

**UNITED NATIONS**



**United Nations Visiting Mission to  
Trust Territories in the Pacific, 1953  
REPORT ON NAURU**

**TOGETHER WITH THE RELEVANT RESOLUTION  
OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL**

**TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS : TWELFTH SESSION**

**(16 June — 21 July 1953)**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 2**

**NEW YORK, 1953**

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## NOTE

By its resolution 648 (XII), adopted on 20 July 1953, the Trusteeship Council decided that the reports of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific, 1953, should be printed together with the text of resolution 648 (XII) concerning the Mission's reports.

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# REPORT ON NAURU SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO TRUST TERRITORIES IN THE PACIFIC, 1953

LETTER DATED 25 MAY 1953 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE VISITING MISSION TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, in accordance with Trusteeship Council resolution 642 (XI) of 24 November 1952 and with rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific on Nauru.

I should be grateful if, in accordance with the same rule, you would allow an interval of two weeks to elapse between the transmission of this report to the members of the Trusteeship Council and its general distribution.

(Signed) Enrique DE MARCHENA

## INTRODUCTION

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The decision and preliminary arrangements to send a visiting mission to the four Trust Territories in the Pacific were made by the Trusteeship Council at its 456th meeting on 20 November 1952 during the second part of its eleventh session.

2. The composition of the Mission was discussed by the Council at that session and finally determined at the 456th, 457th and 458th meetings. The following persons were appointed as members of the Mission :

Mr. Enrique de Marchena (Dominican Republic),  
*Chairman* ;

Mr. Léon Pignon (France) ;

Mr. Najmuddine Rifai (Syria) ;

Mr. W. A. C. Mathieson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

3. At the 457th meeting of the second part of its eleventh session, the Council adopted resolution 642 (XI) setting forth the Mission's terms of reference. By that resolution, the Mission was directed :

(a) To investigate and to report as fully as possible on the steps taken in the four Trust Territories towards the realization of the objectives set forth in Article 76 b of the Charter, taking into account the terms of General Assembly resolution 321 (IV) of 15 November 1949 ;

(b) To give attention, as might be appropriate in the light of discussions in the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly and the resolutions adopted by them, to issues raised in connexion with the annual report on the administration of the four Trust Territories, in petitions received by the Trusteeship Council relating to the four Trust Territories, in the report of the first periodic visiting mission to the Trust Territories in the Pacific, and in the observations of the Administering Authorities on those reports ;

(c) To accept and receive petitions — without prejudice to its acting in accordance with the Council's rules of procedure — and to investigate on the spot, in consultation with the local representatives of the Administering Authorities concerned, such of the petitions received as, in its opinion, should warrant special investigation ;

(d) To examine, in consultation with the Administering Authorities, the measures taken and to be taken in respect of the provision of information about the United Nations to the peoples of the Trust Territories on the Council's resolution 36 (III) of 8 July 1948, and to undertake the duties enumerated in Council resolution 311 (VIII) of 7 February 1951 on the same question ;

(e) To transmit to the Council not later than 10 June 1953 a report on each of the Trust Territories visited containing its findings with such observations, conclusions and recommendations as it might wish to make.

### ITINERARY

4. The Mission set out from New York on 12 February 1953 and was accompanied by a secretariat of six persons, of whom Mr. H. A. Wieschhoff was *Principal Secretary*.<sup>1</sup> After visiting the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, it arrived at Nauru from Majuro by air at noon of 10 March 1953. The Mission received a very impressive welcome at the airport and was taken during the afternoon on an inspection tour of the Chinese, Gilbertese and Ellice Islanders settlements. Later on the Mission inspected the British Phosphate Commissioners' plants, including the phosphate field and the field loco shops. Visits were also paid to several places where the phosphate was being extracted.

<sup>1</sup> The other members of the secretariat were Mr. James L. Lewis, Mr. Myles Minchin, Mr. Abdel-Aziz Allouni, Mr. Leif G. Haug and Miss Mabel L. Winnett. Only Mr. A. Allouni and Mr. M. Minchin visited the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and Nauru. The others left Honolulu directly to New Guinea via Sydney.

5. On Wednesday, 11 March, the Mission held a meeting at the "Domaneab" (meeting place of the people) of the Nauru Local Government Council, at which the Council submitted a petition (T/Pet.9/8). During the meeting the Mission obtained supplementary information on the matters raised in that petition and received a number of additional petitions. On the same day the Mission held a public meeting at the Domaneab, at which it obtained more information as to the Nauruans' point of view in general. Several other petitions were presented during the meeting.

6. The following morning, the Mission inspected a number of schools, including the secondary school and one mission school, and visited the Administration Hospital. In the afternoon the Mission held discussions with the Administrator and with the Island Manager of the British Phosphate Commissioners and two of the Commissioners who were visiting Nauru at the time of the Mission's visit. It met also with representatives of

the Chinese community. In the evening the members of the Mission were the guests of the Nauruan community at a concert organized by the Nauru Local Government Council.

7. The Mission departed by plane to Rabaul, New Guinea, via Kwajalein and Port Moresby on 13 March. Subsequently during its stay in Australia it held conversations at Canberra with the Australian Minister for Territories, Mr. Paul Hasluck. The Mission returned to Headquarters on 14 May 1953 and adopted unanimously the present report on 25 May.

8. The Mission wishes to express its sincere appreciation of the warm welcome given to it by all sections of the population in Nauru as well as of the consideration shown towards it during its stay in the Territory. It wishes in particular to thank the Administrator, Mr. J. K. Lawrence, and the Manager of the British Phosphate Commissioners, Mr. L. E. Cameron, for their hospitality and for placing all necessary facilities at its disposal.

## CHAPTER I

### GENERAL REMARKS

9. Important changes have taken place in the general conditions in Nauru since the visit of the last Mission in 1950.<sup>2</sup> At that time Nauru was still recovering from the disastrous effects of the war and much of the effort of the Administration was concentrated on reconstruction. Since then, however, the material rehabilitation of the island has been achieved to a remarkable extent. The phosphate industry has been restored, provided with modern equipment and its production is above pre-war levels. The housing schemes are reaching completion and now provide permanent quarters for over 200 Europeans, 1,200 Nauruans and approximately 1,100 Chinese, Gilbertese and Ellice Islanders. The Mission found signs of general economic prosperity among all sections of the population.

10. The Mission noted that a change had also taken place in the outlook of the Nauruans who have progressively adapted themselves to a European way of life. In economic matters, the Nauruans are becoming accustomed to a higher standard of living which, it should be emphasized, is almost exclusively dependent upon the phosphate industry.

11. However, the phosphate deposits are a waning asset, which it is estimated will be exhausted in about sixty-five to seventy years at the present rate of extraction. With the closing down of the industry, the whole or most of the indigenous population will have no alternative but to look for a new livelihood. The Nauruans are beginning to be aware of this problem and are becoming concerned about their future on the island.

12. In regard to this and other related problems, the Mission feels it imperative to observe that the Nauruan people cannot be regarded as more than a small commu-

nity, and in no case as a potential State; moreover, this community, isolated as it is on a small island in the Pacific, has services exceeding by far those of any other community of similar size.

13. The Mission is of the opinion that once the phosphate is exhausted the Nauruans cannot increase, or even maintain, their present standard of living. The Mission therefore believes that steps should be taken both by the Nauruans and the Administration to face this possibility realistically and in a manner which would enable Nauruans, as early as feasible, to make any necessary adjustment without further social complications. The Mission, without wanting to appear to be dogmatic, is of the opinion that resettlement in some other location, as expressed by the Nauruans themselves, may be the only permanent and definite solution. Whether such a resettlement scheme should involve the Nauruans as a community, or whether it could be brought about by individual or group settlements would appear to be a question deserving the most careful attention of those most directly concerned. Early planning would make possible a progressive resettlement of the Nauruan people which would minimize unnecessary dislocation.

14. In this connexion, the Mission believes that it would be incumbent upon the Phosphate Commissioners to extend to the Nauruans all possible help and to provide them with all the means necessary for the successful execution of such a transfer. The Mission further believes that early preparation may assist the Nauruans in making a wise and considered choice in a matter which is so vital to their own future. In advancing this suggestion, the Mission is mindful of the fact that without the existence of the phosphate industry on this small island the social and economic evolution of the Nauruans would doubtless have taken a different course.

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Eighth Session, Supplement No. 3*.

## POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

## A. NAURUAN AFFAIRS

15. With the enactment of the Nauru Local Government Council Ordinance No. 2, the Nauruan Council of Chiefs was superseded on 20 August 1951 by the Nauru Local Government Council. This body is comprised of nine members elected by adult suffrage and secret ballot from district constituencies, for a term of not more than four years. The Head Chief is elected by the councillors from among the members. His duties are additional to his normal duties as councillor. Furthermore, he holds the office of Native Affairs Officer and is also a magistrate of the District Court. The Council may advise the Administrator on any matter affecting Nauruans, including the enactment of new ordinances, and has the power, subject to the approval of the Administrator, to make rules, not inconsistent with the legislation of the Territory, for regulating the conduct of its business and for the peace, order and welfare of the Nauruans. It may also organize, finance and engage in any business or enterprise and provide or co-operate with the Administration in providing any public or social service.

16. For administrative purposes, Nauru is divided into fourteen districts, but for the purposes of the Nauru Local Government Council Ordinance some of these districts were grouped together to form eight electoral districts. Seven of the electoral districts are represented by one councillor each and one district by two councillors. Every male or female Nauruan who resides in Nauru and who is over the age of twenty-one years is entitled to enrolment as an elector for the district in which he or she has been a resident for at least one month.

17. The first election in the Territory was held in December 1951. Voting was on the preferential system and the electoral procedure observed was similar to that followed in the Commonwealth of Australia, including compulsory voting.

18. At a public meeting with the Nauruan community, a petitioner from Boe district made a complaint concerning the manner in which the election had been conducted in her district. She stated that, owing to a certain ambiguity in the election ordinance, the popular candidate had been declared ineligible.

19. The Mission discussed this complaint with officials of the Department of Territories at Canberra. It was informed that the candidate favoured by the petitioner had been declared ineligible because his nomination had been submitted in an irregular manner, and that since there had been only one other candidate the latter had automatically been declared elected unopposed. The electors of the Boe district had tried to persuade the Administrator to hold a fresh election because they did not believe that the successful candidate had majority support, but their request could not be acceded to since the ordinance contains no provision for invalidating an election.

20. Although it feels that the situation thus created is unfortunate, the Mission appreciates that it would be difficult for the Administration to make an exception regarding the application of the electoral law. It believes, however, that in future elections every effort should be made to explain fully the electoral procedure to the population well in advance of the date for submission of candidates.

21. The Mission held a meeting with the Nauru Local Government Council at the Domaneab, in the course of which the petition produced in document T/Pet.9/8 was presented. Due to the illness of the Head Chief, Mr. T. Detudamo,<sup>3</sup> Mr. A. Bernicke, Secretary of the Nauru Local Government Council, acted on his behalf. Other councillors present included Mr. R. Godabu, in charge of Native Affairs. The Mission was impressed by the ability and the seriousness shown by the councillors and noted that they appeared to have a good grasp of the problems affecting their community and were desirous of improving the effectiveness of the Council. The Mission observed moreover that harmony exists between the Administrator and the Council.

22. According to the terms of the ordinance establishing it, the Nauru Local Government Council has no functions additional to those transferred to it from the former Council of Chiefs and remains an advisory body. The Mission found that some dissatisfaction exists concerning a number of clauses in the ordinance relating to the Council's participation in the administration and especially in regard to the financing of the Council's activities. The Administrator informed the Mission that some of these clauses might be capable of improvement and that the question had been referred to the Department of Territories in Canberra which might possibly decide to review the whole ordinance.

23. The Mission subsequently discussed the ordinance with the Secretary of the Department of Territories at Canberra. The latter stated that he was aware of the views expressed by the Council, but that after having considered the matter it was his opinion that the functions and duties of the Council were clearly set out in the ordinance, as was also the manner in which the Council would get funds to operate, and that therefore no revision of the ordinance was called for. He believed that the real difficulty lay in the fact that the Nauruans did not yet fully understand the ordinance, and that they were not well enough versed in the procedure and forms of local government, the methods by which they should proceed to work and the types of regulations and by-laws which they should make. He said that what the Council really needed was education and guidance and that the Administration would make every effort to provide it with the necessary assistance and encouragement.

<sup>3</sup> The Mission subsequently learned with deep regret of Mr. Detudamo's death on 11 April 1953.

24. The Mission noted the above statement of the Secretary of the Department of Territories, but nevertheless could not escape the conclusion that at present the ordinance establishing the Nauru Local Government Council does not fully satisfy the persons directly concerned. The Mission believes that the question of revision of the ordinance should be studied anew so as to remove all possible misunderstanding which may exist at present and believes that all possible steps should be taken to explain to the Nauruan people the functions and duties ascribed to the Council.

#### B. PARTICIPATION OF NAURUANS IN THE ADMINISTRATION

25. As of 28 February 1953, there were 480 male Nauruans over the age of 16 years. Of these 269 were employed by the Administration as compared with a European staff of sixteen, together with thirty-one Chinese. All except one of the higher positions are held by the Europeans; the exception was the position of the Native Affairs Officer, held by the Nauruan Head Chief. The Mission was informed by the Administrator that it was the policy of the Administration to prepare Nauruans to assume greater responsibilities, and that the Nauruan staff was given every opportunity and encouragement to gain experience and to qualify for higher public offices.

26. The Local Government Council raised this question in its petition (T/Pet.9/8). In referring to the presentation which had been made by the former Council of Chiefs to the last Visiting Mission (T/Pet.9/6), the spokesman of the Local Government Council stated that the situation had not considerably improved, and that there was still only one Nauruan holding a key position within the Administration after thirty years of compulsory education. In response to a question by the Mission he stated that some Nauruans, now holding subordinate positions under the heads of the various departments, had suitable qualifications for positions of greater responsibility and were ready to become heads of their respective departments. He referred especially to such positions as Works Supervisor, Post Master, Radio Officer and Director of the Police, which he thought could be filled by Nauruans after a short period of training. He was, however, of the opinion that further training would be required before Nauruans could fill such positions as Chief Accountant or Director of Education.

27. The Mission, while noting the observations of the previous Visiting Mission concerning the difficulty of finding suitable persons who could occupy higher positions in government service, is of the opinion that the Administration should continue its efforts with a view to ensuring to Nauruans greater participation in government activities and to that end intensify its programme of training Nauruan officials to fill higher positions.

28. The Mission received several complaints concerning wages and conditions in the service of the Administration, in particular a complaint from a senior laboratory assistant at Nauru Hospital to the effect that he received an inadequate salary despite long service in the Medical Department (see paragraph 70 below).

29. The Nauru Local Government Council in its petition also raised the question of direct participation of the indigenous people in the work of the Trusteeship Council and requested that part of the expenses be borne by the United Nations.

30. The Visiting Mission informed the Nauru Local Government Council that the United Nations General Assembly had adopted a resolution recommending that indigenous representatives be associated with the work of the Trusteeship Council. In pursuance of the General Assembly resolution, the Trusteeship Council had expressed the hope that the Administering Authorities would find it appropriate to associate suitably qualified indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories in the work of the Council as part of their delegations or in any other manner which they might deem desirable. However, no provision had been made for separate indigenous representation or for financial contributions to meet the expenses involved.

#### C. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE BRITISH PHOSPHATE COMMISSIONERS

31. The 1950 Visiting Mission noted that the British Phosphate Commissioners were virtually independent in administrative matters and that as a result there existed a duality of administration in numerous areas of activity. The present Visiting Mission gained the impression that some duplication of administration is unavoidable but that there has been a considerable improvement in the relationship between the Administration and the British Phosphate Commissioners.

#### D. FUTURE OF THE NAURUAN COMMUNITY

32. According to present estimates, the phosphate deposits will be exhausted in about seventy years. There are no other natural resources capable of commercial exploitation and possibilities of agricultural development are limited by the irregularity of rainfall, frequent droughts, water shortage and the mediocrity of soil. The question, therefore, has been raised whether after the exhaustion of the phosphate deposits the Nauruans should be resettled in some other island or territory if no other possible source of livelihood alternative to the phosphate industry should prove feasible. The previous Visiting Mission stated that such resettlement could be the only satisfactory long-term solution.

33. The Mission raised this question with the Nauru Local Government Council. The Mission was informed that Nauruans are indeed concerned about their future, that discussion had already taken place regarding resettlement in other areas of the Pacific, and that some thought had been given to the possibility of buying land either in New Guinea or Northern Australia. In that connexion, the spokesman indicated that outside assistance would be welcomed.

34. During its discussions with officials of the Department of Territories at Canberra, the Mission was informed that as yet no definite plan has been decided upon. The Administration hopes to initiate a study of



the local resources of Nauru, including the possibility of rehabilitating the worked-out phosphate land, in order to determine how many Nauruans might be able to get a reasonable existence from the land when the phosphate deposits have been exhausted. Consideration has also been given to the possibility of resettling the Nauruan community elsewhere in the Pacific area, but as yet no suitable location has been found where the Nauruans could settle as a community. This possibility has not, however, been excluded, although it is felt that the solution offering the greatest possibility of success would be to educate and train the Nauruans up to a standard where they can find avenues of employment, either in groups or individually, anywhere in the Pacific. The Administration estimates that the Long-term Investment Fund derived from phosphate royalties will ultimately provide the Nauruans with £2,500,000 which may be used to establish elsewhere those Nauruans who are left on the island when the phosphate industry comes to an end.

35. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the Mission doubts whether after the termination of the phosphate industry, Nauru would be inhabitable for a people who by that time may be expected to have achieved a relatively high level of advancement. The comparatively

isolated geographic position of Nauru makes it unlikely that the people could maintain the standards of living to which they are becoming accustomed or that they could progress further towards meaningful self-government. Consequently, the Mission sees no other alternative to the resettlement of the population elsewhere. It believes that every effort should be made to minimize the social impact of the transfer and feels that this might well be achieved if the movement were to be made gradually either by individuals, groups or as a community. It is of the opinion, therefore, that the question of the transfer of the Nauruans, either individually or collectively, to another place or places agreeable to them, should not be put in abeyance until the termination of the phosphate industry, but that a plan for gradual resettlement, which might provide for the purchase of land at an early date, should be agreed upon as soon as possible. A gradual transfer should have as its primary purpose the reduction of the number of older people remaining on Nauru at the expiration of the 70-year period who may be expected to suffer most from a sudden change of environment. The Mission also believes that increasing attention should be given to providing the younger generation of Nauruans with vocational training which will fit them to obtain employment in other areas of the Pacific. This last point is discussed further below.

### CHAPTER III

## ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

### A. GENERAL

36. The economy of Nauru is almost entirely dependent on the phosphate industry, which directly or indirectly provides remunerative employment for the indigenous population and for a comparatively large temporary resident group, and makes substantial contributions to the income of the Nauruan community through royalties and rent. More than half the needs of Australia and New Zealand are supplied by the phosphate exported from Nauru.

37. The British Phosphate Commissioners, who enjoy a monopoly in the exploitation of phosphate deposits in Nauru, are permitted to lease phosphate-bearing lands for a period terminating not later than 31 March 2000. The Commissioners hold under lease approximately 1,200 acres of phosphate-bearing land. The agreement regarding phosphate lands provides that all worked-out land not required for the operations of the Commissioners shall revert to the owners. Up to 30 June 1952, 132 acres had been returned to the Nauruans either because the land had been worked out or because it was unworkable. Deposits of phosphate on land so far unworked are assessed at 74,402,000 tons. The total appraised tonnage is based on working experience over the last twenty years and is somewhat conjectural. On the basis of this assumption and assessing the average annual output as one million tons, the phosphate industry

in Nauru may be expected to continue for at least sixty-five or seventy years.

38. The Mission had an opportunity to inspect the major installations of the British Phosphate Commissioners as well as the fields of worked-out lands. It was very much impressed by the modern equipment, which includes steam shovels used to extract phosphate, together with a cantilever and conveyor belt.

39. During the year 1951-52, 1,061,797 tons of phosphate were shipped, and the annual report contains the statement <sup>4</sup> that the royalty payable to the Administration and to or on behalf of the Nauruans totalled £123,876, calculated at 2/4 per ton.

40. The royalty consists of :

1/- per ton to the Administration to cover general administrative expenses ;

1/4 per ton to or on behalf of the Nauruans for the following purposes : 3d. to the Nauruan Royalty Trust Fund to be used for the benefit of Nauruans ; 8d. to the individual land owner, being an immediate payment of 6d. per ton plus 2d. per ton invested on his account in the Nauruan Landowners Royalty Trust Fund, which is described below ; 5d. to the Nauruan Community Long-term Investment Fund.

<sup>4</sup> See Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of Nauru from 1 July 1951 to 30 June 1952, Commonwealth of Australia, Sydney, 1952, p. 18.

The amount received by the Administration in royalties during 1951-52 was £56,701.<sup>5</sup> The amount paid to or on behalf of the Nauruans for the same period was £61,505. The sum total of these payments was £118,206.<sup>6</sup>

41. There exist two major trust funds derived from payment of phosphate royalties : the Nauruan Landowners Royalty Trust Fund and the Nauruan Community Long-term Investment Trust Fund. The first was created in 1927 and as of 30 June 1952 had a total credit of £135,770. The second fund was created in 1947 and the amount standing to its credit on 30 June 1952 was £55,042. The Nauruan Royalty Trust Fund, to which reference has been made in the preceding paragraph, is not a long-term investment fund in the strict sense, since it is used to finance current expenditures on behalf of the Nauruan community such as indigenous education.

42. Apart from the royalties mentioned above, the British Phosphate Commissioners, according to the Lands Agreements of 1951 No. 5, agreed to pay a lump sum at the rate of £45 per acre to the landowners for all phosphate-bearing land leased to them, and a rental at the rate of £4 10s. per acre per annum for all non-phosphate-bearing land. Moreover, since 1946 and prior to 30 June 1952 the British Phosphate Commissioners advanced £325,000 to the Administration to cover expenditure in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Nauru. This advance with interest is to be repaid over a period of years by an additional royalty of 9d. per ton on phosphate exported.

43. At a meeting with the Nauru Local Government Council, the Mission discussed a request set forth in document T/Pet.9/8 for a general review of the royalties and the lands agreements. The Mission was informed by the Council that it had already requested the Administering Authority for such a review late in 1952. The spokesman, in elaborating on his petition, informed the Mission that the current royalty rate of 1/4d. per ton payable to or on behalf of Nauruans was insufficient. He requested that the rate should vary according to the rising cost of living, and that provision should be made whereby the royalty agreement could be reviewed at more frequent intervals. He stated that the Council was not in a position to know the finances of the British Phosphate Commissioners and therefore was not able to determine a reasonable figure for the increase of royalties, but that it was the Council's desire that the Nauruan community might obtain an income from royalties which would enable the Council to balance its budget in relation to rising costs. Moreover, the spokesman stated that the Council had no information on the total amount of phosphate exported, and had therefore no means of verifying the British Phosphate Commissioners' statements concerning royalties. If the Nauruans had greater participation in the Administration, the spokesman stated, they would have a more compelling voice in the negotiations with the British Phosphate

Commissioners. They also requested the Mission to obtain an assurance from the British Phosphate Commissioners that Nauruans, when properly qualified, would be given some of the responsible positions with the Commissioners.

44. The Mission received various requests from individuals for a general increase in royalty rates in order to pay the expenses of students studying overseas on their own, and another request was made to the effect that the sums credited to the Nauruan Landowners Royalty Trust Fund be released to the individual landowners.

45. At a meeting with the British Phosphate Commissioners, the question of an increase of royalties was discussed. The Mission was informed by the Commissioners that the matter was under consideration by the Department of Territories.

46. During its discussions with officials of the Department of Territories at Canberra, the Mission was informed that agreement had been reached with the British Phosphate Commissioners to consider the possibility of an increase in the royalty payments. The Secretary of the Department of Territories pointed out, however, that it was extremely doubtful whether the Commissioners had any legal obligation to pay more than the costs of administration of the Territory, but that their actual payments amounted to considerably more than that sum. He stated that the final decision on any increase of royalties would involve the Commissioners and he understood that in the past they had been inclined to resist claims for an increase in the payments to individual landowners as not being in the best interests of the Nauruans ; where increases had been agreed upon, the Commissioners had been inclined to pay them to the trust funds for the benefit of the whole Nauruan community.

47. The Mission is of the opinion that the Local Government Council's request that the royalty rate should increase in proportion to the cost of living is basically legitimate. It is not, however, in a position to determine whether the cost of living has in fact risen since the royalty rate was last adjusted.

48. With regard to the general question of the benefits the Nauruans derive from the phosphate industry, the Mission feels that the primary responsibility of the industry is to provide for the future welfare of the Nauruans after the mining of phosphate has apparently made necessary their resettlement elsewhere. The Mission believes that it will be incumbent upon the industry to assist the people whose lands will be made useless and to aid them in re-establishing themselves outside their island by purchasing land and contributing to their other needs. The Mission is therefore of the opinion that consideration should be given at an early date to the establishment of a capital fund to be used for the resettlement of individuals or groups of the Nauruan community in accordance with the plan of gradual resettlement which has already been suggested. The Mission feels that the existing Nauruan Long-term Investment Fund may not be sufficient to meet the requirements of such a plan,

<sup>5</sup> Included in this figure is the sum of £6,041 in respect of phosphate taken from Administration land.

<sup>6</sup> See *Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of Nauru from 1 July 1951 to 30 June 1952*, Commonwealth of Australia, Sydney, 1952, p. 19.

## B. LAND

49. Of Nauru's total area of 5,623 acres, 1,147 acres are non-phosphate-bearing land and 4,116 are phosphate bearing. By far the greater part of the land area of Nauru is owned privately by indigenous landowners. Virtually all the land on the central plateau, although privately owned, is phosphate land of inferior quality for agricultural purposes. It is leased to the British Phosphate Commissioners when required for the mining of phosphate. All disputes regarding land ownership are settled by a Land Committee, composed entirely of members of the indigenous population. The rights and interests of the indigenous inhabitants in respect to their lands are protected under the provisions of the Lands Ordinance 1921-51, which makes it illegal for any sale, lease, contract or agreement with regard to land to be concluded without the consent of the Administrator. The ordinance also prescribes the conditions under which the phosphate or non-phosphate-bearing land is leased together with the royalty rates or rent which are determined by agreement between the Nauru Local Government Council and the British Phosphate Commissioners. Under the Lands Ordinance as amended in 1951, the Commissioners are entitled to lease any phosphate-bearing land and, subject to the approval of the Administrator and the owners, may lease any non-phosphate-bearing land.

50. The Nauru Local Government Council informed the Mission when discussing its petition, that the Council had already raised objections to certain provisions contained in the Lands Agreements and had made many representations to the Administration for an over-all review of the existing agreements to provide landowners with a greater voice in matters concerning their lands. The Council also requested that the agreements, or certain parts thereof, should be subject to review at more frequent intervals than are provided for under the terms of the existing agreements and ordinances.

51. Concerning phosphate-bearing land, the Nauru Local Government Council requested that provision should be made in the Lands Ordinance whereby the landowners may be entitled during the currency of an agreement to negotiate for a new rate of payment for phosphate removed from their land if such phosphate is mined or removed for purposes other than manufacturing super phosphate as fertilizer.

52. Regarding non-phosphate-bearing land, the Nauru Local Government Council requested that different rental rates should be applied according to stipulated conditions to be agreed upon by the Council representing the landowners and the Administrator representing the Administering Authority. The Council was also of the opinion that the basis of royalties in general should be broadened so that some payments be made for such things as rock and other substances not containing phosphate, which are used for construction purposes.

53. The Mission heard various other requests concerning land problems. In particular, one petitioner stated

that he owned a piece of land which he did not want to lease to the British Phosphate Commissioners. However, the Commissioners were using it and paying him 5/- per month. The petitioner believed that his land was in a non-phosphate-bearing area and felt that he should receive at least £1 per month as rent. He said that he would rather have his land back so that he could grow coconut and pandanus on it. He informed the Mission that there were others whose lands were being used without their consent.

## C. THE AIRSTRIP

54. The people of Boe and Yaren districts submitted a petition (T/Pet.9/9) on the question of land at present used as an airstrip and requested the Visiting Mission to assist them in obtaining its return to them. Referring to their previous petition (T/Pet.9/7) submitted to the 1950 Visiting Mission,<sup>7</sup> they claimed that no fair solution was being offered.<sup>8</sup> The airfield is located along the shore on the southwest side of the island. The runway, which extends northwest/southeast, is 4,300 feet long and 200 feet wide, with a coral foundation and coral gravel surface covered with natural grasses. In March 1952, the Administering Authority decided that the present area should be developed to bring the airstrip into conformity with international standards for a short range international airport having a length of 5,200 feet and a width of 500 feet. The petitioners claim that there is no value in having an airstrip in the Territory, and that the land so occupied could be used with greater benefit to the inhabitants for the growing of food or for housing purposes. As in 1950, the petitioners object that the present and prospective use of the airfield for civilian purposes hardly justifies an airfield in their little island, and they argue that an airfield could be constructed on the worked-out land with the assistance of the community, which could provide finance and labour.

55. The Mission was also approached by a resident in the Boe district, who claimed that she and many other women of her district would have to find new homes if the airstrip were to remain in her area.

56. The Administration maintains that the acquisition of the land is necessary for the requirements of the aerodrome, which is in the general interests of the Nauruan community and that no other site is practicable. The amount of compensation provided in the Aerodrome (Acquisition of Land) Ordinance is regarded by the Administration as fair and reasonable, having regard both to the use value of the land and the use to which the holders have put it.

57. According to the aforementioned ordinance, the Administrator will pay to the owners of land acquired twice as much as would be payable at the rate prescribed by the Lands Ordinance as a rental for the lease of

<sup>7</sup> See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Eighth Session, Supplement No. 3*, para. 54.

<sup>8</sup> See Trusteeship Council resolution 325 (VIII).

non-phosphate-bearing land. In addition to the compensation presented by the Lands Ordinance, the Administrator will also pay compensation at the rate prescribed in the Lands Ordinance for any coconut, pandanus, tomano or almond tree growing upon the land at the date of the acquisition of the land ; and other compensation representing the fair value of any building which is upon the land at the date of the acquisition of the land. The fair value of any building is the value assessed by a committee comprising the Administrator, the Head Chief and the councillor representing the district in which the land upon which the building stands is situated.

58. The owners of the land described above have been paid an amount calculated at the rate of £6 per acre per annum as compensation for the use and occupation of the land by the Administration during the period from 15 November 1945 to 30 June 1951 inclusive, and at the rate of £9 per acre per annum for the use and occupation of the same land during the period from 1 July 1951 to the date of the acquisition of land. All payments were made out of the public revenue of the island.

59. The Mission, while taking note of all the claims raised in connexion with the airstrip, agrees with the findings of the last mission that an airport is now a necessity even if it is not frequently used. The Mission gained the impression that the people of Boe and Yaren would be ready to negotiate with the Administration to arrive at a fair solution provided that the rate of compensation is raised. The former Council of Chiefs previously proposed that £12 per acre per annum be paid instead of £9. The Mission is of the opinion that the people who are most affected by the establishment of the airstrip should be encouraged to resettle in other areas, particularly in the abandoned east coast.

#### D. WAR DAMAGES

60. The Mission received a petition (T/Pet.9/10) from the Chief of Aiwo and the people of Aiwo seeking compensation for war damages and material losses which they suffered during the last war. The petitioners stated that, although they had submitted various claims to the Administration, they had received only verbal acknowledgments. They claimed that a specific sum of money towards compensation for war damage had been approved by the Australian Government, but that the Department of Territories had subsequently paid the sum into a fund for the purchase of furniture for any Nauruan who has a house under the existing Nauruan Housing Scheme. The petitioners stated that these arrangements for settlements of war damage were not acceptable to them and asked for a reconsideration of the whole question of war damages.

61. The Mission received several other requests for war damage compensation, including one (T/Pet.9/12) from a petitioner who claimed that he had lost a house and a motor car during the Japanese occupation, valued at about £1,100. In the last three years, he stated, the Administration had made him a promise that the materials necessary to erect a suitable house would be made available to him. He stated that he and members of his family were prepared to accept the responsibility for the work of erecting the house.

62. The Mission noted that in 1949 the former Council of Chiefs negotiated with the Administering Authority for the settlement of war damage claims. The negotiations resulted in an amount of £15,000 being paid by the Administering Authority to establish a furniture fund in view of the inability of the Nauruans to pay for necessary furniture in their newly constructed houses.

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### CHAPTER IV

#### SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

##### A. GENERAL SITUATION

63. Segregation of the various racial communities is still legally enforceable under the terms of the Movement of Natives Ordinance. The Administering Authority maintains that the ordinance is in the best interests of the Territory and points out that passes are issued without undue restriction to enable persons with valid reasons to move outside their district during prohibited hours. Therefore, thus far no provisions have been made to revoke or modify it. It is to be noted that the Mission received no complaints and heard no grievances arising from the application of this ordinance. However, although it is aware that the ordinance has the support of the Nauruans, the Mission believes that a question of principle is nevertheless involved, and therefore welcomed the statement of the Administrator that the provisions of the ordinance are liberally interpreted.

##### B. SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE CHINESE WORKERS

64. In the past, the social conditions of the Chinese workers in Nauru have been the subject of various investigations and recommendations by the Trusteeship Council, most of which were concerned with the deplorable conditions under which the Chinese community was then living. The Mission found that the Chinese workers employed by the British Phosphate Commissioners, who now contract for one year only, are assigned adequate quarters in a compound specially set aside for workers employed by the industry. A few separate dwellings are provided for the married couples. The Mission was informed that gambling had been greatly discouraged and that alternative recreation was provided in the form of additional amenities, including a free cinema show each week and increased sporting and recreational facilities. The Chinese theatre offered occasional shows which attracted a large audience.

65. The Mission was gratified to note that recently a few wives and families of the Chinese labourers have been admitted to the Territory, subject to certain conditions. The wife of a worker and not more than two children under twelve years of age are permitted to reside in Nauru for a period of one year, and their permit may be renewed up to a maximum of three years. However, all members of the family must leave the island at the expiration of the permit. The Mission was informed that twelve Chinese families were admitted to the Territory under the above agreement, and the British Phosphate Commissioners told the Mission that consideration was being given to the admission of twelve additional families.

66. The Mission gained the impression that many of the difficulties to which the Chinese workers were subject in the past have been eliminated. At a meeting with representatives of the Chinese community, the Mission was informed that some of the workers who had returned to Hong Kong now wish to obtain re-employment with the British Phosphate Commissioners.

#### C. PENAL SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF LABOUR CONTRACTS

67. During its discussions with officials of the Department of Territories at Canberra, the Mission was informed that the Minister for Territories had issued a directive that penal sanctions for violations of labour contracts should be abolished. The necessary legislation for amending the Chinese and Native Labour Ordinance was being drafted at the time of the Mission's visit, and it was anticipated that it would be completed very shortly. The Mission welcomes this action, which is in accordance with the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council.

#### D. LABOUR

68. On 30 June 1952, the Nauruan male population over sixteen years of age totalled 480, of whom 441 were in employment — 269 being employed by the Administration, 124 by the British Phosphate Commissioners and 48 by the Nauru Co-operative Society. Since that date, the number of Nauruans employed by the British Phosphate Commissioners has decreased to about 100. The Commissioners stated that this was due to the difficulty in inducing Nauruans to work steadily in the industry.

69. As from 1 July 1951, the basic wages of the Nauruan employees of the Administration were increased by £26 per annum. This increase raised the Nauruan basic wage to £126 per annum, exclusive of allowances for dependants.

70. Several Nauruan employees of the Administration approached the Mission with requests for improvements in their wages and working conditions. In particular, a senior laboratory assistant at the Nauru Hospital, who said that he had been with the Medical Department for the past twelve years and had a good deal of training, complained that he received only £17 per month. He considered that this was insufficient to support his large

family and asked that his salary be increased to £25. The petitioner also told the Mission that he occupied a house under the Nauruan Housing Scheme, for which eventually he would pay 6/- per week as rent under the new draft regulations (T/Pet.9/14).

71. The Mission recalls that the Trusteeship Council noted at its eighth session<sup>9</sup> that the Administering Authority was reviewing in a sympathetic spirit the wage scales of the Nauruans and others. The Mission was not informed concerning the results of such a review, but suggests that any increase in the cost of living should be taken into consideration.

72. Another petition (T/Pet.9/13) was presented to the Mission by the Chief of Aiwo, claiming that during his term of office as Chief of the District of Aiwo, he did not receive remuneration for his services. The Mission was told that the petitioner had been informed by the Minister of Territories, through the Administrator, that district chiefs employed by the Administration were allowed time off to attend weekly meetings of chiefs and monthly meetings with the Administrator without any deduction from their normal pay. But the petitioner, the Department of Territories stated, had worked continuously on night duty and therefore was not eligible for additional remuneration. The Mission notes that this case and other cases had been considered previously by the Administration and the former Council of Chiefs. The Mission understands that other senior employees of the Administration who were also chiefs with certain community obligations did not receive any allowance in addition to their salaries. It believes that the case involves certain principles adopted by the Administration concerning public responsibilities to be undertaken by the chiefs, and therefore is unable to determine the right of the petitioner to receive the payments requested in his petition.

#### E. HOUSING

73. As a result of the destruction of all houses during the last war, a complete rebuilding programme has been undertaken. In May 1949, arrangements were made for the construction of 250 European-style houses at an estimated cost of £200,000. At 30 June 1952, those houses had been completed and a further scheme for the erection of an additional 100 houses had been approved and work was started on 43 of them. At the time of the Mission's visit, 62 houses were in a varying degree of completion, mostly in Buada, Yaren and Boe districts. The Mission was informed that on 30 June 1952 there were 1,041 persons living in these houses, the number of persons per house varied from 2 to 10, and priority in the allocation of housing was given to married couples and families. The Mission had an opportunity to see those houses and was greatly impressed with the progress made under the Housing Scheme.

74. At a meeting with the Nauru Local Government Council, the Mission was informed that the Nauruans

<sup>9</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Supplement No. 4*, p. 233.

are very satisfied with the housing programmes, except for their desire for an improvement in the electricity and water supply facilities. At the time of the Mission's visit, no rent was being charged for these houses, but a draft ordinance was under consideration which would provide for the payment of 6/- per week. The last Mission observed that the rate of rent as originally intended was £12 per annum;<sup>10</sup> however, the anticipated rate will amount to £15 12s. per annum. It is the opinion of the Mission that since this rate of rent represents less than the true economic rent of the houses, which cost some £850 each, it must be regarded as a reasonable rent.

#### F. HEALTH

75. The Health Department of the Territory maintains a general hospital, two out-patients' clinics, a leper station and other clinics for tuberculosis, dental and baby care. The staff consists of the Government Medical Officer, a nurse and a mothercraft nurse. The Nauruan staff totals twenty-two, of whom three are registered Nauruan medical practitioners. Two other Nauruans are receiving training at the Central Medical School at Suva. The British Phosphate Commissioners maintain hospitals for their employees — one for Europeans and one for Chinese and Gilbertese. The staff consists of one qualified practitioner, one qualified nurse and one dispenser — all Europeans — and ten hospital orderlies (nine Chinese and one Gilbertese).

76. The annual report contains the statement<sup>11</sup> that the investigation of the treatment of leprosy indicated that the outbreaks of leprosy were well in hand and that the present policy, which was in general that followed in dealing with the original outbreak, could hardly be bettered. During 1951-52, no new cases of leprosy were admitted to the leper station or treated at the leprosy clinic, while eleven patients were cured and released. At the close of the year, there were nine cases in segregation and forty-one cases receiving treatment at the out-patients' clinic.

77. The report also indicates that an outbreak of poliomyelitis occurred during February and March 1952, and ten cases were treated, one of which was fatal. To meet the emergency, special quarantine restrictions to and within the Territory were imposed and a special isolation ward was constructed at the Administration hospital.

78. The Mission was informed that since the submission of the last annual report there was no noteworthy

change in the disease pattern, that the number of confinements at Nauru Administration hospital was increasing steadily and that an advance was made by the establishment of an ante-natal clinic with a full-time nurse in charge. Since the clinic was started in November 1952, 52 patients were treated and their cases were successfully followed up. The number of admissions to the prophylactic clinic for tuberculosis decreased; at the end of January 1953, there were eleven patients in the tuberculosis station. The prophylactic clinic for leprosy is well established and a quarterly examination of the entire native population is being conducted.

79. The Mission, while appreciating the efforts undertaken by the Administering Authority to provide medical facilities for the indigenous population and the steps taken in training Nauruans for medical practice, could not fail to observe the insufficiency of the existing medical facilities. The Mission noticed that the Administration hospital was not fully equipped. It was not only small, but had an insufficient number of beds and was far from meeting all hygienic requirements. Moreover there were only two beds in the maternity ward, three cots in the children's ward and one main ward with twelve sleeping platforms. The Mission, although aware that the facilities of the British Phosphate Commissioners' hospitals would be available in case of need, is of the opinion that the Administering Authority should take all possible steps for the improvement of the hospital and medical services provided by it and is glad to note that the Administration was aware of the need for such improvements.

#### G. VISITS TO THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

80. A large group of individuals referred to their previous petition (T/Pet.9/3) submitted to the first Visiting Mission in 1950, in which they had requested assistance to enable them to visit relatives in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

81. The Mission discussed this matter with the authorities in both Trust Territories and was given to understand that there are in principle no difficulties in satisfying the request but that all the vessels which visit the island are owned by or under charter to the British Phosphate Commissioners and travel only between Nauru and Australia or New Zealand. However, the Mission was informed that transport arrangements are being examined by the authorities of the two Trust Territories in compliance with the Trusteeship Council's recommendation on the matter<sup>12</sup> and that the approval of the relatives concerned in the Marshall Islands and Kusaie has been obtained.

<sup>10</sup> See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Eighth Session, Supplement No. 3*, para. 78.

<sup>11</sup> See *Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of Nauru from 1 July 1951 to 30 June 1952*, Commonwealth of Australia, Sydney, 1952, p. 30.

<sup>12</sup> Trusteeship Council resolution 321 (VIII).

## EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

82. Education in the Territory is controlled by the Administrator under the Compulsory Education Ordinance 1921-51 and the supervision of all schools is entrusted to a European Director of Education who, at the time of the Mission's visit, had not yet assumed his responsibilities. School attendance is compulsory for all Nauruan children between the ages of six and sixteen. On the termination of the prescribed period of school attendance, Nauruan and other native children are required to attend for a further period of twelve months on a prescribed number of days each week for instruction in technical training in the case of boys and in domestic art for girls. The medium of instruction in all classes is the English language. The Nauruan language, which is a spoken tongue only, is used solely for explanation and conversational purposes.

83. At present there are six district primary schools, a special school at the leper station, a primary school for European children and a secondary school for Nauruans. The only private school in the Territory is the Arubo mission school, conducted by four sisters of the Sacred Heart Mission.

84. A Nauruan secondary school was opened during 1952 in the Boe district. This school is still quartered in temporary accommodation, but the Mission was informed that plans are being prepared to construct a permanent building in the Yaren district.

85. The Mission inspected the majority of the schools in the Territory. It was impressed by the discipline and alertness displayed by the students and was pleased to observe that on the whole the schools are fairly well equipped.

86. Except for two teachers at the European school, there are only two European teachers for the Nauruans, one acting as head of the secondary school and one for the Nauruan schools in the whole Territory. The Nauruan staff consists of a superintendent of Nauruan schools and twenty-five teachers. For the most part the Nauruan teachers do not have any special training beyond the educational facilities available in Nauru. However, at the present time training classes are held for the Nauruan staff at which instruction is given by the European members of the staff. Considering the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council at its eighth and tenth sessions for the increase of specialized training of teachers, the Mission gained the impression that the training of some teachers was still unsatisfactory.

87. As of June 1952, there were twenty-three Nauruan students pursuing higher educational studies overseas. Included in this number are two male students at the Central Medical School in Fiji, and two students attending theological colleges. The remainder, comprising fifteen boys and four girls, were undertaking courses of secondary education in Australia with a view to qualifying as teachers (ten), doctors (two), accountants (three), and one each as chemist, nurse, Native Affairs Officer and

domestic science teacher. Seventeen of these students were sponsored by the Administration, two by the missions and four by their own families. The Mission also noticed that a system of bursaries was instituted for European children to undertake secondary education in Australia, the cost of which was shared jointly by the Administration and the British Phosphate Commissioners.

88. Early in 1950, the Administering Authority stated that it intended to establish a central primary school, together with a domestic science centre for girls and a post-primary school for boys with emphasis on technical subjects. A secondary school was established in 1952 as stated above and the Mission understands that the Administering Authority is considering proposals for further development of secondary education to intermediate standard with an emphasis on technical training and domestic art. Other proposals under consideration include the special training of teachers, the establishment of kindergartens and the development of an adult communal education and welfare centre.

89. At the Mission's meeting with the Nauru Local Government Council to discuss the latter's petition the question of Nauruan education was raised. In referring to the petition from the Council of Chiefs (T/Pet.9/6) submitted to the previous United Nations Visiting Mission in 1950 and to a subsequent communication (T/Com.9/L.1, 1952) from the Local Government Council, the spokesman voiced his dissatisfaction with the manner in which the education of the Nauruans was being handled. The Local Government Council, in its petition, was sceptical regarding the progress achieved after thirty years of compulsory education. The spokesman claimed that the rate of progress for the development of a sound educational programme to meet the growing needs of Nauruans was still slow. He stated that most of the points raised in the original petition had been agreed upon with the Administration but that six months had elapsed between the time when the petition was submitted and the time when the matter was taken up by the Administration. He added that the question was still pending. The Administrator informed the Mission that all the points raised by the Nauru Local Government Council would receive due consideration when the Director of Education took up his duties.

90. The Mission discussed the educational policy of the Territory with the Administrator in the light of the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council at its tenth session, the intention of the Administering Authority as stated in its 1952 report<sup>13</sup> to bring about a further development of education in general, and also the statement that the question of education would be considered in the light of the programme outlined by

<sup>13</sup> See *Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of Nauru from 1 July 1951 to 30 June 1952*, Commonwealth of Australia, Sydney, 1952, p. 38.



the Nauru Local Government Council. The Mission was informed that the inauguration of future educational programmes were pending on the arrival of the Director of Education who would assume his responsibilities shortly.

91. The Mission considers that the principles outlined in the Nauru Local Government Council's petition are basically sound, and is of the opinion that the Administration should take all possible steps to implement them in the near future. In this connexion greater emphasis should be given to the training of qualified teachers as well as to the expansion of vocational training programmes.

92. Quite apart from the need for improving education generally in the Territory, the Mission believes that it is imperative to devise a training programme designed to satisfy the special demands which may be made on the Nauruans in the future as a result of the inevitable exhaustion of the island's phosphate deposits. The Mission has already suggested above that where possible a plan of gradual resettlement of Nauruans in some other area or areas of the Pacific should be initiated. As an integral part of this plan, the Mission feels that Nauruans should be provided with educational and vocational training which would enable them to obtain employment or otherwise maintain themselves outside their island. Hence, the Mission attaches great importance to the training of students abroad, not only in skills which are specially required within the Territory. The Mission

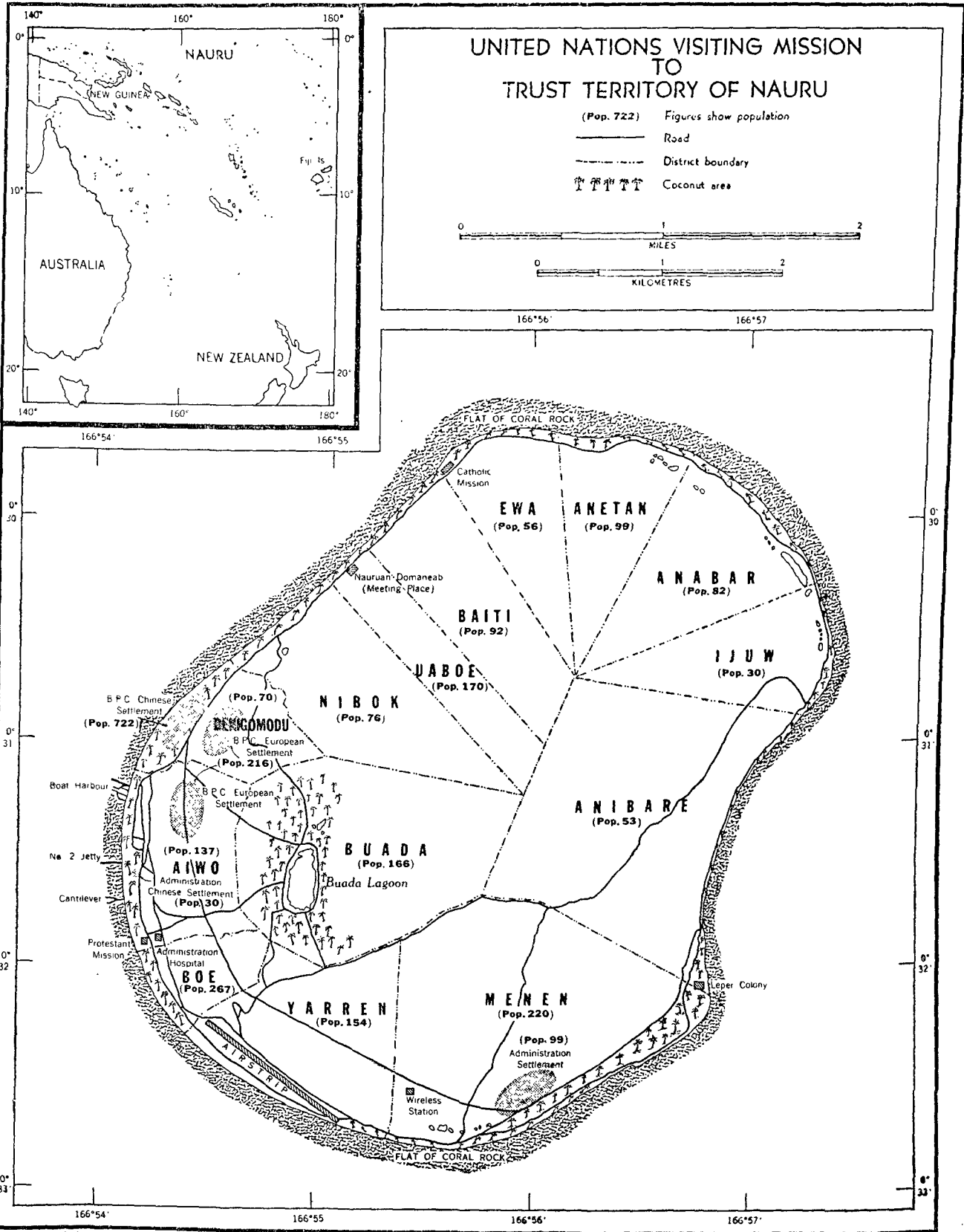
is of the opinion that unless this objective of mobility is clearly stated, it will be difficult to devise practical programmes of education which meet the needs of the Nauruans.

#### DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS

93. The Mission found that careful consideration has been given to the dissemination of information on the United Nations in accordance with the recommendation of the Trusteeship Council but that in some spheres achievement has been limited. At the library centre of the "Domaneab", a collection of the official records of the Trusteeship Council, handbooks and pamphlets are available, together with certain other materials relating to the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The members of the Nauru Local Government Council and other indigenous leaders are well informed about the purposes and activities of the United Nations and the nature of the Trusteeship System and show an active interest in these matters. However, the Mission feels that teaching about the United Nations is lacking in the public school system and that the majority of the inhabitants are not well informed on the subject. The Mission believes that the form of materials most calculated to reach the widest possible public in Nauru would be a simplified form of information about the United Nations and the Trusteeship System to be distributed in all the schools of the Territory and made available to the general public.



# ANNEX



## RESOLUTION 648 (XII) ADOPTED BY THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL ON 20 JULY 1953

REPORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO TRUST TERRITORIES IN THE PACIFIC, 1953

*The Trusteeship Council,*

*Having examined* at its twelfth session the reports of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific, 1953,

1. *Takes note* of these reports ;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* of the work accomplished by the Visiting Mission on its behalf ;
3. *Draws attention to the fact* that, at the twelfth session, in formulating its own conclusions and recommendations on conditions in the Territories concerned, the Council took into account the observations and conclusions of the Visiting Mission ;

4. *Decides* that it will continue to take these observations and conclusions into account in the future examination of matters relating to the Trust Territories concerned ;

5. *Invites* the Administering Authorities concerned to give the most careful consideration to the conclusions of the Visiting Mission as well as to the comments made thereon by the members of the Trusteeship Council ;

6. *Decides*, in accordance with rule 99 of its rules of procedure, that the reports of the Visiting Mission, together with the present resolution, shall be printed ;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make arrangements for the printing of these documents at the earliest possible date.