

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL

MEETING

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Wednesday, 5 March 1952, at 2.30 p.m.

NEW YORK



CONTENTS

	Page
Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the administration of the Trust Territory of Western Samoa for the period ended 31 December 1950 (T/941, T/942 and Add.1) (<i>continued</i>) ...	37

President: Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

Present:

The representatives of the following States members of the Trusteeship Council: Australia, Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Iraq, New Zealand, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the administration of the Trust Territory of Western Samoa for the period ended 31 December 1950 (T/941, T/942 and Add.1) (*continued*)

[Agenda item 3 (a)]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Wright, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Western Samoa, took a place at the Council table.

1. The PRESIDENT proposed that the committee to prepare the Council's draft report to the General Assembly on the Trust Territory of Western Samoa should be constituted immediately so as to enable it to meet as soon as consideration of the annual report was completed.

It was so decided.

2. The PRESIDENT proposed that the representatives of China, the Dominican Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States of America should be appointed members of the drafting committee.

3. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked that the nominations should be put to the vote individually.

4. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the proposal that China should be a member of the drafting committee.

The proposal was adopted by 10 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

5. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the proposal that the Dominican Republic should be a member of the drafting committee.

The proposal was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

6. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the proposal that the United Kingdom should be a member of the drafting committee.

The proposal was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

7. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the proposal that the United States of America should be a member of the drafting committee.

The proposal was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

8. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation had voted against the appointment as a member of the Drafting Committee of a person who was illegally representing China in the Trusteeship Council. The legal representative of the People's Republic of China has indeed already been appointed by the Central People's Government of that Republic, but he was not taking part in the Council's work.

9. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) said he would again recall the fact that that matter had already been the subject of a decision by the Council (386th meeting).

10. The PRESIDENT invited the members of the Council to put to the special representative for Western Samoa the remainder of their oral questions on the part of the report on that Territory¹ dealing with political advancement.

11. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) remarked that on page 16 of the report it was stated that during the period covered by the report there had been no legislation specifically designed to further the Territory's political advancement. He asked whether measures of any kind had been adopted for that purpose.

¹ See *Report by the New Zealand Government to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of Western Samoa for the period of nine months from 1st April to 31st December, 1950*, Department of Island Territories, Wellington, 1951.

12. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) replied that measures other than legislative measures had indeed been adopted to further the Territory's political advancement. In the statement he had made at the 390th meeting, he had mentioned in particular the establishment of an executive council. Furthermore, the Authorities were planning to set up in the near future an agricultural board, whose functions, which would be of a technical nature, would be to give opinions on all matters relating to agriculture. In addition, plans were being considered for the establishment that year of a district and village government board, whose task would be to examine the report² of the Commission set up to inquire into that important matter, so as to ascertain what action was necessary.

13. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wanted to know what the functions, composition and competence of the agricultural board and the district and village government board would be. He also asked whether the members of those bodies would be elected or appointed, and in the latter case, by what authority.

14. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) replied that the members of the agricultural board would be appointed by the High Commissioner for their technical knowledge, and that most of them would be of Samoan status. Other members, of European status, would be chosen from among the members of the European Planters Association. The functions of the board would be purely advisory and it would deal with essentially technical matters.

15. Furthermore, the Commission to Inquire into and Report upon the Organization of District and Village Government had itself recommended that the district and village government board should be composed of members of the Council of State and of six Samoans designated by the *Fono* of *Faipule*. The latter would obviously have Samoan status, for the board would deal with matters concerning the indigenous inhabitants exclusively.

16. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he did not think an agricultural board with purely advisory functions and an essentially technical jurisdiction would be likely to promote the Territory's political advancement.

17. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that, in the opinion of the Administering Authority, any organization, whether technical or political, which functioned according to a democratic procedure, adopting an agenda, electing officers, allowing free discussion and voting on the items on its agenda, was likely to promote the political education of the inhabitants and consequently the political advancement of the Territory.

18. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought the political advancement of the inhabitants could be promoted only by the activity of organs in which they could exert an active influence on the political development of their Territory. That

condition, however, was not fulfilled, since in the present case the organs concerned were of a technical nature, they would not have indigenous majorities and their functions would be purely advisory. The presence of indigenous inhabitants in those bodies would at most justify the claim that there was indigenous participation.

19. The Samoans were apparently prepared not only to take a more active part in the administration of the Territory, but also to play a decisive part in the various organs which the Territory already had.

20. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) remarked that the Samoans were already playing a decisive part in the administration of the Territory. The various organs of which he had spoken played only a subsidiary role; it was the Legislative Assembly, with its majority of Samoans, which exercised absolute sovereignty in matters of finance and therefore controlled the fate of the Territory so far as all matters of local interest were concerned. But, while the organs in question were required to advise the executive authorities, it was the executive authorities which had always to submit the budget for the approval of the Legislative Assembly. Thus, in their participation in the work of the subsidiary bodies, the Samoans were playing a decisive part in the administration of the Territory.

21. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed astonishment at the special representative's statement to the effect that the Samoans had a majority in the Legislative Assembly. That statement did not seem to correspond with the facts as described in the annual report.

22. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) explained that the Legislative Assembly was composed of a total of twenty-five members, not including the High Commissioner, who was its President. Fourteen of those members were of Samoan status. It could therefore be said that the Samoans had a majority. Moreover, the members of European status born in the Territory must be counted as indigenous members as all but one of them were part Samoan and all tended to share the views of the Samoan members. The representatives of the indigenous inhabitants therefore totalled about seventeen. Furthermore, official members of the Assembly should not be regarded as holding different opinions from those of the indigenous members. There was as yet no opposition party in the politics of the Territory.

23. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that the special representative had added the two *Fautua* to the twelve members elected by the *Fono* of *Faipule*. Though he did not want to expatiate on the question of composition, he maintained that the Samoans, not counting the Europeans born in the Territory, did not have an absolute majority in the Assembly. The twelve members elected by the *Fono* of *Faipule* could not themselves be regarded as representing the whole of the adult Samoan population, for the members of the *Fono* were chosen exclusively from among the heads of families.

24. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) said he would like to make it clear that the *Fautua* enjoyed the complete confidence of the

² See *Report of the Commission to Inquire into and Report upon the Organization of District and Village Government in Western Samoa, 1950*, Government Printer, Wellington, 1951.

Samoans, the immense majority of whom undoubtedly desired that the *Fautua* should remain members of the Legislative Assembly. In any case, it could not be denied that fourteen Samoan members represented a majority of the twenty-five members of the Assembly.

25. Moreover, the special representatives for Western Samoa had shown at previous sessions of the Council that the procedure for the election of members to the Assembly was perfectly adapted to the Territory's present level of development.

26. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether steps had been taken to ensure the participation of the Samoans in the preparation of important political measures. The Administering Authority had admitted the desirability of such participation in its observations (T/825) on the report on Western Samoa (T/792) submitted by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific, which had gone to the Territory in 1950.

27. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that the establishment of the executive council would enable the Samoans to take part in the drafting of important political measures. The council would be set up during 1952 by an act of the New Zealand Parliament; it would probably consist of the High Commissioner, who would be in the chair, the two *Fautua* and three heads of administrative departments, *ex-officio*, as well as three representatives of the Samoan population, Samoan members of the Assembly, and one representative of the European population, a European member of the Assembly who would be nominated by the High Commissioner. He could not give any further details, as the bill was at present in course of preparation.

28. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) concluded that the Samoans would not be in any better position to exert a decisive influence on the decisions of the executive council than they were in the case of the decisions of the Legislative Assembly. The way in which the majority had been calculated had shown that the special representative's political arithmetic was quite different from that of the Soviet Union delegation.

29. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that the Samoans were in a position to play a decisive part in the Legislative Assembly and that they would be in the same position in the executive council for the reasons he had already stated. He had already pointed out that the Legislative Assembly possessed complete control of the domestic affairs of the Territory. The High Commissioner and his executive council would be obliged to base their decisions on the overall views of the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly and the executive council would therefore be the keystones of the administration of the Territory.

30. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) had not been referring to the influence of the executive council on the Territory's affairs. He had merely said that the Samoans would not be in a position to exert a decisive influence in the council.

31. Turning to another topic, he wondered what basis the Administering Authority had for stating in its

comments on the report of the 1950 Visiting Mission that the Samoans were not ready for self-government.

32. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) pointed out that the Administering Authority had not been alone in its opinion. The United Nations Mission to Western Samoa, which had visited the Territory in 1947, and the 1950 Visiting Mission had come to the same conclusion and the latter had emphasized the difficulty of adapting traditional Samoan methods to modern political ideas. The situation had not changed since then.

33. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that he must side with those representatives of the Samoan population who had told the 1950 Visiting Mission that they were capable of assuming and anxious to assume the direction of their own affairs and the responsibility of power.

34. He recalled that in paragraph 35 of its report (T/792), the Visiting Mission had concluded that the Samoans preferred self-government to foreign domination. The special representative had not put forward any arguments to justify the thesis that the Samoans were not fitted for self-government. The facts clearly showed that they were capable of acceding to self-government and independence as prescribed in the Charter.

35. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) quoted in that connexion paragraphs 11 and 12, chapter I, of the report of the 1947 Mission.³ Those passages showed that the Trusteeship Agreement was not incompatible with the aspirations of the Samoans towards self-government, but that the Samoans had misunderstood the meaning of the Agreement; they had felt that it was a question of choosing between self-government and foreign domination for an unspecified period. That was the origin of the petition (T/Pet.1/1) which had led to the sending out of the 1947 Mission. There could be no doubt, however, that all Samoans with a sense of responsibility were satisfied with the progress being made towards self-government.

36. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether the Administering Authority had made or was making arrangements to put an end to the difference in status between Samoans and Europeans and to the distinctions between the social and legal rights and privileges of Samoans and Europeans.

37. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that in reply to a question from the representative of the Dominican Republic, he had said at the 390th meeting that the Administering Authority had not taken any steps to make radical changes in the status of the inhabitants or to eliminate European status.

38. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that five or six years had elapsed since the question of Samoan self-government had arisen for the first time. A study of the facts showed that no account had been taken of the views and grievances contained in the petitions from the inhabitants of Samoa. Even today, the special repre-

³ See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Second Session, Special Supplement No. 1.*

sentative had not given any facts which would justify the assumption that the Administering Authority had taken effective steps to lead the Territory towards self-government or independence.

39. In that connexion, he would like to know what efforts had been made to introduce into the Territory a system of universal suffrage which would give the right to vote to all the inhabitants; according to page 11 of the annual report, that right was at present reserved to the *matai*.

40. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) recalled that at the 390th meeting he had made it clear that during the election of the Samoan members of the Legislative Assembly, the *Fono* of *Faipule* had used the secret ballot, which would seem to indicate a gradual acceptance of the principles recognized by the democratic countries with regard to elections. The creation of the democratic party referred to at the same meeting, the purpose of which was to institute universal suffrage, could be interpreted in the same sense. However, the party had as yet only some 300 members, which was a small percentage of the population and proved that the people were not ready for universal suffrage. The Administering Authority was anxious to introduce new reforms in that field, but it was convinced that it was essential to avoid over-hasty measures which would fail to take into account the population's stage of development and might well prejudice their interests.

41. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regretted that although on page 60 of the annual report it was recognized that the population of Samoa would seem to be in favour of the introduction of universal suffrage, the Administering Authority had not wished to take any immediate step in that direction which, in its opinion, would not be in keeping with the population's stage of development. There was no justification for such an attitude; it was the duty of the Administering Authorities to take all necessary steps to lead the Trust Territories forward to self-government and independence and the USSR delegation could not approve of the policy adopted in that respect by the Administering Authority.

42. Similarly, he wondered why the Administering Authority had not yet undertaken any reform in local administration, the unsatisfactory nature of which, as was pointed out on page 17 of the report, constituted a serious handicap to the Territory's political advancement.

43. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) explained that the Legislative Assembly had the power to pass a law instituting universal suffrage if it so desired. The Administering Authority did not seek to impose its wishes on the Territory in purely domestic affairs.

44. With regard to local government, he recalled that the Commission which had been set up to inquire into the organization of district and village government had recommended that nearly all Samoan customs and institutions should be given legal recognition; however, it was felt in some quarters that such a course would be a step backward and hinder the democratic development of the Territory. Probably a solution halfway between the two was likely to meet the interests of the

population. The Legislative Assembly was a democratic body, in the Western sense of the term, and in the circumstances it would appear logical to provide at once for the institution of a democratic system at the level immediately below, i.e., district administration. In any event, there was no doubt that the proposed district and village government board would give the matter all the attention it merited.

45. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand) wished to explain that the Government of New Zealand was making every effort to promote the development of Samoa towards self-government and independence. It should not be forgotten that the Legislative Assembly possessed wide powers, that the High Commissioner was advised by the Council of State and that the Administering Authority was informed of the views of the population through the *Fautua* who to a large extent represented public opinion. However, it could not be denied that the Territory was not yet ready for self-government and the Administering Authority could not be asked to impose a system which ran contrary to the customs and traditions of the Samoans. Without wishing to engage in a political dispute with the representative of the USSR, he felt that the latter was wilfully ignoring the facts quoted by the special representative.

46. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that in reply to the specific questions which he had been asked with regard to the future self-government of the Territory, the special representative had simply tried to show — but without saying so openly — that the population would not be in favour of such self-government. Yet, it was an undeniable fact that the Samoans had constantly pressed for self-government and sought to take part in the work of the legislative, executive and judicial organs of the Territory, as was shown by the rise of a democratic party. That was why the USSR delegation continued to recommend that the Administering Authority should take appropriate steps to ensure the transition from the tribal system to a system based on democratic principles, in other words, the establishment of legislative, executive and judicial organs in which the indigenous inhabitants would play a decisive part. He therefore repeated his question regarding the arrangements which the Administering Authority had made or proposed to make in that connexion.

47. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) replied that the decision to set up a district and village government board, to which he had already referred, showed that the Administering Authority was making an effort to solve the problem in the best interests of the population.

48. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked what were the reasons for the increase in the number of sentences shown in the table of criminal statistics on page 68 of the annual report. He would like to know to what specific political, economic or social problems the increase might be attributed.

49. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) explained that Samoa was at the moment passing through a transitional period; the social structure was undergoing stresses and strains as a result of the partial breaking down of traditional local govern-

ment. In seeking to establish a system of local government based on new principles, the government, through the village and district government board was trying to put an end to a situation which obviously encouraged an increase in crime. In the case in point it should not be forgotten that the population of the town of Apia had increased — population increases were always accompanied by a certain rise in crime statistics — and that as a result of the reorganization of the police force, whose services were more effective, it was now possible to catch more criminals.

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and was resumed at 4.40 p.m.

50. The PRESIDENT requested those members of the Council who so desired to ask questions about the part of the annual report relating to economic advancement in Western Samoa.

51. Mr. MATHIESON (United Kingdom) wished to know whether the entry for re-exports, on page 71 of the report, implied the existence in the Territory of an *entrepot* trade and a processing industry and, if so, whether that trade and industry might not be usefully extended.

52. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) replied that the re-exports in question related almost exclusively to the transport of personal effects belonging to New Zealand officials returning to New Zealand or to Samoans proceeding to New Zealand to reside there. Strictly speaking, therefore, it could not be said that there was any really important *entrepot* trade or processing industry.

53. He pointed out that the South Pacific Commission had included in its economic development programme a project calling for a survey of existing industries and plans for future industrial development in the island groups within its field of competence.

54. In reply to a question by Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium), Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) stated that the price of copra, fixed at £53 15s. per ton, was below what might be termed the world market price.

55. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) asked whether the purchase of copra was not actually equivalent to a monopoly.

56. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) recalled that the same question had been put to Mr. Powles, special representative for Western Samoa at the eighth session of the Council. Mr. Wright then quoted an extract from the statement made at the time by Mr. Powles, according to which the copra purchase contract was not in the nature of an actual monopoly but was rather in the same category as bulk food purchase contracts (T/PV.322). It should be made clear that the purchase price of copra was fixed by law. But it was still true that only the Copra Board could export the copra which it purchased.

57. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) remarked that the last observation of the special representative sufficed to show that there really was a monopoly. He had no objection to the existence of such a monopoly in view of the apposite remarks adduced to justify it by the Administering Authority, but he felt that it would be preferable for the Administering Authority to re-

cognize the existence of the monopoly in its annual report.

58. He also asked whether the purchase and export of bananas was based on an arrangement similar to the one in force in the case of copra; he wondered whether the price of bananas was fixed by a private body or by the Government.

59. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that he would make known the observations of the Belgian representative on the copra industry to the New Zealand Government so that they could be taken into account in the preparation of future annual reports.

60. With regard to the banana industry, he explained that the Banana Scheme was owned and operated by the New Zealand Government with the Western Samoan Government and the New Zealand Reparation Estates acting as unpaid agents. The New Zealand Government bought the bananas from the planters and transported them to New Zealand where it sold them to an agency called Fruit Distributors, Ltd. That agency fixed the price on the basis of costs of production and the need to assure the planters a fair price. The Administering Authority was at the moment considering transferring the administration of the scheme to an organization in the Territory. The best plan would seem to be to set up a banana board on which the planters would be represented and which would supervise operations from the purchase of the fruit from the planters until its loading aboard cargo ships.

61. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) pointed out a discrepancy between the annual report (p. 24), which stated that a request for technical assistance had been submitted to the United Nations, and the observations made on the matter by the special representative at the 390th meeting of the Council. He also wished to know what type of programme the Administering Authority had in mind, what experts it felt that it required and how it intended to integrate that technical assistance with the general economic development plans for the Territory.

62. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) replied that he would supply the information at a later stage in the Council's discussion.

63. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) recalled that the Visiting Mission which had proceeded to the Territory in 1950 had stated, in paragraph 41 of its report, that the amount of revenue from taxation might have to be increased in the future by subjecting the inhabitants of the villages to direct taxation in order to finance the municipal social services. He also recalled the statement of the special representative at the 390th meeting of the Council, that it would not be in the interest of the Territory to build up a huge social service machine the cost of which would be beyond the economy of Western Samoa when it achieved self-government. He wished to know the present opinion of the Administering Authority on that matter.

64. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) replied that the matter of taxation had been receiving attention since 1949. Two senior officials of the New Zealand Tax Department, who had studied the problem, had recommended that the existing store

tax should be replaced by conventional income taxes on profits. The Chamber of Commerce and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa had adopted the same general attitude. But before putting an ordinance before the Legislative Assembly, the Finance Committee wished to continue its study of the rate and estimated yield of the future income tax in order not to decrease but even to increase the amount of revenue from the Territory.

65. In that connexion, he stated that the Administering Authority hoped shortly to proceed with an economic survey of the Territory; but it had so far been unable to conclude a satisfactory contract with a private company for the aerial survey which had to precede the economic survey. The Minister of Island Territories was studying the matter. It might also be possible to find a certain amount of information useful for the economic survey in existing official documents.

66. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) noted that the annual report (p. 26) referred to inflationary tendencies in the Territory; the report also seemed to indicate that in certain districts where export prices had risen the farmers, whose cash requirements were limited, were inclined to attach less importance to the production of the foodstuffs in question. Since the same problem arose in other territories, he wished to know what steps the New Zealand Government had taken to remedy the situation.

67. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) replied that, in spite of the inflationary tendency which continued to persist, the economic situation of the inhabitants had not deteriorated, because the price of food exports had shown an increase parallel to the prices of imports. Cocoa exports for the previous year had been higher than ever; but the problem referred to by the United States representative did exist to a certain extent.

68. In reply to a further question by Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) regarding the organization of the cocoa industry, Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) stated that the part played by Samoans in cocoa production, which had originally been negligible, had increased continuously; cocoa produced by Samoans was at the moment more than half of the total production. The European cocoa plantations were fairly extensive, their average area being perhaps 200 acres. The Samoans had also been showing a tendency to plant cocoa in large areas on a communal basis in accordance with Samoan custom.

69. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) noted the reference made on page 27 of the annual report to the consideration that had been given to the problem of a separate Western Samoan currency, raised in an oral petition received by the 1950 Visiting Mission (T/792, annex I). The Council had been told at its eighth session (322nd meeting) that an expert was being brought from New Zealand to examine the currency situation and to confer with the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly. He wanted to know the results of that study and what stage had now been reached in the consideration of the matter.

70. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) said that a report on the subject, drawn up by an official of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, had been submitted to a Select Committee of the

Legislative Assembly which intended to present its own report to the Assembly during the current year.

71. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America), referring to the action taken with respect to the preferential tariff in Western Samoa, called attention to page 30 of the annual report, which stated that while removal of the tariff was not likely to disrupt the Samoan economy or disturb the existing pattern of trade, careful consideration had to be given to the practical effect of such removal on the obligations undertaken by the Territory to other countries. Could the Administering Authority clarify that statement, particularly as to the nature and extent of the obligations to which reference was made?

72. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand) recalled that the preferential tariff had been in force since 1920 and that the Administering Authority was not legally obliged to change it. Nor could the New Zealand Government do so without consulting the Governments of Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom, which had concluded reciprocal agreements with Western Samoa. The Minister of Island Territories was studying the matter and the New Zealand Government would make its decision known to the Trusteeship Council.

73. Prince Wan WAITHAYAKON (Thailand) quoted two passages from the report (pp. 29 and 30) concerning the reorganization of the banana industry and the formation of co-operative societies, respectively. He asked whether the Administering Authority could not consider entrusting that industry to a co-operative society of producers, which would, among other things, have the advantage of contributing to the democratic training of the inhabitants.

74. Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) replied that the Administering Authority was aware of the fact that there were interesting possibilities for co-operative societies in the banana industry. He remarked in that connexion that a committee of the Legislative Assembly was at the moment studying a bill on the formation of co-operative societies with particular reference to the question whether the co-operative societies would be authorized, contrary to existing law, to sue Samoans for outstanding trade debts.

75. In reply to a question by Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) concerning the store tax and the income tax, Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) replied that the store tax was graduated, the rate varying from one-half to 5 per cent. There was also a tax on dividends and a graduated tax on salaries and wages over £200 a year, the rate of which could rise as high as 10 per cent. Commercial enterprises were subject to the store tax which it was intended to replace by a profits tax. There were also a number of special taxes so that no one escaped taxation.

76. In reply to a further question by Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) relating to the radio programmes, Mr. WRIGHT (Special representative for Western Samoa) explained that the Apia station broadcast three or four hours a day four days a week. The programmes included music, information, educational and religious broadcasts. There were also special broadcasts in the morning for village schools.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.