlement were postponed to 1970, then our estimate is that, instead of having to resettle 2,700 people, we would have to settle 3,000 people. If resettlement is postponed until 1980, our conservative estimate is that, instead of having to resettle 2,700 people we would have to resettle 6,000 people.

There is no exact answer to the question unless we know the precise time.

Mr. MCCARTHY (Australia): In amplifying what the Special Representative has said, I would suggest that the answer is that whatever number of homes are required to house the Nauruan population will be built.

Mr. YATES (United States of America): Apparently there is going to be a substantial outlay by the Australian Government. Provision will be made for the construction of schools, for sewage, for the various kinds of public improvements, for power facilities of various kinds. Can the Special Representative tell the Council whether or not an estimate has been made as to what the total cost is likely to be?

Mr. MARSH (Special Representative): An estimate has been made based upon the resettlement of the current population, but I think that before I give the estimate I should clarify one point: that the responsibility for resettling the Nauruans is a responsibility shared by the three Administering Powers, for whom Australia will take the executive action.

The broad preliminary plan for resettlement is expected to cost an amount between £10 million and £11 million Australian. This would involve not only the creation of a town or towns consisting of the kinds of houses which we have been discussing, but also the provision of schools, hospitals, other public buildings, electricity services, water reticulation, ocean outfall sewage and all that is necessary in order that the Nauruans might live as a community in a way fully comparable with the way that any similar Australian community would live.

Mr. YATES (United States of America): With the exception of the power of disallowance, the Administrator's powers have been transferred to the Local Government Council at Nauru. How often and what is the nature of the measures which the Administrator has found it necessary to disallow as regards Acts of the Council?

Mr. MARSH (Special Representative): I have consulted my Nauruan adviser and I have also looked back into the records as I have them, and I know of no recent incidents where this power has been used. But it is envisaged that it would mainly be used, for instance, if a legal defect was purported to have been made in an ordinance. It is in the public interest that if an ordinance is legally defective and would not stand up to a test in the court, it should not be promulgated but rather that it should be reconsidered and remedied.

Mr. YATES (United States of America): That concludes the questions I wanted to ask at this time, and I want to thank the Special Representative for his very thorough, his comprehensive and his enlightening answers.

The PRESIDENT: As there are no further speakers for this afternoon, I suggest that our next meeting be held on Monday morning at 10.30. This is necessary because the Security Council will meet in the afternoon. It is possible that even this morning meeting cannot be held, and I suggest that the members of the Council check the Journal on Monday morning.

At our next meeting I propose that we take up first the general debate on conditions in the Pacific Islands, that we then return to the questioning of the Special Representative on Neuru and take up also the report on credentials. The meeting is adjourned until 10.30 on Monday morning.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.