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## CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAMOA

### Summary of observations made by individual members of the Trusteeship Council during the general discussion

Note by the Secretariat: The Secretariat has prepared the present summary in consultation with the members of the Council concerned. The summary will be included, if the Council so decides, in the chapter on conditions in Western Samoa of the Council's next report to the General Assembly.

#### I. GENERAL

The representatives of the United States of America and Australia commended the Administering Authority on the manner in which it had discharged its responsibilities.

The representative of Italy was gratified to note that the New Zealand Government had declared its readiness to continue to assist the future State of Western Samoa.

#### II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

##### Constitutional arrangements

##### (a) Development of representative, executive and legislative organs and the extension of their powers

The representatives of France, Italy, China and Paraguay expressed satisfaction at the decision to advance the date for the introduction of Cabinet government to 1 October 1959.

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The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics said that the Administering Authority should take steps within the near future to grant real powers to the representatives of the Samoan people, to eliminate the restrictions upon the rights of the Legislative Assembly, to establish a Samoan Government with full powers, to liquidate promptly the emergency powers of the High Commissioner and the reserved powers of the Administering Authority.

The representative of the United Arab Republic expressed his confidence that the constitutional problems to be solved before the Territory gains its independence will be settled on a sound basis, account being taken of Samoan traditions and the requirements of an independent modern State.

The representative of India noted that the Legislative Assembly and the ministerial system of government had functioned satisfactorily. He hoped that Cabinet responsibility would be real and that the reviewing powers of the Executive Council and the reserve powers of the High Commissioner or the Council of State would be allowed in practice to fall into desuetude.

(b) Head of State

The representative of France stated that the question of the Head of State was primarily the concern of the Samoans themselves and had no direct bearing on the objectives of the Trusteeship System. The main point was that the government machinery should function well.

The representative of China suggested that the question of how the joint Heads of State would exercise their constitutional functions might be determined by having them alternate in office on a yearly basis.

The special representative of the Administering Authority said that the resolution adopted by the Fautua and the members of the Legislative Assembly only partly clarified the question of the method of filling future vacancies in the office of Head of State. Further consideration would have to be given to this matter by the Working Committee on Self-Government.

Domestic status

The representatives of the United States of America and Belgium endorsed the recommendations of the Visiting Mission concerning domestic status.

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The representative of Burma noted with satisfaction the passage of the Status Disabilities Removal Ordinance 1959. He hoped that a common domestic status would be established before the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

The representative of Italy was gratified that the arguments of the Visiting Mission seemed to have affected the rather rigid thinking of the Samoans in this matter.

The representative of Haiti stressed the need to achieve a common status for all Samoans. He felt great satisfaction in learning that some evolution in that sense was taking place.

The representative of India hoped that the Working Committee and the Legislative Assembly would give due weight to the concern of the United Nations that a common domestic status should be developed for all inhabitants of Samoa regardless of race.

The representative of the Administering Authority agreed that every effort should be made to establish a common domestic status before the attainment of independence.

Electoral system: development of universal suffrage and direct elections

The representative of France considered that the adoption of universal suffrage was not a pre-condition to the attainment of independence.

The representative of the United States of America was pleased that the Samoan leaders were disposed to consider the suggestions made by the Visiting Mission regarding the desirability of removing the racial basis of representation in the Legislative Assembly. He believed that the matai system was sufficiently flexible that such a result could be achieved if the people so desired.

The representative of Burma considered that the present system of matai suffrage was not satisfactory and urged that the possibilities of achieving a broader suffrage before the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement should be explored.

The representative of Belgium said that although universal suffrage was the most perfect system and one which was best suited to democratic ideals, it was obvious that the institutions of each society must take into account the customs and traditions of the people. It would nevertheless be desirable to render the matai system more flexible.

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The representative of Italy said that so long as a dual electoral system continued to exist admission to one or other electoral roll should not be based on race but on the free choice of the individual.

The representative of China was gratified to learn that the Visiting Mission's suggestion concerning a non-matai electoral roll was being given earnest consideration by the Samoan leaders.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed that since the Territory was embarking upon the most important period of its development, the question of universal suffrage was of particular importance. The future electoral law must have a just and democratic basis and must exclude all racial discrimination. At present only persons of European status enjoyed complete electoral rights and, if universal suffrage was not introduced for all citizens of Western Samoa, persons of Samoan status would suffer an injustice and a restriction of their rights. He was not suggesting the liquidation of the matai system which had certain good beginnings but he considered that it should be expanded by enabling all adult Samoans to participate not only in the election of matai, but also in the elections to the national parliament. The Trusteeship Council should propose to the Administering Authority that it should put the issue of the introduction of universal suffrage to the Samoan people themselves during the coming plebiscite.

The representative of Paraguay considered the matai electoral system to be unsatisfactory and preferred a common roll based on universal suffrage.

The representative of India endorsed the Mission's suggestion that "in addition to the matai roll, there should be a non-matai roll on which all persons, whatever their racial origin, living outside the scope of the matai system and not enjoying its privileges or carrying out its obligations should be entitled to register". He also stated that the normal practice of holding elections under secret ballot whenever two or more candidates submit duly completed nomination papers should be adopted. He recalled also the view of the Visiting Mission that the electoral provision whereby a candidate is elected if he is nominated by a majority of the matai in his constituency was unique and appeared to be open to undue influence and pressure.

The special representative of the Administering Authority said that the method of election by majority nomination was not in practice as bad as it seemed. It was a procedure which had grown out of the Samoan tradition of reaching decisions by agreement and as such should not be too lightly cast aside.

The representative of the Administering Authority, referring to the question of universal suffrage, said that it was not proposed to impose changes to which the people were as yet unreceptive.

#### Local government

The representative of the United Kingdom considered that it was more likely that progress would be made in local government by proceeding from the practical needs of the people to local government bodies suited to those needs.

The special representative of the Administering Authority agreed that this approach was worthy of very careful consideration.

#### Public service: training and appointment of Samoans for positions of responsibility in the Administration

The representative of the United States of America was gratified to note that New Zealand officials would still be available to fill high administrative posts for some time, but observed that these responsibilities must be progressively transferred into Samoan hands. He hoped that the Scholarship Scheme would receive every encouragement and assistance and that every effort would be made to recruit and train Samoans to fill senior posts.

The representative of Burma noted that very few Samoans had been appointed to senior administrative positions during 1958. He hoped that the Administering Authority would spare no effort to intensify the training of Samoans for the Public Service.

The representative of Italy welcomed the New Zealand Government's declaration that it was willing to continue to supply the future State of Western Samoa with skilled personnel until qualified Samoans were available and also its assurance that it was prepared to give further assistance in training young Samoans for positions of responsibility.



The representative of China observed that the shortage of Samoans qualified to occupy senior administrative posts was one of the deficiencies which the Territorial Government must strive to remedy with the necessary assistance of the Administering Authority. The lack of suitable candidates for training emphasized the need to expand secondary and higher education.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics supported the conclusion of the Visiting Mission that it was necessary to speed up the substitution of Samoan for New Zealand personnel in the Administration and to prepare and carry out a programme for the training of Samoan officials.

The representative of Paraguay hoped that a sufficient number of well-trained Samoans would be available to replace New Zealand officials to high posts when governmental authority is transferred to the Samoans.

The representative of the United Arab Republic considered the present system of public service adequate. The Public Service Commissioner would implement the regulations governing the status of public servants; there would be a provision for appeal to control the application of the regulations. He was satisfied to note that a Samoan would shortly head the Civil Service. It was necessary to speed up the training of Samoan personnel to replace New Zealand officials.

The representative of India hoped that generous assistance would be forthcoming from the Administering Authority in the preparation of an emergency programme for the training of selected Samoans to fill high administrative posts.

The special representative of the Administering Authority thoroughly agreed that the Samoanization of the Public Service must be accelerated. That would be done and the list of officers to be trained, which was mentioned in the Visiting Mission's report, had already been prepared. There were limits, however, to the extent to which it was possible to accelerate training and experience.

The representative of the Administering Authority said that overseas officers in the senior posts of the Public Service would be contract employees of the Samoan Government. Their places would be taken as soon as possible by Samoan citizens.

### III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

#### General

The representative of France stressed the need of the Territory for internal economic incentives and for external technical and financial assistance. He hoped that the United Nations and its specialized agencies would be prepared to make an effort in this direction.

The representative of the United States of America supported the Visiting Mission's suggestion that the Government of Western Samoa should consider the appointment of an expert to assist in organizing and stimulating community development and also its observations concerning the advantages of stimulating producer co-operatives.

The representative of Burma noted with satisfaction the opening of the Bank of Western Samoa and the success of Avele Agricultural College.

The representative of Italy welcomed the New Zealand Government's declaration that it intended to continue to provide a market for a large part of Western Samoa's banana crop.

The representative of China considered that there was an urgent need to diversify the economy. He commended the provision in the short-range development plan for the encouragement of secondary industries and also for the settlement of government land. He endorsed the Visiting Mission's recommendation for a usehold system in regard to the occupation of land and hoped that a development department would soon be established within the Bank of Western Samoa empowered to make advances to farmers for development purposes.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed that if the future independent State of Western Samoa is to be able to function well from the outset, the Administering Authority must do all possible to improve the Territory's economic and financial situation. The Territory's economy was backward and unbalanced, depending upon three crops, two of which were subject to extreme fluctuations of prices, while the third crop was exported only to New Zealand which could not absorb the total production; there were no industries and not a single mile of new road was constructed in 1958. He noted that a short-range development plan had been adopted in 1958 but the most important thing was that it should be

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implemented. Although the control of banking and currency was a vital attribute of a sovereign State the charter of the new Bank of Western Samoa, particularly the rights enjoyed by the three Directors who were appointed by the Bank of New Zealand, placed it under the domination of New Zealand. The Bank should be made independent of New Zealand and placed under the exclusive control of the competent Western Samoan organs. The Administering Authority had approximately forty years in which to build up a healthy economy and an adequate health and educational system. The present situation in the Territory showed that the Administering Authority had not carried out its obligations under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement as it should have. This made it all the more necessary for the Administering Authority to undertake now, as a matter of urgency, the carrying out of a programme of economic and social development with the direct financial assistance and support of the Government of New Zealand.

The representative of Paraguay noted with concern the drop in copra production and hoped that the Administering Authority would make an effort to increase it. Vigorous action on the part of the Administering Authority was needed over the next few years to strengthen the economy. Diversification of production, raising of livestock and the establishment of secondary industries were necessary steps to solve the economic problems of the Territory. He hoped that a programme of publicity and education would lead to the evolution of the land tenure system.

The representative of the United Arab Republic stressed the importance of speeding the drafting of an economic development plan followed by measures to meet the desire of the population to have better social and educational services. He emphasized the need of Western Samoa for technical and financial assistance to carry out its programme, especially during the years of its independence. He was confident that the United Nations will do all that it can through technical assistance programmes and its specialized agencies to assist Western Samoa and that New Zealand would take the necessary steps at the United Nations to this effect and would respond to the requests for assistance addressed to it by the Samoan authorities.

The representative of the United Kingdom endorsed the suggestions of the Visiting Mission concerning the encouragement of community development.



The representative of India considered that among other things steps should be taken to introduce cottage industries, handicrafts and small industries which would process the raw materials produced on the island. The Bank of Western Samoa could provide credit for such purposes. He was gratified to note that a beginning had been made in the field of economic planning, but considered that a crash programme of economic development was needed and felt sure that the New Zealand authorities would extend all necessary assistance.

The Special Representative of the Administering Authority said that one of the most important requirements was for a greater appreciation by Samoans themselves of the need for accelerated development and the desirability of planning for the future, which must mean, among other things, the employment of qualified overseas personnel. He was not sure of the ability of the Samoan people to develop a commercial fishing industry unaided. Moreover there was quite strong opposition in some quarters to the employment of foreign capital. He stated that the possibilities of developing an adequate and viable system of usehold land tenure were under serious consideration.

It was quite correct that the Bank of New Zealand was the controlling partner in the Bank of Western Samoa. This situation had been created deliberately and by design, but the Legislative Assembly was fully empowered to alter the Bank's constitution at any time.

The representative of the Administering Authority stated that Samoa would face many problems in its efforts to match its population increase with greater economic production. However, the economy of the Territory had developed considerably. The Administering Authority had made grants totalling £900,000 in the last forty years, and had handed over the New Zealand Reparation Estates to Western Samoa. The ordinary revenue of the Samoan Government in 1959 was well over double what it was ten years previously. He agreed that the Territory would benefit from a long-range and comprehensive development plan. Some £2 million had been expended on development projects in the last ten years and the Administering Authority had made both direct and indirect contributions towards this development work. The Administering Authority was willing to continue to assist Western Samoa to achieving a faster rate of development.

#### Development of adequate public revenue

The representative of the United States of America noted with satisfaction that the Government's final accounts for 1958 showed a revenue surplus and that this was being used to finance the 1959 development programme. He commended the Administering Authority for its offer of further financial assistance to the Territorial Government during 1959.

The representative of Belgium considered that it was highly desirable that the Samoan leaders should pay attention to advice contained in the Financial and Banking Survey of 1957 concerning the need to increase productivity.

#### IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

##### Human rights

The representative of the United States of America commended the statement which had been issued by the Council of State concerning the protection of land and property rights. He fully supported the recommendation of the Visiting Mission concerning human rights.

The representative of Australia said the Samoans would doubtless wish to set an example in the promotion of respect for human rights which was one of the principles of the Charter and the aims of the International Trusteeship System.

##### Public health

The representative of the United States of America urged the Administering Authority and the Government of Western Samoa to concentrate on improving generally the public health and medical services.

The representative of Burma regretted that for reasons of financial stringency certain health services had been reduced.

The representative of China observed that as a result of the economic recovery it should now be possible to allocate more funds for the development of medical and health services.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics said that there had been a considerable deterioration in the field of public health during 1958. Expenditure had decreased by £40,000 leading to a reduction in medical personnel. There had been no increase in hospital accommodation despite an acute need, and there were not even enough beds to care for the most urgent cases: for example, the rapid spread of tuberculosis might be due to the large number of infected persons who could not be hospitalized. Furthermore the Administering Authority had not made the necessary efforts to train Samoan medical personnel. The Trusteeship Council should recommend that the Administering Authority give direct financial assistance and, during the remaining period of trusteeship, make maximum efforts to improve public health services.

The representative of Paraguay said that a great deal remained to be done in the field of health. Some of the buildings of Apia Hospital should be replaced.

The representative of India hoped that the appointment of a Minister of Health would stimulate further expansion of medical and health facilities.

#### Labour

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed that although the number of wage earners was increasing yearly, there was still no labour legislation in the Territory and no social security system. He considered that assistance from the aiga could not be regarded as an adequate substitute for social security.

## V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

The representative of France observed that Western Samoa did not possess the financial resources to satisfy all its educational needs, particularly in regard to secondary and higher education. He believed the Territory would require assistance in this field long after independence. He suggested that lack of fluency in English should not be a barrier to the admission of Samoan students to New Zealand universities provided that their proficiency in the language was sufficient to enable them to follow the courses.

The representative of the United States of America believed that the situation in regard to education left much to be desired, particularly as the Territory would soon attain independence. Stressing the importance of an adequate educational system to sustain and further the Territory's development in all fields, he strongly urged the Administering Authority and the Government of Western Samoa to make every effort to increase and expand educational facilities.

The representative of Burma regretted that for reasons of financial stringency schools had been closed and about one hundred teachers had been discharged. Emphasizing the need of education for the proper functioning of a democratic state, he hoped that in future years the Governments of New Zealand and Western Samoa would give special attention to education.

The representative of Italy shared the concern of the Visiting Mission to see an expansion of secondary and vocational education and was glad to note that the New Zealand Government was prepared to give further assistance to the Samoans with this in view.

The representative of China commended the Administering Authority's willingness to provide assistance to education on an even greater scale during the transitional and early period of the Territory's self-government. He hoped that the impending visit by Dr. Beeby would lead to the adoption of a long-term plan for the development of educational facilities.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shared the view of the Visiting Mission that the educational situation was not satisfactory, especially in view of the approach of independence. Both expenditure for education and the number of pupils had decreased over the past three years. Approximately one-third of the children aged from six to fourteen were not

attending school and it was reported in the press that at least 3,000 pupils were not attending school because of lack of space or lack of teachers: this after forty years of New Zealand's administration. During 1958 the number of government teachers and primary schools had decreased and a large proportion of pupils were studying in mission schools which were not government-controlled and where more than half of the teachers did not have the necessary qualifications. In the villages teaching standards were extremely low and the schools were closed down if the local population was not able to support them. The Trusteeship Council should recommend that the Administering Authority give direct financial assistance and during the remaining period of trusteeship make maximum efforts to improve Western Samoa's educational system.

The representative of Paraguay considered that the Administering Authority had made a noteworthy effort in the field of education. However, training and education of Samoans to assume the new responsibilities of Government called for a broadening of the educational system. He noted with satisfaction the work being done at Avele Agricultural College.

The representative of the United Kingdom expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the fact that an educational mission would shortly visit the Territory to report on further steps which could be taken to improve Samoan education and that a further meeting of educators in the Territory had recommended that an advisory board of education, with an agreed representation from the missions, should be set up. He hoped that it might be possible to establish some sort of professional association grouping teachers from both outside and inside the Territory.

The representative from the United Arab Republic believed that a vigorous effort should be undertaken immediately in the field of education. Among other things Avele College should be expanded to become a university training college and a secondary school should be opened in Savaii.

The representative of India stated that, as practically the entire adult population of the Territory was literate to some degree, a good basis existed for the introduction of universal, free and compulsory education. It was gratifying to note that the Administering Authority and the Samoan Government intended to carry out such a step in some selected areas on an experimental



basis in the very near future. He emphasized the need to bring mission schools under an adequate measure of Government control.

The Special Representative of the Administering Authority did not agree with the statement that one-third of the children aged six to fourteen were not attending school. He suspected that the number was closer to 3,000. He said that the suggestion that educational co-operation with the religious missions should be proceeded with without waiting for legal-formalities deserved careful consideration. Careful attention would also be paid to the suggestion that purely linguistic aptitude should be a secondary consideration in technical training. He assured the Council that all means of increasing the number of scholarships provided in New Zealand and under United Nations auspices were being explored.

The representative of the Administering Authority stated that the Territory's educational progress had admittedly been uneven, largely as a result of historical factors. The New Zealand Government Scholarship Scheme was now beginning to show results, as in the early years of the Scheme, children had to be sent to New Zealand at primary school level. Within the next five or six years, Western Samoa would begin to benefit more fully from the Scheme and this should greatly ease the present shortage of highly qualified local staff. It seemed generally agreed that urgent assistance should be given to Western Samoa in this most important field and that special attention should be paid to secondary, technical and higher education, including the completion of Samoa College and the expansion of scholarship facilities.

## VI. ATTAINMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF TRUSTEESHIP

The representative of France considered that the time-table suggested by the Administering Authority was a reasonable one. He observed that the Samoans had shown great wisdom in recognizing that there should be a plebiscite by universal suffrage on the subjects of the abrogation of the Trusteeship Agreement, the promulgation of the proposed constitution and the Treaty of Friendship with New Zealand.

The representative of the United States of America was convinced that the necessary steps had been taken or had been planned so that the people of Western Samoa could smoothly and efficiently assume the responsibilities of independence

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on 31 December 1961. He was glad to learn that the future relationship between Western Samoa and New Zealand would be the subject of a Treaty of Friendship to be concluded after independence when the two parties possessed equal status. He noted with special interest the resolution adopted by the Fautua and the members of the Legislative Assembly concerning the holding of a plebiscite.

The representative of Burma doubted whether any question pertaining to a Treaty of Friendship with New Zealand should be included in the proposed plebiscite. He requested the Administering Authority to make a more definite statement of its views concerning future arrangements in regard to defence and external affairs.

The representative of Belgium was convinced that the measures already adopted by the Administering Authority and those envisaged by it for the near future in agreement with the people of Samoa, would effectively achieve the objectives of the Trusteeship System as laid down by the Charter. He considered that the future relationship between Western Samoa and New Zealand, no matter how important it might be for the future of Western Samoa, was not a matter which should be examined by the Trusteeship Council in order to ascertain whether the objectives of Trusteeship had been or would be achieved. As stated by the Administering Authority, the Treaty would be one concluded between sovereign independent States.

The representative of Italy congratulated both the Administering Authority and the Samoan leaders on the well-balanced and well-considered plan for the transfer of governmental responsibilities and the termination of the Trusteeship.

The representative of China strongly supported the Administering Authority's view that the Constitutional Convention should be held after the elections of 1960. With regard to Western Samoa's desire for a Treaty of Friendship with New Zealand, he considered it only natural in view of the excellent relationship and mutual good-will existing between the two countries. The statements of the New Zealand representative showed that it did not intend to retain any authority over Western Samoa and that there would be no limitation of the independence of the future State.

The representative of Haiti observed that if under the Charter the ability of the Territory to manage its own affairs is the final objective of Trusteeship, this ability is by itself the necessary and indispensable condition for attainment

of independence. He could not, therefore, fail to have some misgivings in gauging the present and future possibilities of the Territory in running the machinery of government, since it had been recognized that the Territory would not be able for an undetermined period of time to fulfil its needs in the important fields of justice, education, public health and many others. This was a situation to be very much deplored. However, Western Samoa's economic resources, if properly developed, would be sufficient to ensure its viability.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, noting that in all its official documents concerning Western Samoa, the Administering Authority referred only to the attainment of self-government, said that he was not satisfied with the statement by the New Zealand representative that this meant independence. The Administering Authority should clearly state that Western Samoa would attain complete and unqualified independence in 1961. In this connexion, he considered that the imposition upon Western Samoa of the proposed treaty of friendship was incompatible with the United Nations Charter since it would restrict and qualify the Territory's independence even before it had been attained. He considered that the drafting of any agreement with Western Samoa should be postponed until the Territory had become a fully independent and sovereign State. He noted the statement of the representative of New Zealand to the effect that New Zealand did not propose to involve Western Samoa in military blocs of which she is a part and that she would not establish military bases or station troops on the Territory of Western Samoa. He also noted, however, from the memorandum of the Government of New Zealand, dated 19 March 1959, that the so-called friendship agreement would provide for the delegation of the authority of the organs of Western Samoa and the transfer to New Zealand of such matters as foreign relations, defence, banking matters, currency, etc. He stated that his delegation considered it necessary to stress that the imposition of such an agreement upon the Samoan people was incompatible with the Charter which provided for the granting of self-government and independence to Trust Territories. The Trusteeship Council should decide that Western Samoa must receive genuine independence without any restrictions. It should also propose to the Administering Authority that the issue of the introduction of universal suffrage should be put to the Samoan people during the plebiscite. His delegation continued to hold that Western Samoa should be granted complete independence within the next year or two.

The representative of Paraguay said that if the dates specified in the time-table could be brought closer, such an acceleration would have a beneficial effect. He wished to see Western Samoa become a Member State of the United Nations as soon as possible. However, it was in the interest of the Samoans themselves that they should be duly prepared for independence in the economic, educational and social fields. He saw no need to make any suggestions concerning the future Treaty of Friendship between New Zealand and Western Samoa inasmuch as it would be concluded when Western Samoa had achieved independence. He appreciated the work done by the Administering Authority to further Samoan independence.

The representative of the United Kingdom stated that he had every confidence in the way in which the Samoan leaders would continue to tackle the problems of the Territory. He paid tribute to the Administering Authority for its work, which had brought the Territory to the threshold of independence and expressed the belief that the people of Western Samoa had a happy, prosperous and harmonious future in front of them.

The representative of Australia found every reason to believe that the tentative time-table would ensure the attainment of the objectives of trusteeship in Western Samoa on 31 December 1961. He observed that from all the information available, the proposed treaty would involve no diminution whatever of the independent status of Western Samoa. The Administering Authority and the leaders and people of Western Samoa were to be congratulated on their determination to do all in their power to bring into being an independent Samoan State, associated by a purely voluntary treaty with New Zealand.

The representative of the United Arab Republic stated that the Treaty of Friendship between Western Samoa and New Zealand should reflect the freely expressed aspirations of the populations concerned. The General Assembly would probably have the draft Treaty before it at its fifteenth session.

He remarked that in accepting the principle of adult universal suffrage for the plebiscite, the Samoans had shown wisdom and political maturity. He was confident that the Samoans and the Administering Authority would do all to implement the time-table, notwithstanding the practical difficulties that might arise.

The representative of India was glad to note that it was the intention of the New Zealand Government to give full independence to Western Samoa, thus

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acting in consonance with the Charter. He considered that the decision of the Samoan leaders and Legislature to accept a popular consultation based on adult universal suffrage was evidence of the respect in which the people of Western Samoa hold the Charter, as also of the flexibility of their traditional methods and beliefs.

The Special Representative of the Administering Authority explained that the time-table had not yet been fully approved and considered by the Government of Western Samoa and moreover that, while every effort would be made to carry it out according to plan, each stage would have to be successfully completed before the next was attempted and it was therefore subject to possible amendment in the light of the progress achieved and further discussions with the Samoans.

He further explained that the proposed Treaty of Friendship would not cover all the subjects mentioned by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The representative of the Administering Authority stated that he had been authorized by his Government to make the following statement:

"The objective of Trusteeship for Western Samoa is independence, in no way conditional upon the conclusion of a Treaty of Friendship with New Zealand or any other factor. Wherever the term 'self-government' is used by the Administering Authority in official statements or documents referring to Western Samoa it should be regarded as synonymous with independence. This is, however, without prejudice to the understanding that in the United Nations Charter these terms are used to denote two different political status.

"It is to be expected that the term 'independence' will be used more and more in official statements referring to Western Samoa, although it is unlikely ever completely to replace the term 'self-government' in semi-official or popular use".

The Samoan people themselves, he added, had suggested the coupling of the question of a treaty and that of the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in the plebiscite: the Administering Authority saw value in this proposal. With or without a formal treaty, however, he could not imagine any New Zealand Government not being willing to help the independent Samoa. The New Zealand Government would agree that there were still many ways in which the political, economic and social foundations of the Samoan State could be improved. Further efforts would be made to this end. At the end of Trusteeship Western Samoa would inherit a stable and Samoan central Government, a sound administrative structure, a developing economy and a generally healthy and happy population.