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**President: Mr. HENRIQUEZ UREÑA (Dominican Republic).**

*Present:* The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, France, Iraq, New Zealand, Philippines, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

**Appointment of members of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Petitions**

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that during the Council's previous session, the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Petitions had consisted of the representatives of Australia, China, the Dominican Republic, New Zealand, the Philippines and the United States of America. He thought it desirable to leave the membership of the Committee unchanged.
2. Sir Carl BERENDSEN (New Zealand) thought it preferable to change the membership so that new members could shoulder the responsibilities of the Committee and at the same time acquire the experience which could be gained from a preliminary examination of petitions.
3. Mr. AQUINO (Philippines) suggested that Argentina and Iraq should be represented on the Committee.
4. Mr. DE ANTUENO (Argentina) felt the Council should follow the President's suggestion. Owing to the reduction in the number of its members, the Argentine delegation might not always be able to be adequately represented at the meetings of the Committee.
5. Mr. STIRLING (Australia) said that in view of the limited membership of his delegation, it would have some difficulty in participating in the Committee's work. It would therefore prefer not to serve on the Committee during the current session.
6. The PRESIDENT proposed that Australia should be replaced by Belgium on the Committee. He also asked the representative of Iraq whether his delegation would agree to be a member.
7. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) said that, owing to insufficient staff, it would be very difficult for his delegation to participate in the Committee's work.
8. The PRESIDENT proposed that, in the circumstances, the composition of the *Ad Hoc* Committee

on Petitions should be as follows: Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, New Zealand, Philippines and the United States of America.

*It was so decided.*

9. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) asked whether, as soon as the Committee on Petitions began its work, it would be possible for the Secretariat or the Chairman of the Committee to inform him of the date at which the examination of petitions affecting the United Kingdom would begin, so that a special representatives of that country might be present at the Committee's meetings.

10. The PRESIDENT said the Secretariat would note the United Kingdom representative's request.

**Request by a petitioner for a hearing before the Council**

11. Mr. LAURENTIE (France) stated that the author of the petition T/Pet.5/79, Mr. Albert Togne, had requested a hearing before the Council. He thought a reply should be given to that request at the outset of the current session. He wished to make it clear that his delegation viewed the request with disfavour; while it was only too ready to agree that qualified representatives of indigenous peoples should be heard by the Council, it was opposed to the hearing of persons who had no serious claim to voice their views and considered that such hearings would detract from the dignity of the Council.

12. The grounds on which Mr. Albert Togne had requested a hearing were unsubstantiated. In his petition, he claimed to speak on behalf of the Representative Assembly of the Cameroons Territory. But he was not a member of that Assembly; consequently, he was not qualified to speak on its behalf. Mr. Togne also said that he was a representative of the Association of the Natives of French Equatorial Africa. But French Equatorial Africa was a territory under French sovereignty, and did not come within the competence of the Trusteeship Council. Therefore, the two capacities in which Mr. Albert Togne claimed a hearing before the Council were not valid.

13. It was also doubtful whether a petition coming from a person living in Paris could really provide the Council with valuable additional information, par-

ticularly after the very extensive work carried out by the Visiting Mission.

14. For all those reasons, the French delegation considered that the Council should at once reply to Mr. Albert Togney that it did not propose to grant him a hearing. Mr. Laurentie had wished to make known his delegation's position in case the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Petitions should deem it necessary to resume the examination of the question and give a specific opinion on it to the Council.

15. Mr. AQUINO (Philippines) stated that since the position of the French delegation had been placed on record, it would certainly, and in due course, be taken into account by the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Petitions, which was the body to which the question should be submitted.

16. On the question of procedure raised by the United Kingdom representative, he felt that the explanations of the special representative concerned could be heard when he came to Lake Success in connexion with the examination of the annual report on the Trust Territory in question. By following the procedure adopted at the sixth session, in Geneva, the Council would be able to give proper consideration to all the petitions before it.

17. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) recalled that the Council had found at its sixth session that certain petitions could not be properly examined unless the special representative were present when the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Petitions discussed them. He thought it had been agreed, at the current session, that the Committee would not examine such petitions prior to the arrival of the special representative, who was expected about 26 June.

18. On the other hand the representative of Iraq had stated at the third meeting that the presence of the special representative might not be required for certain petitions. So far, however, the Council had always allowed that the representative of the Administering Authority was entitled to be present during the discussion of such petitions. If the Committee wished to study the less important petitions for which there was no need to await the arrival of the special representative, the United Kingdom delegation, if duly notified, could instruct one of its members to assist the Committee in dealing with them.

19. Regarding the question raised by the French representative, Mr. Fletcher-Cooke pointed out that under rule 80 of the Council's rules of procedure, no decision could be taken until the Council had itself decided on the question of hearing the petitioner. The Council could, of course, request the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Petitions to submit a recommendation on the question, but it must be clearly understood that the Committee had no authority to request the Secretariat to inform the petitioner that he would or would not be heard. The United Kingdom representative therefore wondered whether there was any reason to wait for an opinion from the Committee and whether the Council itself could not settle the matter forthwith.

20. The PRESIDENT agreed that, under the rules of procedure, the Council could invite the Committee on Petitions to make a recommendation before itself

taking a decision. Only the Council, however, could take a decision.

21. Mr. AQUINO (Philippines) thought the Council should wait until the Committee on Petitions was duly constituted before taking a decision on such a question of principle. It was quite conceivable that other petitions of the same kind might be submitted to the Trusteeship Council during the current session. If the Committee were invited to consider the general question of whether all such petitions were receivable or not, regardless of the number involved, it would have to make only one recommendation on the subject and the Council would thus have to take only one decision, which would cover all the cases concerned and would serve as a guide for the future. If, however, the Council gave an immediate ruling, it would have to take new decisions if other petitions of the same kind came before it in future.

22. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) considered that it was for the Council to decide the question of principle, concerning which the Committee on Petitions could do no more than submit recommendations. Members of the Council had the petition before them and consequently had all that was required to come to an immediate decision.

23. He thought the petition itself was admissible. The only question was whether the Council agreed to the exceptional procedure of an oral presentation of that petition.

24. It should be enough for the Council to read the petitioner's letter to decide not to grant his request. If the Council authorized official invitations to every private individual, the utmost confusion would ensue.

25. Mr. LAURENTIE (France) readily granted that the Committee could be consulted and should report to the Council. He had drawn the Council's attention to the question merely in order that the petitioner should be given a reply at the earliest possible moment. That reply could only be a negative one and the procedure suggested by the Philippine representative could only delay the sending of that reply. The procedure he advocated was the one always followed by the Council in such matters, namely, to take an immediate decision, whether favourable or unfavourable, on requests for oral hearings of petitioners.

26. The PRESIDENT stated that the Council did not have to discuss whether the petition was acceptable: that question would be considered by the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Petitions. The Council merely had to take a decision on whether or not it would invite the petitioner to be heard in person.

27. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) recalled that the normal procedure was for the Council not to hear oral petitions. The Council might, however, in exceptional cases, decide to hear an oral statement by a petitioner. In that case, a member of the Council would have to propose that, contrary to the usual practice, the Council should hear an oral statement by the petitioner concerned.

28. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) thought it best to refer the question first to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Petitions.

29. At the request of Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom), Mr. ALEKSANDER (Secretary of the Council) read rule 90 of the Council's rules of procedure concerning the terms of reference of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Petitions.

30. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) remarked that none of the provisions of that rule authorized the Committee to consider the question under discussion and to submit recommendations on it. The Council could, of course, authorize it to do so if it wished. A decision should therefore be taken on that point without any further delay.

31. Mr. MUÑOZ (Argentina) agreed with the representative of Iraq that the question of referring the petition to the Committee must be decided first. If an affirmative decision were taken on that point, the Committee would also have to examine the question of hearing the petitioner, and the Council would then reach a final decision after receiving its report.

32. Unlike the United Kingdom representative, Mr. Muñoz considered that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Petitions was competent to make a recommendation on the oral presentation of a petition and also to decide itself to hear the petitioner.

33. The PRESIDENT stated that in the circumstances the Council should refer the petition to the Committee as usual; once the Committee had expressed its opinion on the merits of the case, the Council would decide whether to hear the petitioner. It would thus defer its decision on the question of an oral statement until it had taken cognizance of the substance of the petition.

34. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) saw no objection to referring the matter to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Petitions.

35. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) also agreed that the Council should refer the petition to the Committee. He did not share the opinion of the representative of Argentina, however, that the Committee was entitled to decide to hear the petitioner without referring the question back to the Council.

36. Mr. MUÑOZ (Argentina) thought the United Kingdom representative would agree with him that it was not for the Council to decide at that point on the way the Committee should carry out its functions. The only decision the Council should take at that stage was to refer the petition to the Committee and await its report.

37. Mr. LIU (China) supported the suggestion of the representative of Iraq. The Council should submit the question to the Committee before taking a final decision.

38. The PRESIDENT stated that in that case, the Council might await the Committee's report on the substance of the petition; it could then decide, on the basis of the Committee's opinion, whether or not to hear the petitioner.

*It was so decided.*

### **Examination of the annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of Western Samoa for the year ending 31 March 1949 (T/417, T/417/Add.1) (continued)**

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

39. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) asked the special representative whether the proportion of 3 per cent of wage-earners referred to in the report<sup>1</sup> would not, in his opinion, justify the adoption of social legislation and the compilation of statistics.

40. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) replied that the Government of Samoa was considering the introduction of legislation to provide compensation for workers injured in the course of their employment.

41. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) asked the special representative to give the Council a general idea of the working conditions of wage-earners.

42. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) said that persons classified as wage-earners included the following: dock labourers, lorry drivers, building labourers, and a few persons employed by commercial firms. He could give no exact figures as to working hours and rates of pay. As a result of a recent inquiry, the Government of Samoa had raised the daily wage rate of the casual labour it employed to 6 shillings and 8 pence. The wages of casual labour employed by commercial firms appeared to have been stabilized at the figure of 6 shillings a day. Skilled workers received higher wages, which might be as high as one pound per day.

43. The working day generally began at 7 a.m. and ended at 4 p.m., with an hour's break for lunch. There were special rates for overtime.

44. In reply to two questions from Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq), Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) said there were no trade unions in the Territory, and that it had been the Government which had decided to increase wages, because of the rise in the cost of living. The action taken with regard to the rates of pay for casual labour, mentioned on page 37 of the report, had been initiated by the Government of Samoa itself and was not the result of agitation. He was certain the Government would take no steps to oppose the formation of trade unions in Western Samoa.

45. Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq) observed that it was stated on page 38 of the report that persons arrested must forthwith be brought before a court. He asked whether "forthwith" meant, for example, the same day, the next day, or after an interval of more than five days.

<sup>1</sup> See Report by the New Zealand Government to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations on the administration of Western Samoa for the year ending 31st March, 1949. Department of Island Territories, Wellington, 1949.

46. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) replied that the term meant that the person arrested should be brought before a competent court without delay, usually on the day following his arrest.
47. Mr. LIU (China) pointed out that although the report referred to article 9 of the Trusteeship Agreement, it did not mention the more general provisions regarding human rights and fundamental freedoms contained in article 4 (c) of the Trusteeship Agreement. He asked the special representative whether there was any racial discrimination, particularly in the matter of hospital treatment, housing and prison treatment.
48. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) replied that the Administering Authority and the Government of Samoa had due regard for article 4 of the Trusteeship Agreement; in the central hospital in Apia two different types of accommodation were maintained, to which Samoans were entitled on the same footing as Europeans. Under the first type of accommodation, the patients provided their own bedding and their families could stay with them and cook their food. In the case of the second type of accommodation, a charge was made by the hospital for the provision of bedding, meals and, at the request of the patient, a private room. Treatment was free for both types of accommodation.
49. With regard to housing, the only difference was that no tax was levied on Samoan houses. Within the town area of Apia, a Samoan style house could be erected on land under European ownership only with the permission of the Director of Health, but that was purely a public health measure.
50. With regard to prison treatment, European and Samoan inmates received the type of food to which they were accustomed, and rations were more than adequate.
51. Replying to a question asked by Mr. LIU (China), Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) stated that many prisoners benefited a good deal from learning a useful trade or occupation while in prison. In the very few cases where prison labour was used for the work of departments, a charge was made by the Police and Prisons Department. The sums received were paid into the public fund to the Department's credit and were not received by the prisoners.
52. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) congratulated the New Zealand Government on its public health work and particularly on the increased number of Samoan doctors, dentists and nurses. He asked the special representative how many doctors, dentists and nurses had received diplomas in the previous year and how many were graduating during the current year. A comparison of those figures would show what progress had been made in achieving the desired establishment.
53. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) replied that that question was causing some concern to the Samoan Government. It was difficult to obtain qualified personnel from overseas and to find qualified candidates among the local population. During the twelve-month period ending 31 March 1950, ten nurses had received their diplomas and thirty-one students had entered the nurses' school. Quoting the figures for the different categories of medical personnel on 31 March 1950, Mr. Grattan pointed out that a comparison between those figures and the figures on page 39 of the report showed that there had been little change since 31 March 1949. It appeared difficult to reach the desired goal in the near future.
54. During the past financial year, no Samoan medical practitioners had graduated from the Central Medical School in Suva, but the number of Samoan students at the Suva School had increased from seven to sixteen. The training of Samoan dental officers was continuing.
55. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) wondered whether the help of church groups could be enlisted in the attempt to solve the problem of the training of medical personnel.
56. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) replied that the Administration had been considering the question for several years, but that the difficulty was, not to train nurses, but to retain their services after training. The studies lasted three years and took place under the most agreeable conditions possible.
57. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) wondered whether any consideration had been given to the possibility of recruiting medical personnel, particularly doctors, from among displaced persons.
58. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) replied that considerable efforts had been made to that end, and that the Government had offered substantial financial inducements to qualified doctors. Nevertheless, most doctors who came to Western Samoa did not remain there for long.
59. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) noted with satisfaction that the two Conventions of the International Labour Organisation, dealing respectively with forced labour and penal sanctions for breach of contract, had been extended to the Territory. He thought, however, that future reports on the administration of the Territory should briefly refer to trade union questions and should indicate what means existed of settling wage disputes. The reports might also give some general information about the cost of living.
60. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) thought the specific types of figures or statistics which might be included in future reports should be decided upon after a study of all the factors involved. He agreed, however, that future reports might usefully be expanded on that subject. He would call the matter to the attention of the Administering Authority.
61. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) stated that according to page 37 of the report, the Government had not imposed a minimum wage, though it applied a minimum rate itself and hoped that employers would do the same. He therefore wished to ask the special representative whether the Reparation Estates upon

which the Government of New Zealand, if not that of Samoa, had a decisive influence, paid the same minimum wage.

62. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) regretted that he could not be specific on the point, but he thought that that probably was the case. Further information would no doubt be included in the future.

63. The PRESIDENT invited members to comment on the question of education.

64. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) thought the relevant information on page 66 of the report rather obscure. If, as was stated in the UNESCO report on the subject (T/680), school attendance ranged from 3 per cent in certain districts to 46 per cent in others, the conclusion could be drawn that there was illiteracy in Samoa. Yet it was known that practically everyone could at least read and write.

65. Instead of dwelling upon the distinction between official and private educational institutions and instead of providing so much information on the number of Government schools and of children attending them, the Administration should furnish detailed information on the quality of the schools. It was of small consequence to know that 3 per cent of the population attended Government schools, if 30 per cent of the population—or practically all children of school age—attended mission schools, about which the Administration said nothing save that some of them were of the same standard as Government primary schools.

66. On that point, therefore, the report gave an obviously incomplete picture of the situation.

67. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) agreed that the tables given in the report could have been clearer. He thought, however, that UNESCO had misunderstood some of the information given. Although the report did not bring out that point very clearly, it had to be noted that some children attended both the mission school, where they received religious instruction, and the Government school, where they received the rest of their education. There were thus many cases of double registration, and the total number of children attending Government schools should not be added to that of children attending mission schools; nor should it be concluded from such an addition that more children attended school than were indicated in the census.

68. He added that since the number of Government schools was too small to accommodate all the children, the Administration was constantly enlarging the Teachers' Training College and was training teachers as fast as possible to remedy the deficiency in numbers.

69. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) stated that in Samoa, as elsewhere, political, economic and social progress was indissolubly linked with educational advancement and that the population must be willing to help in achieving that costly undertaking. He was happy to note that the New Zealand Government showed keen awareness of that fact. He asked the special representative by what information media—radio or other media—the Administration was attempting to stimulate the interest of the inhabitants

in that sphere and whether the results were encouraging.

70. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) was pleased to be able to answer that question. One of the most encouraging features of educational advance during the preceding twelve months had been the interest shown by the population in the building of new schools. The inhabitants had been most eager to secure from the Education Department the blueprint plans given to the villages wishing to erect a school building, and the collection of funds was proceeding more rapidly than the construction work itself.

71. Mr. Grattan added that Samoan children were not content merely to register at the schools; they also attended classes with great perseverance.

72. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) would welcome further information on the use made by the New Zealand Government of radio as a medium of education. He asked whether the educational radio programme mentioned in the report was connected with the ordinary school curriculum, whether it dealt with specific subjects and whether it was applicable to all schools.

73. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) stated that the educational radio programme consisted of four one-hour lessons, on four mornings a week. It supplemented the teaching given in the schools. Since it was obviously impossible to place a New Zealand teacher in charge of every village school, and since, moreover, there were as yet no textbooks in the Samoan language suitable for the schools, all the teachers in the Territory received, a month in advance, a teacher's guide corresponding to the radio broadcasts of the following month. They were thus enabled to follow those broadcasts with their pupils and to organize their courses.

74. The broadcast lessons were supervised by a special staff composed of a qualified New Zealand teacher and two qualified Samoan teachers. There were two series of broadcasts, one for beginners and the other for advanced students. The subjects included English, social studies, hygiene, nature study and music.

75. To ensure the maximum benefit from the broadcast lessons and to ascertain their value, members of the broadcasting staff themselves sometimes went to a village school in order to study the reactions of the teachers and pupils.

76. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) noted that the number of students in the Teachers' Training College had risen from 92 on 31 March 1949, the date of the completion of the report, to 152, according to the statement of the special representative. Such progress seemed most commendable in view of the importance which must be attached to the training of teachers in a territory such as Samoa.

77. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) offered some supplementary information concerning the figures quoted by Mr. Sayre. There were in fact 123, and not 152, students enrolled at the Teachers' Training College, as twenty graduates had left and nine others had been unable to complete their studies. That was the present position in

the Teachers' Training College. It was regarded as an essential step in the process of staffing the village schools.

78. Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (United Kingdom) was gratified to note the activity of the Department of Education in Western Samoa and congratulated the New Zealand Government on the progress which had been made in that field. He noted that the population was becoming increasingly interested in education and that it wished to open new schools, to send children to school at an earlier age and to ensure more regular attendance. With regard to the training of teachers, the Administering Authority had done excellent work.

79. He would like to have some information on two points. His first question related to broadcasting. Inasmuch as one of the main difficulties the United Kingdom had encountered in organizing school broadcasts for Trust Territories had been to obtain long-lasting battery-receiving sets, he would like to have some details on the receiving sets used in Samoa. The second question related to night schools. It was stated on page 49 of the report that a large number of candidates had had to be turned away owing to the restricted facilities. It would be interesting to know how many candidates had been turned away and what steps had been taken to remedy that situation.

80. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) was glad of the opportunity thus given him to offer further information about a situation which was not entirely satisfactory, although not through any fault of the Administration. He had already received a written question on that point and would summarize the substance of his written reply. The adult classes referred to in the report had been held during the past twelve months but attendance had fallen off so considerably that no one was being turned away any longer. It had become evident that many adults had been unable to sustain the effort required for those night or after hours studies.

81. As a result of further decisions by the Government of Samoa on the question of adult education, the Broadcasting Department had helped to ensure that some degree of adult education was provided for people in outlying districts who would themselves never have considered attending formal night classes. The institution of an information session had stimulated the keenest interest on the part of the adult population in all kinds of subjects. Most, if not all, the questions received by the Information Section had come from Samoans.

82. With regard to receiving sets, the Administration had begun by obtaining 150 sets from a New Zealand firm. Another 150 sets had been ordered recently. The sets were very expensive, however, and the Government hoped to obtain others which could not only be installed in certain places at its expense, but which could also be sold to any person wishing to buy one. The price of those sets would certainly be within the reach of Samoan families. That would make it possible to reduce group listening, which presented certain obvious disadvantages.

83. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) congratulated the New Zealand delegation on its report, which he had read with great interest. With regard to the problem of education, he would like to know the percentage of illiteracy in Samoa, the average age of those attending school, and whether attendance at school was compulsory.

84. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) in reply to the first question, recalled that according to the statements in the report for the year ending March 1948,<sup>2</sup> the figure for illiteracy did not exceed 5 per cent; in his opinion, the percentage was certainly lower than that figure.

85. The age at which children were sent to school had dropped considerably; there was now an obvious wish to have them commence school at the age of five or six, whereas previously, in many cases, they had not been sent to school until they were ten or twelve or even older. In fact, the eagerness of the people in that respect was a source of embarrassment to the Administration, as it was unable to furnish teachers to all the village schools requesting them.

86. The shortage of teachers was also the reason why the Administration had been unable to make education compulsory, as was pointed out in the annex to the report, on page 69. There was reason to hope that when it was in a position to take a decision to that effect, the population would be happy to support it.

87. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) also wished to know whether the Samoan schools were co-educational or whether there were separate schools for boys and girls.

88. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) stated in reply that all the village schools were co-educational. The two residential middle schools referred to in the report were for boys. The new intermediate school was for boys and girls drawn from the Malifa school, which was itself co-educational, and what had previously been the Malifa girls' school had been incorporated partly in the new accelerated school, which was for Samoans, and partly in the new intermediate school. The general principle was that of co-education except in the case of the existing residential schools for boys. The projected Samoan college, which was to include primary and secondary departments, would also be co-educational.

89. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) wished to know whether the religious services which, according to page 50 of the report, were broadcast by the ZAP station, were those of one church only or of several.

90. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) explained that the Government of Samoa had decided to let the missions settle that question for themselves. The missions had conferred and agreed to take it in turns to use the available broadcasting facilities each Sunday.

<sup>2</sup> See *Territory of Western Samoa: Twenty-fifth Report on the administration of the Territory of Western Samoa, for the year ended 31st March, 1948*. New Zealand, 1948.



91. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) had a last question in connexion with broadcasting. On page 50 of the report, there was a reference to 275 battery radio sets which could receive only station 2AP; he wished to know whether the 328 individual receivers which were also mentioned on that page, and for which a licence had to be obtained, could receive other programmes, such as those from New Zealand.

92. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) said that the Government sets were issued free of charge and were not subject to any licence fee. The figure of 328 referred to the ordinary commercial receiving sets which could receive any station in the world.

93. The Government sets were equipped with batteries lasting approximately three months. The services of the Broadcasting Department paid regular visits to the villages to change the batteries free of charge. The life of the batteries could be said to correspond to the duration of ordinary Government broadcasts over a period of three months. However, it was apparently possible to listen occasionally to other stations, such as Honolulu or San Francisco.

94. The Administration did not, of course, compel people to listen only to its own programmes, and the new sets which were being introduced into the Territory, of which 60 out of 328 belonged to Samoans who lived in villages, could receive broadcasts from any country.

95. Mr. AQUINO (Philippines) asked the special representative to what extent the educational system in Samoa met the requirements of progress as the representative of the United States had defined them at that meeting.

96. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) summarized the policy of the Government of Western Samoa and of the Department of Education on the question of what the education system should embrace. After pointing out that it was obvious that an education system should be especially designed for the people whom it had to serve, he stated that he would first describe generally what was the underlying purpose of the entire system of education and, secondly, what it was hoped to achieve with the system of education in village schools.

97. It was clear that the population could be divided into two main categories, namely, persons who required basic primary education only, and those who would undertake more specialized employment and assume a share in the government and administration of the country and who should, therefore, receive more advanced education. It was neither desirable nor possible in a country like Samoa to train every member of the population for a specific occupation, and it was obvious that only a small number of persons would wish that. The educational policy was therefore designed to meet those two purposes.

98. The first objective was to provide primary education for all children of school age, bearing in mind that the great majority of those children lived and would continue to live in villages and would depend

on agriculture for their livelihood. The second objective was to provide senior students with advance manual, technical and agricultural training which would enable them to become useful members of their village communities. The third objective was to select, from among primary school children, those who were considered best fitted for higher education, which would prepare them for clerical or administrative positions or even for entrance into a university. The fourth objective was to provide adult education so as to create a fuller understanding of the responsibilities of citizenship, to increase efficiency in work and to contribute to the more fruitful use of leisure. Such was the general plan.

99. With regard to the type of education to be given in the village schools, the Administration believed that the following programme met the requirements of the case. In the first place, pupils should be taught to read and write with ease and accuracy in the vernacular. Secondly, they should be enabled to carry on a simple conversation in English and to understand written English well enough for immediate practical purposes such as reading notices and simple bulletins. Thirdly, they should be taught enough arithmetic to enable them to deal with practical problems of work and trading. Fourthly, they should be given a firm, practical understanding of the principles of health and hygiene. Fifthly, they should be taught the history, customs and mode of government of their own people. Sixthly, they should be enabled to acquire some skill in Samoan music, dancing and crafts. Seventhly, they should be given a good working knowledge of tropical agriculture and of any practical European methods that might be of use in the villages or plantations. Eighthly, they should be taught to know and appreciate the natural world around them. Ninthly, in the case of girls, they should receive training in simple domestic arts, including the feeding and care of children.

100. Mr. AQUINO (Philippines) asked whether the Administering Authority helped Samoa to meet education expenses which, according to the special representative, were very high.

101. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) explained that apart from the large sums allocated each year to education in the budget of the Territory, which were derived from the revenue of the Territory, the New Zealand Government bore the cost of the scholarship system from which 61 Samoans had benefited. During the last financial year, the scholarships had cost the Administering Authority 12,000 New Zealand pounds. Moreover it had recently decided to set aside, for purposes of education, a sum of 100,000 New Zealand pounds from the accumulated surplus of the New Zealand Reparation Estates.

102. Mr. AQUINO (Philippines) wished to know whether the school system in the Territory made provision for religious instruction, optional or compulsory, in the Government schools.

103. Mr. GRATTAN (special representative for Western Samoa) replied that the scholarship system was designed to give any student with the necessary

ability the opportunity of finishing his studies in a New Zealand university. At each stage of education, primary, secondary and higher, a decision had to be made in the case of each scholar as to whether or not he or she would receive further training. The only

limit was the University of New Zealand. Each scholar was free to indicate his wishes and would be given the opportunity of proceeding further if that were justified by his examination record.

*The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.*