

UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



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Thirty-first Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWELVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 16 June 1964, at 10.30 a.m.

President:

Mr. DOISE
(Vice-President)

(France)

Later:

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 Nauru [4(c)] (continued)
2. Examination of annual reports of the Administering Authorities on the administration of Trust Territories: Conditions in the Trust Territory of New Guinea: Report of the Drafting Committee [4(a)] (continued)

Note:

The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.1238 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

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/Rev.1) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Council will continue its general discussion on conditions in the Trust Territory of Nauru.

Miss BROOKS (Liberia): The cardinal issue involved in our examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Nauru is the attainment of independence in accordance with the wishes of the Nauruan people as guaranteed under the Trusteeship Agreement, the Charter of the United Nations, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

The problem presents a phenomenon alien to the situations with which the United Nations has had to deal in relation to other Trust and dependent territories in its supervisory functions. Unambiguous are the aims and objectives set forth in the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement regarding the paramount interest of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories - it is their freely expressed wishes, alone, which must determine their political future. The Nauruan people request independence as their ultimate political goal. This request, then, we regard as being valid, and one to which the Nauruan people are entitled.

Hitherto, United Nations Members have regarded the natural resources of a dependent territory as a sound basis for the economic viability and stability of the nation. But here the situation presents a phenomenon with some seemingly contradictory phases. As the 1962 Visiting Mission described it:

"The Nauruans now enjoy favourable conditions and we consider that, subject to certain comparatively minor criticisms which have been made by this and earlier Visiting Missions, the interests of the people have so far been well served by the Administering Authority. But these conditions are both temporary and illusory." (T/1595, page 40)

The 1962 Visiting Mission also stated:

"The striking contrast is between a superficially happy present state of affairs and an uncertain and indeed alarming future -- and it is the future that matters." (Ibid., pages 10 and 11)

(Miss Brooks, Liberia)

The sum total of the situation may be deduced as follows: In this case, the smallness of the Nauruan population serves as an advantage rather than a disadvantage to them. If I recall correctly, the Nauruan Adviser drew the attention of the Council to this aspect at its last session. This, combined with the income derived from royalties on the natural resource of phosphate exploited by the British Phosphate Commissioners, could secure for the Nauruan people a basis for economic development.

To put it more simply, since the population is small, it is easier for the people to attain a higher standard of living from royalties and grants by the Administering Authority, thus this superficially happy state of affairs referred to by the Visiting Mission. But, it is this exploitation of the phosphate which chiefly deprives them of a future home on the Island of Nauru. Correspondingly, it creates an obstacle in the way of the attainment of this lofty and cherished goal of ultimate independence.

What the situation would be today in relation to the question of independence if the island had been void of phosphate can only be conjectured. The reality is that because of its deposits of phosphate, it has had the irreversible effect of eliminating all possibility of a future home on the island of Nauru for the Nauruan people. We ask ourselves: how is this obstacle to be overcome, so that the wishes of the Nauruan people may be met? The complexity of the problem makes it incumbent upon each member of the Council to direct serious thoughts to the matter. In assuming this responsibility, I shall bear in mind the need to ponder those considerations which, because of the circumstances, necessarily have relation thereto.

Perhaps it would serve a useful purpose to retrace developments on the question of the political future of the Territory as indicated at the thirtieth session of the Trusteeship Council.

The representatives of the Administering Authority outlined the conditions which the Nauruan Local Government Council presented to the administration as a basis for determining a location by the Administering Authority for resettlement of the Nauruan population. These conditions have been re-stated in the statement of the Special Representative. At the risk of drawing upon the patience of the members of the Council, I shall repeat them:

(Miss Brooks, Liberia)

"(1) The climate must be congenial and better than Nauru -- preferably in or near the temperate zones of the Pacific -- free of the dangers of natural phenomena, e.g., earthquakes, typhoons, tidal waves, etc.;

"(2) there must be ample natural fresh water supply, but not to the extent of floods;

"(3) it must be free of poisonous insects, vermin and reptiles;

"(4) it must be free of man-eating animals;

"(5) it must be a land of mild seasonal changes, and

"(6) ample in area;

"(7) the land must be fertile with good prospects for agriculture and potential for growing suitable sustenance and cash crops;

"(8) there must be plenty of fish in its surrounding seas;

"(9) it must have mineral resources;

"(10) there must be a good harbour or natural anchorage to accommodate suitable volumes of shipping envisaged or estimated;

"(11) it must be situated in close proximity to Australia, near potential markets;

"(12) it must be on main shipping routes or have easy access thereto."

(1232nd meeting, pages 81-82)

One wonders which State of the community of nations is able to say that it came into being as a sovereign nation with all these potentials. For example, the potential markets of the most viable nation in the world today, the United States, at its founding were in Europe -- a distance of many thousands of miles of sea routes, with means of transportation undeveloped. What was most essential was the will of the American people to take advantage of these markets. Today, with modern means of transportation and communication, the world has become comparatively small and close together. Further, historical links are not necessarily hampered because of distance. One hundred and forty-one years and more than 3,000 air miles have not broken the ties of friendship bound by history between the United States and Liberia.

Advantages of natural harbours for a volume of commercial and/or shipping activities are desirable, but lack of these natural facilities is conquerable by man-made inventions, as are also poisonous insects, venom and reptiles, to analyse just a few of the requirements.

One begins to wonder what ingenuity or initiative would be left to the Nauruan people, figuratively speaking, if all these treasures locked in a miracle box were turned over to them. I do not mean that I condemn their thinking or desires in this respect, but in fact rarely has nature placed all those treasures in one geographical location. A people does not have to despair if it can have the most basic of these for living, while acquiring the others by exchange; until developed, all nations are interdependent, great or small.

To the people of Nauru, Curtis Island was and is an acceptable location for resettlement, although it does not possess all the natural facilities required by them. But Curtis Island does not bring a solution to the problem of resettlement; rather, it compounds the problem. The conditions under which the Australian Government authorized its offer of Curtis Island for resettlement were as follows:

"(a) the Nauruan people will, on approval of the plan by the Nauruan people and the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, forthwith have full Australian citizenship with the right to come and go between the island of Nauru and the Australian mainland;

"(b) the Nauruan people resettled on Curtis Island and their descendants will have assured for them continuing power to manage their own community affairs on Curtis Island, enjoying all the extensive powers in the management and disposition as they see fit for the benefit of the Nauruan people and their descendants of the land and other assets vested in them under the Nauruan Resettlement Agreement, and such other special powers as will allow them to control the transfer of land on Curtis Island to persons other than Nauruans resettled on Curtis Island or their descendants, and other matters of more particular concern to the Nauruans as the occupiers of Curtis Island;

"(c) the Nauruan people resettled on Curtis Island and their descendants will enjoy social conditions such as housing, education, health, wages and working conditions; and communications, electricity, water supply, sewerage and other facilities which in standard and scope are not less favourable than those generally available to Queensland citizens;

(Miss Brooks, Liberia)

"(d) the Nauruan people resettled on Curtis Island and their descendants will be afforded economic opportunities including the setting up of industries which are capable of providing livelihood at a standard comparable with the standard generally enjoyed by Australian citizens engaged in similar work, for every man able and willing to work and for as many employable women as possible, and will be afforded means for the development to appropriate standards of necessary employment skills." (Ibid., page 86)

As was stated at the last Council session, and as indicated in the principles just enumerated, the Australian Government does not see fit to relinquish its sovereignty over Curtis Island. What seems to be problematical is the following.

For example, the world today is moving towards the trend of nuclear-free zones. Small nations especially seek to keep their countries as nuclear-free zones and larger ones are working towards denuclearized zones. As Australian citizens under the proposed arrangements, would the Nauruans have the power to declare Curtis Island a nuclear-free zone?

Perhaps the preceding question should have been: would the Nauruans under the special arrangements be able to establish their own House of Assembly, and to what extent would the Government of Australia have powers of restriction? Would this legislature have the power to deny recruitment of Nauruans for Australian military service?

One of the most touchy situations in the world today is that of racial discrimination in various forms, direct and indirect. In some sovereign nations even laws against it sometimes prove to be ineffective especially in its practical application, which tends to mar harmonious relations between peoples. The conditions of the offer for resettlement include employment opportunities, the right to come and go between the two places, etc. What would be the situation regarding, for instance, hotel accommodations without discrimination and unrestricted housing areas? Would the Australian public be willing to co-operate with its Government in ensuring no practical form of discrimination, direct or indirect, against the Nauruan people?

I repeat, the Australian Government clearly states that it cannot bridge its sovereignty by granting independence to the Nauruan people on Curtis Island. It is agreed that independence would not be denied to them in an area which would not

affect its sovereignty. It states that as yet it does not know of such a location; it therefore offers not full self-government to the Nauruans but what it feels may be fairly described as self-government.

In view of the short distance between Curtis Island and the Australian mainland, as described by the Special Representative, appreciable difficulties can be conceived with regard to alienation of sovereignty over Curtis Island.

To maintain what the Nauruans consider national identity, they have requested nothing short of complete independence. Certainly there are appreciable difficulties involved in giving up complete independence even for association with an independent State, and this is why the delegation of Liberia, at the thirtieth session of this Council, made in effect the following suggestion: that, should both parties continue to retain their positions, the answer to the problem might lie in a new approach -- that of finding an area not very near Australia but which would meet to a large extent the natural tendencies requested by the Nauruan people. From the present state of affairs we feel that there is magnitude in our suggestion.

(Miss Brooks, Liberia)

It is estimated that the phosphate on the Nauruan Island will be depleted within thirty years. We ask ourselves what are the possibilities along the following lines: immediate steps being taken for reclamation of the already depleted land surface -- a process to be continued as the land is depleted; building of suitable type houses such as apartment buildings to accommodate population growth as is being done in some countries; soil improvement for agriculture, for example, in Israel cities are springing up in the heart of the desert although this actually involves hard work; this would not delay independence for an agreement could be reached with the Australian and British Governments to carry out the obligations of resettlement. If the answer is that this is utterly impossible, then it would seem that the issue is to be resolved in the following manner:

The Nauruans will have to have the courage to face a reality, the reality that rarely does a people obtain complete independence on a silver platter. The price of liberty and freedom and/or independence is sometimes greater than forgoing some of the twelve preferences indicated in their conditions for resettlement. They will have to decide which is more important to them: independence or all the necessary ingredients for immediate economic, social and educational adjustment. It seems to me that it is a challenge which they have either to accept or forgo. If the Nauruans do not accept Curtis Island because of the conditions attached thereto, perhaps it would be necessary for a team of United Nations experts to be made available to assist in a new search for a place suitable for settlement as a sovereign nation.

I turn now to the question of political advancement. At its thirtieth session the Trusteeship Council reaffirmed its recommendation to the Administering Authority that an advisory committee consisting of representatives of the Australian Government and of the Nauruan people should be set up to work out constitutional plans for full Nauruan participation in the legislative and executive administration of the Territory. Since the Council last convened, a Nauruan has been appointed to the position of Superintendent of Health, that is to say one senior post has been attained by a Nauruan.

(Miss Brooks, Liberia)

In the statement of the Special Representative indications are given of measures undertaken by the Administering Authority to expand the powers of the Nauruan Local Government Council. While recognizing the action of the Administering Authority, there is, at the same time, still the need for implementation of the Council's recommendation for appointment of an advisory committee to work out constitutional plans for full Nauruan participation in the legislative and executive administration of the Territory.

Again, and if I recall correctly, the delegation of Liberia stressed the fact that the organization and formulation of a government for and by the Nauruan people, that is to say, self-government, should not be determined by the question of resettlement. This point was inadvertently omitted from the record; however, my delegation still feels that the Nauruan people are capable of managing their own affairs. The establishment of self-government would build self-reliance in the people of Nauru, prepare them for the management of their own affairs and make it easier for resettlement, even if adaptation and modifications in the form of government must be necessarily made to suit changing conditions.

As regards the amendments to a series of ordinances by the Administering Authority, my delegation would have preferred that as an appendix to the annual report, the laws, regulations, ordinances and amendments thereto be included to enable representatives to properly consider and evaluate them, especially in relation to the powers and functions of the Local Government Council. It expresses the hope that this suggestion entails no hardship for the Administering Authority and that the Council can look forward to this additional information at its next session.

The delegation of Liberia takes note with interest of the removal of credit restrictions, provision for care of mentally disordered persons, as well as the amendments to ordinances widening the powers and functions of the Local Government Council. We must, nevertheless state that there seems to exist some contradictions when it comes to the extended powers of the Nauruan Local Government Council. For example, at the top of page fourteen of the annual report, beginning with the second sentence, it is stated:

(Miss Brooks, Liberia)

"The Administrator may act in opposition to the advice of the Council on any matter where, in his opinion, he is justified in doing so".

The sentence which follows refers to the advisory powers of the Council as a matter of gaining insight into the work of the Government. It is also stated six lines from the bottom of page 14 of the annual report that the Administrator has the power to disallow a rule made by the Council at any time within a period of three months. On page 3 of Part II of the statement of the Special Representative, sub-paragraph (c) it will be noted that the Council's right to make by-laws is vetoed by the right of the Administrator to disallow the by-laws made by the Council. These are features which are contrary to the principle of full and effective powers of a legislative body, and it can be rightly said that the nature of the powers of the Nauruan Local Government Council is to a large extent still advisory.

(Miss Brooks, Liberia)

In addition to the post of Superintendent of Health, the Administration has appointed Nauruans to six other lesser but important posts. This is a step forward in the right direction. However, in the light of the urgent need to fill high positions of responsibility with Nauruans, my delegation expresses the hope that added intensification will be, if necessary, made by the Administering Authority to qualify Nauruans and place them in such posts.

The employment of a Nauruan civil engineer by the British Phosphate Commissioners is a starting-point for Nauruan participation at a high level in the phosphate service. However, my delegation considers that it is a matter of urgency that the Administering Authority intensify its efforts to give Nauruans the necessary professional training to qualify them for positions of high responsibility with the British Phosphate Company.

My delegation believes that consultations such as have been established between the Council and the British Phosphate Company are in harmony with the views of the Council. It takes note of the action of the British Phosphate Commissioners in increasing the rates for land rentals, temporary leases and compensation for destroyed crops. We believe, however, that in order to place the Nauru Local Government Council on an equal bargaining basis with the Phosphate Commissioners, the Commissioners should not have objected to the presence of the professional adviser of the delegation designated by the Nauru Local Government Council, especially so when the question of a fair share of the royalties to the Nauruans was also involved.

As regards the phosphate dust, it is not enough to say it is not injurious but a nuisance. A nuisance is damageable in law, and continued inhalation of dust particles, it stands to reason, is likely in the long run to prove dangerous to persons who, like the speaker, are susceptible to dust particles. We stress the point that the Phosphate Commissioners should, in addition to their present undertaking, do everything possible to alleviate the situation.

In the field of public health it is to be noted that both the Administering Authority and the Phosphate Commissioners provide medical and dental services free of cost to the Nauruans and that Nauruan patients requiring treatment by specialists not available in the Territory are sent to Australia at the Administration's expense. It is to be noted from the statement of the Special Representative that the last medical survey showed that morbidity on the island

(Miss Brooks, Liberia)

has dropped, thanks to anti-tuberculosis measures, from 3.3 per cent to 1.1 per cent, and that the Administration continues its efforts to eradicate the tubercular disease.

On page 33 of the report of the Administering Authority reference is made to the steps taken to implement the Trusteeship Council's recommendation regarding dietary deficiencies in vitamins A and C. It is indicated that the educational campaign carried on in the schools, the infant-welfare clinics, educational classes for adults, and hospitals has had the effect of eliminating deficiencies in vitamins A and C to the extent that there are practically no dietary problems affecting children. My delegation therefore commends the Administering Authority and expresses the hope that this subject will now become a part of the educational curriculum.

As the supply of water to the Nauruans became the subject of a resolution at the thirtieth session of the Council, my delegation notes that water is now issued free to the Nauruans and that the amount for ration periods has increased from 55,000 gallons per week to 100,000 gallons, as requested by the Nauruan Local Government Council.

It is of interest to note the establishment of a Nauruan-language newspaper and it is hoped that this news organ will develop to a daily circulation.

My delegation takes note with appreciation of the services now being rendered to the Nauruan community by the District Women's Club. Further, in regard to the status of women, my delegation wishes to suggest that the age requirement for women voters be reduced from twenty-one to eighteen years.

The action undertaken by the Vocational Guidance and Employment Board to advise the Administrator on the placement in employment of Nauruan boys and girls leaving school, and on ways and means of providing the training required to enable them to obtain qualifications in the careers they choose, is commendable. However, it is hoped that the Board will use its influence to encourage boys and girls to remain in school and pursue higher education.

Finally, it is the hope of my delegation that the Administration will undertake and carry out the types of technical training which will gain for the population of Nauru the experience necessary for resettlement wherever that may be. There is need for trained Nauruan medical doctors. Whatever the facilities

(Miss Brooks, Liberia)

may be at present, it is being carried out mainly by expatriates, and this is not a healthy sign for a people who must in the nearest possible future take over the management of their own affairs.

I should like now to refer briefly to the model house which has been presented for the examination of members of the Council. I would say that from a woman's point of view the house does not have enough bathrooms. I have been thinking that the pillars on which the house rests could possibly be removed and a basement put in underneath where there would be a recreation room for children, a washing-place and perhaps another bathroom, all inside the house.

The President took the Chair.

Mr. SALSAMENDI (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization): We wish to take this opportunity to assure the members of the Trusteeship Council that, as in past years, UNESCO has been following with interest the examination of the Trust Territories of Nauru, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, and is making careful study of the reports submitted by the Administering Powers.

It is with regret that UNESCO has not been able to maintain its practice of presenting the Council with detailed observations on these reports during this session. Normally UNESCO makes a thorough analysis of the reports and presents its conclusions to our Executive Board for consideration before forwarding observations to the Council. Unfortunately, the late receipt of the reports, coincidental with the meeting of UNESCO's Executive Board in May, made it quite impossible for UNESCO to follow its usual procedure. However, we hasten to affirm that due consideration is most certainly being given to the information provided for each Territory by the Administering Power and the Visiting Mission, as well as information brought out in the present discussions.

With these circumstances prevailing, UNESCO's Department of Education has endeavoured to make a few comments on the report first received, that of the Territory of Nauru. These comments are confined to those sections of the report relating to education, and are formulated in the light of UNESCO's observations to the thirtieth session of the Council.

It is noted that the annual report on the Trust Territory of Nauru covering the year ending 30 June 1963 does not indicate major changes as regards legislation, general policy and organization in the field of education. However, it is to be commended that the activity of the Nauruan members of the Education Advisory Committee has been intensified during that period. We cite particularly page 38 of the report, where it is stated that "the Education Department has benefited considerably by having the direct advice of the Nauruan members and has been able to initiate changes designed to meet the wishes of the Nauruan community for the expansion and progress of the education of its people".

(Mr. Salsamendi, UNESCO)

Modification of curricula is indicated, as in the particular instance of the introduction of shorthand and typing classes, and the appointment in 1963 of a fully trained commercial teacher.

As the members of the Council will recall, UNESCO, at its thirtieth session, drew attention to the fact that no measures seemed to be underway for the recommended establishment of a single system of primary education. UNESCO is now pleased to see the indications on pages 37 and 48 of the report at hand that the recommended single system seems to be taking shape slowly. As part of this process, a small group of Nauruan pupils, having attained proficiency in the English language, were transferred in 1962 from the Aiwo Primary School to the Yaren Primary School. The latter school has been attended mostly by Australians. This gives encouraging signs that a project for integration of schools is being initiated, and that these two schools may be merged as from the beginning of the 1964 school year.

With regard to the Administration Secondary Schools, a slight increase can be observed in the enrolment figures.

As for improvement of the teaching staff, the number of qualified teachers showed little increase. It rose only from 18 to 19, according to information given on page 45. Sixteen of these teachers are Australians. However, plans are indicated for a further increase to 23 of the number of Australian teachers, as soon as the integration of the Primary Schools is completed, thus aiming at improving the quality of the teaching. It is gratifying to see that guidance and supervision of less-trained teachers by qualified staff have been intensified. The new position of a teacher-trainer has been provided in the Education Department and an Australian officer has been appointed. He will also be in charge of the establishment, in 1964, of a Teacher Training Centre for Nauruan staff.

Turning to the scholarship programme, we see that the number of scholarships provided by the Government for Nauruan students rose from twelve to fifteen, and that the eight Administration Cadetships granted in 1961-62 have been increased to twelve during the period covered by the present report.

(Mr. Salsamendi, UNESCO)

Finally, we would draw attention to indications on pages 16 and 48 of a developing programme to train government employees. It seems that after consultation with Nauru Local Government Councillors, a programme and special training courses have been instituted for the progressive advancement of Nauruans into senior public positions. During 1962-63 Nauruans have replaced Australians in such positions as works superior, postmaster, records clerk and surveyor.

In conclusion, may I repeat that UNESCO follows with interest developments, such as those just cited, with the hope that they will continue and accelerate, in order to enable the people of Nauru to assume the role to which they aspire. Needless to say, UNESCO looks toward like accomplishments for the people of New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, although circumstances did not allow us to present comments at this session.

The PRESIDENT: The Council will now hear the closing statement of the Administering Authority on Nauru.

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. MARSH (Special Representative): Before embarking upon the substance of my closing statement, I should like to take this opportunity on behalf of my colleague, Councillor Austin Bernicke, and for myself, to express our appreciation of the friendliness which has been extended to us personally by all the delegations to the Trusteeship Council without exception even where the questioning has been most rigorous. We are conscious of the privilege of having been invited to participate in the important work of this distinguished body and it is our sincere hope that our response to your invitation has been helpful to the Council.

The particular roles of Adviser and Special Representative are not without some stress, however, especially for people like Mr. Bernicke and myself without previous experience here. We have been helped not only by the friendliness of the

(Mr. Marsh,
Special Representative)

members of the Council and their delegations but also by the helpfulness of your own chairmanship, Mr. President, which did much to put us more at ease. We thank you and the Council. Mr. Bernicke has asked me particularly to thank the various members of this Council for their expressions of goodwill to the Nauruan people and to say that it will be his pleasure to convey them to the Nauru Local Government Council and to his people.

It seems appropriate in the closing statement to sum up the fundamental facts which have been revealed in the examination and debate of the current proceedings of the Trusteeship Council concerning Nauru.

The Charter of the United Nations commits an Administering Authority to promote progressive development towards self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of each territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned -- and as may be provided by the terms of each Trusteeship Agreement. The Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of Nauru in particular obligates the Administering Authority among other things, to "safeguard the interests both present and future of the indigenous inhabitants of the Territory".

The freely determined and freely expressed decision of the Nauruan people, repeatedly endorsed by this Council, is that the future interests of the Nauruan people demand -- and I quote the Head Chief's words to this Council in 1963 -- "that they should be resettled elsewhere". The Nauruan people have particularized the kind of place on which they should be resettled; they have expressed a natural desire to preserve their identity as a people and to manage their own affairs. The only place which both the Nauruans and the Administering Authority agree would be suitable for resettlement is Curtis Island. However, the very advantages of this place situated so close to the mainland give rise to problems for the Australian Government.

In this situation with two groups of people involved there is need for patient negotiation. This is something which cannot be forced on either of the two parties. A mutually acceptable resettlement scheme must therefore be worked for by the Nauruans and the Administering Authority against a background of understanding by the United Nations. It must be worked for in the way to which

(Mr. Marsh,
Special Representative)

the United Nations is dedicated, by negotiation freely entered into between parties respecting each other, and with goodwill towards each other.

In the case of an island incapable of accommodating its future increase it is no assurance of the future to abandon the quest, now by negotiation, for a new home and turn to a political solution limited to 8.2 square miles. Least of all should this be contemplated now when the physical search has, contrary to many expectations, been successful and when the negotiating table is being prepared even now at the Nauru Local Government Council's request for discussions next month.

(Mr. Marsh, Special Representative)

Least of all should this be contemplated in the face of the goodwill and good faith between the Nauruans and the Australian Government; a goodwill and good faith on Australia's part demonstrated in action, positive action to secure Curtis Island ahead of any decision, in concrete planning already commenced, in agreement already conveyed to meet the Nauruan delegation in July, and in my own appointment as Director of Nauruan resettlement; a goodwill on the Nauruans' part expressed by the Head Chief before the Trusteeship Council last year: "We also think Australia understands our situation better, and we hope they will be sympathetic. We know Australia better than the others, and, although in our relationships we have had disagreements, we still think our best future is with them in the manner we have outlined in our proposals of last year." (1206th meeting, page 66)

This goodwill is not something confined to the organs of administration. I have already told the Council how Curtis Island first came to the notice of the Nauruan Resettlement Committee by a local community organization writing to say that they had heard of the search for a new Nauruan homeland, that they would like the Nauruans to settle in their district and that Curtis Island or two mainland sites might be suitable for the purpose.

Such spontaneity of goodwill expressed by Australian people to Nauruan people is surely indication of a basis on which a happy and enduring association of the two peoples after resettlement could be founded and endured.

It is because of this reciprocated goodwill and understanding that I am confident that, given time and patience for negotiation, a mutually acceptable basis for assuring the future of the Nauruan people will be found.

I believe that what has been traversed in the proceedings of the Council has shown that the Administering Authority has reacted constructively to many of the suggestions and recommendations of the 1963 session of the Trusteeship Council. The Council may be sure that the record of this 1964 session will likewise receive its careful attention and consideration.

Mr. McCarthy (Australia): I simply wish to reserve the right of my delegation to make observations at a slightly later date, if it should consider this necessary, on the very thoughtful and interesting remarks addressed to this Council today by the representative of Liberia and perhaps on the observations made by the representative of UNESCO.

The PRESIDENT: An opportunity will be provided for this, if the Australian representative so desires.

Before the Special Representative leaves the table, I want to say to him, on behalf of the Council, how much we have appreciated his assistance in our work and also the presence among us of Councillor Bernicke. We wish them a good journey back to their homes.

I would also, on behalf of the Council, express the hope that the forthcoming negotiations between representatives of the Nauruans and the Administering Authority will produce a solution satisfactory for the future happiness and well-being of the Nauruan people.

Mr. Marsh withdrew.

The PRESIDENT: If the Council agrees, I suggest that a drafting committee to assist the work of the Council on Nauru be composed of representatives of China and the United States of America.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 4 (a)

EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF TRUST TERRITORIES: CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA: REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE (T/L.1074)

The PRESIDENT: Normally at this stage we would follow our agenda and take up the report of the Drafting Committee on conditions in the Trust Territory of New Guinea. I am informed that the representative of the Soviet Union has submitted a number of amendments to this report which have still to be translated and circulated to members of the Council. I am, of course, in the hands of the Council. If members would like to start consideration of the report of the Drafting Committee, I would happily arrange this. I suggest, however, that it might be better to wait and consider both the amendments and the report together.

Miss BROOKS (Liberia): I should like to draw the attention of the Council to a correction in the draft report. On page 1 of the Annex, paragraph 1, next to the last line, after the words "for official and special seats in the Assembly," it should read "and instead the electoral ordinance should provide for the election ...".

In paragraph 2, next to the last line, it should read "study of problems and to prepare legislation ...".

The PRESIDENT: This is a very small amendment, but might I also suggest that in the third line of paragraph 2, the comma after the word "possible" be deleted.

Since no member wishes to start the discussion of the report of the Drafting Committee this morning, I assume that members prefer to wait until the amendments have been circulated.

The Council will meet tomorrow either in the morning or in the afternoon, depending on the decision of the Security Council to meet.

The meeting of the Drafting Committee on Nauru will be held tomorrow in the morning or afternoon, depending on when the Trusteeship Council will meet.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.