



MEMORANDUM
UNIT MASTER
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President: Mr. Mason SEARS (United States of America).

Present:

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

The representative of the following State non-member of the Trusteeship Council: Italy.

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

Examination of petitions

[Agenda item 5]

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS: PETITIONS CIRCULATED UNDER RULE 85, PARAGRAPH 2, AND COMMUNICATIONS CIRCULATED UNDER RULE 24, OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (T/L.574)

1. The PRESIDENT asked the Council to consider the one hundred and twenty-first report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.574), and firstly, paragraph 4, which concerned a communication from the Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the Union des populations du Cameroun of Mbalmayo (T/COM.5/L.100) requesting the Council to reconsider a decision taken at its 565th meeting (fifteenth session), on 27 January 1955, not to grant him a hearing.

2. Mr. DE CAMARET (France) did not think that the French delegation could change its attitude with regard to the request for a hearing.

3. The PRESIDENT put the request to the vote.

There were 6 votes in favour and 6 against.

After a brief recess in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, a second vote was taken.

There were 6 votes in favour and 6 against. The request was not granted.

4. The PRESIDENT referred to paragraph 5 of the Standing Committee's report, in which the Council's attention was drawn to the fact that the established procedure for the examination of the petitions listed in that paragraph had failed to be adopted because of a tie vote.

5. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in his delegation's opinion all petitions from indigenous inhabitants of the Trust Territories should be examined and the various issues they raised should be carefully considered. That applied in particular to the petitions listed in paragraphs 5 and 6, which raised important and concrete issues that warranted preliminary study by the Standing Committee on Petitions. The USSR representative on the Standing Committee had therefore proposed that the established procedure should be applied in connexion with such petitions. That procedure was all the more necessary since the examination of the petitions relating to events in 1954 would otherwise be deferred until the Trusteeship Council examined the Administering Authority's report in 1956, which would be tantamount to postponing the examination of the substance of the petitions in question for about two years. Such a delay would be very difficult to explain to the authors of the petitions.

6. He proposed that the petitions mentioned in paragraphs 5 and 6 should be examined in accordance with the established procedure.

7. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) pointed out that there had been a tie vote in the Standing Committee on the question whether or not the petitions listed should be considered as regular petitions and whether or not the normal procedure should be applied to them. He suggested that the proposals made in the Standing Committee should again be put to the vote.

It was so decided.

8. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the proposal that the established procedure should be applied in the case of each petition mentioned in paragraph 5 of the Standing Committee's report.

A vote was taken with respect to petition T/PET.3/L.5.

There were 6 votes in favour and 6 against.

After a brief recess in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, a second vote was taken.

There were 6 votes in favour and 6 against. The proposal was not adopted.

A vote was taken with respect to petition T/PET.3/L.6.

There were 6 votes in favour and 6 against.

After a brief recess in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, a second vote was taken.

There were 6 votes in favour and 6 against. The proposal was not adopted.

A vote was taken with respect to petition T/PET.5/L.57.

There were 6 votes in favour and 6 against.

After a brief recess in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, a second vote was taken.

There were 6 votes in favour and 6 against. The proposal was not adopted.

A vote was taken with respect to communication T/COM.5/L.96.

There were 6 votes in favour and 6 against.

After a brief recess in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, a second vote was taken.

There were 6 votes in favour and 6 against. The proposal was not adopted.

A vote was taken with respect to communication T/COM.11/L.171.

There were 6 votes in favour and 6 against.

After a brief recess in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, a second vote was taken.

There were 6 votes in favour and 6 against. The proposal was not adopted.

9. Mr. LOOMES (Australia) said that, with respect to communication T/COM.11/L.175, the Standing Committee on Petitions had adopted a proposal to invite the Secretariat to ask the petitioners whether they wished the United Nations to take action. It therefore seemed to him rather premature for the Council to take a decision on the procedure to be followed in connexion with the communication before it knew the petitioners' reaction to that inquiry.

10. Mr. LALL (India) supported that statement.

11. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had so far received no reply from the petitioners.

12. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) described what had taken place at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Petitions during the discussion of the communication in question. The representative of India had proposed that the petition should be considered as a regular petition and that the established procedure should be applied. There had been a tie vote. Then the Australian representative had proposed asking the petitioners whether they wished the United Nations to consider their petition.

13. The USSR delegation considered that an indigenous inhabitant of a Trust Territory who addressed a complaint to the United Nations did so for the sole purpose of having it considered by that body. The procedure suggested by the Australian representative was therefore superfluous. There was no reason for the Council not to apply the established procedure to communication T/COM.11/175, and a vote should be taken forthwith.

14. Mr. LOOMES (Australia) said that if a vote were taken he would have to vote against the established procedure being applied, since on the basis of the information before it the Council was not aware of the nature of the petitioner's request.

15. Mr. LALL (India) appealed to the USSR representative not to insist on a vote at present. The result would in all likelihood be a tie vote, which would defeat his object, whereas a later vote might well result in the petition's being duly considered.

16. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he had no doubt that the authors of the petition had sent it to the United Nations for the purpose of having it considered by the Organization, but he would comply with the Indian representative's request and not press for a vote, in order to give the Australian representative the possibility of voting for the proposal when confirmation was received from the petitioners.

17. The PRESIDENT said that the vote on communication T/COM.11/L.175 would accordingly be postponed until a reply had been received from the petitioners.

18. He drew attention to paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of the Standing Committee's report, which gave a number of recommendations on the disposal of petitions circulated under rule 85, paragraph 2, and communications circulated under rule 24, of the Council's rules of procedure.

19. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the established procedure should be applied with regard to the three petitions listed in paragraph 6.

20. Mr. LALL (India) said that his delegation considered that the first petition in paragraph 6 (T/PET.5/L.58) related to general problems and should therefore be considered by the Council when the next annual report on the Cameroons under French administration was examined. It did not object to the contents of the petition as such, but thought that it did not come within the purview of the type of consideration which the Standing Committee on Petitions was qualified to give.

21. The two communications (T/COM.5/L.101 and T/COM.5/L.109) were merely copies of documents sent to the Standing Committee for information. His delegation had not felt that it was appropriate for the Committee to consider them at the present stage. He would therefore abstain from voting on them.

22. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the USSR proposal that the established procedure should be applied to the petition and the two communications listed in paragraph 6.

The proposal with regard to petition T/PET.5/L.58 was rejected by 6 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

The proposal with regard to communication T/COM.5/L.101 was rejected by 6 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions.

The proposal with regard to communication T/COM.5/L.109 was rejected by 6 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions.

The recommendations in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of the report of the Standing Committee on Petitions were approved.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (T/PET.11/L.18, T/PET.11/L.19)

23. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the requests for hearings in documents T/PET.11/L.18 and T/PET.11/L.19, submitted, respectively, by the President of the Somali Youth League and the President of the Hisbia Dighil Mirifle.

24. Mr. CASARDI (Representative of Italy as Administering Authority for Somaliland) said that the Administering Authority had always considered it desirable that all responsible members of the population of the Trust Territory should feel free to have recourse to the Trusteeship Council in order to voice any opinion or comment. He therefore had no objection to the requests before the Council.

The Council decided to grant the requests for hearings.

Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the administration of the Trust Territory of Nauru for the year ended 30 June 1954 (T/1171, T/1180)

[Agenda item 4 (d)]

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

OPENING STATEMENT

25. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that he would draw attention to a few developments of importance which had taken place in the year under review.

26. Prior to 31 July 1952, under the Nauru Agreement of 2 July 1919, all expenses of the Administration not met by other revenue had been met by a royalty of one shilling per ton on phosphate raised during the year. For the reasons given in the Nauru report for 1952-53,¹ a new financial arrangement had been introduced under which a budget was prepared by the Administrator before the beginning of each financial year and the British Phosphate Commissioners paid the required instalment each quarter. The budget was based on Administration requirements for the year and on what could be accomplished with the available resources of manpower and materials. Experience over the past two years had shown clearly the wisdom as well as the practical utility of the new procedure. As he had assured the Council at the fourteenth session (535th meeting), the change was merely one of accounting procedure; the Administration continued, as in the past, to settle its expenses without consultation with the Commissioners, and the present arrangement had not resulted, and would not result, in the Commissioners' exercising any form of budgetary control over the Administration. Members would note that expenditure for the year under review had been 27 per cent higher than that for 1952-53.

27. Mr. J. K. Lawrence, who had been appointed Administrator for Nauru in January 1953, had retired on 30 June 1953 and had been succeeded by Mr. R. S. Meydin, who had had long experience in territorial administration.

28. The Nauru Local Government Council, although taking a keen interest in local affairs and being given every encouragement by the Administration, had so far submitted only one rule, which related to Nauruan citizenship. During the year, however, the Council had considered drafts of a number of proposed new ordinances, and in each case had either expressed agree-

ment or made a proposal for amendment. In that way it was obtaining valuable experience in legislative processes.

29. In order to overcome the Local Government Council's reluctance to take action on its own initiative, efforts to encourage and advise it had been intensified. In addition to the usual monthly meetings with the Administrator, the Administrator and senior officers of the Administration had had special informal meetings with the Head Chief and councillors for the purpose of stimulating action by the Council, advising on problems of administration and assisting in the interpretation of the law and of the texts of proposed ordinances.

30. There had been several changes of staff since 30 June 1954, including the appointment of a domestic science teacher and first mistress to the secondary school and the appointment of a specialist needlework teacher. Eight new positions for Nauruans had been created in the Department of Education. European staff had been increased by the appointment of a dentist, an assistant surveyor and five teachers. A decrease in the total Nauruan staff from 308 to 283 was due mainly to a reduction of the works staff from 138 to 106, made necessary by the completion of certain projects and an arrangement with the Phosphate Commissioners to undertake major construction works for the Administration.

31. Mr. E. P. Eltham, Director of Training in the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service, had visited the Territory during August and September 1954 to advise the Administration on vocational training methods. His report was at present being examined by the Administering Authority.

32. The Native Affairs Officer, who was also the Head Chief, had been appointed a magistrate to the District Court on 11 September 1954, and up to 31 March 1955 had heard 161 cases. He had received assistance and advice from officers of the Administration from time to time on points of law and procedure. The Administration was gratified at the success of direct Nauruan participation in the judiciary and was pleased to note that the court had functioned smoothly under his control.

33. The remaining provisions of the Criminal Code relating to corporal punishment had been abolished by the Criminal Code Amendment Ordinance No. 1, promulgated on 4 August 1954.

34. It would be noted that the decline in shipments of phosphate in 1953-54 as compared with the previous year was over 123,000 tons. In comparison, however, with the past three years' average of 1,130,000 tons, the difference was only about 27,000 tons. There had been no exceptional circumstances to account for the variation. Phosphate shipped from 1 July 1954 to 31 March 1955 had amounted to 852,100 tons.

35. Since 30 June 1954 the rate in rental paid by the Commissioners for non-phosphate land had been increased from £4. 10s. per acre, with a minimum payment of £1. 10s. per block, to £6 per acre, with a minimum payment of £2. The increased rates were retrospective to 1 July 1953. The rental rate of leases for twelve months or less was double the normal rate. Royalty payable to Nauruan landowners had also been increased from 8d. to 10d. per ton with effect from 1 July 1953. Payment of 8d. per ton was made direct to the landowner and 2d. per ton was paid into the Nau-

¹ Commonwealth of Australia, *Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of Nauru from 1st July, 1952, to 30th June, 1953*, Canberra, Government Printing Office.

ruan Landowners Royalty Trust Fund. The balance of that fund was now £161,200.

36. The Nauruan Community Long-Term Investment Fund had increased by over £27,000, making a total of over £108,000 by 30 June 1954. Payments to or for the direct benefit of the Nauruan people, which up to 30 June 1953 had amounted to over £570,000, had by 30 June 1954 increased to more than £646,000, of which over £397,000 had been paid since the end of 1947. The sums mentioned did not include the £45 per acre for lease rent.

37. Payment for land required for an airfield had not yet been made, because the ownership of the land was still in dispute. In many cases ownership, as determined by the Nauru Lands Committee, had been disputed by Nauruan counter-claimants and claims were being further examined by the Committee. As the Committee's determinations were subject to appeal, it would be some time before the matter was finally settled. Owing to the delay, the time for lodging claims would be extended.

38. The investigation by officers of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization into land use in Nauru had been completed and their report was now being considered by the Administering Authority. The report showed that the land in Nauru suitable for agricultural purposes was limited, only about 300 acres being suitable for coconuts and about 300 acres for other crops. There was also difficulty in regard to supplies of fresh water. Nevertheless, the Administering Authority was endeavouring to foster greater agricultural activity, not only for the sake of food production but for the value of gardening in providing occupation for the people and giving them a broader foundation for their life on the island than was now being provided by the receipt of comparatively high cash incomes from phosphate royalty and wages.

39. As a first step an experimental farm was to be established in Nauru. The farm would test methods of agriculture and the best crops for the island, demonstrate to Nauruans the correct ways of growing crops and keeping pigs and poultry under Nauruan conditions, and introduce and test new plants and new varieties. A qualified agricultural officer would be seconded from the Territory of New Guinea for the purpose. Concurrently with those activities, cadetships for courses leading to an agricultural diploma would be provided for Nauruan students.

40. The development of agriculture and the training of Nauruans in agricultural pursuits was of particular significance, since it would be necessary to ensure their continued well-being and development when the phosphate deposits came to an end in about sixty or seventy years.

41. Since the end of the period covered by the report for 1953-54,² extensive investigations had been made regarding the suitability of certain islands adjacent to Papua and New Guinea as a new home for the Nauruan people. Those investigations had focused on Woodlark Island, but after exhaustive examination it had become clear that Woodlark Island was not suitable for the purpose. The Administration had been asked to make every endeavour to locate unpopulated areas which were suitable for agricultural development and which would

enable the Nauruans to engage in fishing pursuits and would permit easy access to avenues of employment. The Nauruans themselves were being kept fully informed of the investigations into the question of the future of the Nauruan people, and their wishes and interest were continually consulted.

42. Good progress had been made during the year on the public works programme, and since the end of the year under review the new Administration secondary school had been completed, the construction of a new Administration hospital commenced and plans completed for a new primary school. The preparation of the site for that school was under way. Numerous minor works, including quarters for married and single Chinese employees of the Administration, had also been completed.

43. The project for the construction of 350 homes for the Nauruans to replace those which had been destroyed during the war had been completed. The cost, which up to 31 March 1955 had amounted to over £302,000, had been met by advances to the Nauruan Housing Scheme by the Phosphate Commissioners, and the accounts of the Commissioners included provision for the amortization of those advances at the rate of 9d. per ton of phosphate. As on 31 March 1955, over £113,000 had still been owing.

44. In the field of social advancement, he drew attention to the high standard of living enjoyed by the Nauruans, made possible by the wages earned and by land rents and by phosphate royalties. With all social services provided free, the majority continued to be very well provided for.

45. Consideration was being given to a social services ordinance to provide for the administration by the Nauru Local Government Council of a scheme for the payment of old age, invalid and widows' pensions and other benefits. Discussions were still in the preliminary stage.

46. In replying to a recommendation of the Trusteeship Council (A/2680, p. 275) relating to the restrictions on the movement at night of indigenous persons and immigrant workers, as provided under the Movement of Natives Ordinance, the Administering Authority had informed the Council in the annual report under consideration that the matter had been discussed with the Nauru Local Government Council, which had expressed the view that for the present the restrictions should remain. In view of the special social circumstances created by the presence of a large number of short-term immigrant workers, the Administering Authority had agreed that some restrictions were necessary, while at the same time advising the Nauru Council of the desirability of some modification. The Council had recently passed a resolution agreeing to the repeal of the statutory provisions restricting movement on the island. Nevertheless, it had informed the Administrator that it was fearful of the possible effect. The Council had been assured that if there were any ill effects, the restrictions could be reimposed. When the resolution in question was formally received by the Administrator, consideration would be given to the repeal of the regulation in question.

47. Medical facilities had been further expanded and there had been a marked increase in the readiness of Nauruan mothers to use prenatal and hospital facilities. The increasing confidence in the medical services and the abandonment of reliance on customary unscientific and unhygienic practices and habits would undoubtedly

² Commonwealth of Australia, *Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of Nauru from 1st July, 1953, to 30th July, 1954*, Canberra, Government Printing Office.

have a significant effect on infant health. The infant mortality rate had dropped from 115.8 per thousand in 1952-53 to 56.91 per thousand in 1953-54. The figure for 1952-53 was exceptional, the average for the previous four years having been under 60 per thousand. Measures being taken to reduce the infant mortality rate still further included the education of the Nauruan people and in particular the Nauruan medical staff in the importance of prenatal, obstetrical and infant care, the improvement of general standards of nutrition, especially in pregnancy, and hygiene. Each district now had its own infant-welfare clinic. The new Administration hospital would provide for twenty-eight patients in the general section and accommodate sixteen patients in isolation for tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. There would also be a separate block for mental cases.

48. Since the consolidation of all primary school classes at a central school there had been a noticeable improvement in the morale of both teachers and pupils. Four Nauruan girls who had returned to the Territory after training in a secondary school in Australia were now employed as school teachers. A vacation school for Nauruan primary teachers had been held during the school holidays in August 1954, and demonstrations had been given by European teaching staff. The new Administration secondary school had opened on 2 August 1954. For the first time, by arrangement with the Victorian Schools Board, the intermediate examination had been held in Nauru in December 1954. Nine students had sat for the examination, and although none had passed, the results had been encouraging. Four additional overseas scholarships had been granted since June 1954, two to boys and two to girls. At the present time twenty scholarship-holders—thirteen boys and seven girls—were continuing their studies in Australia, and one boy and two girls in Fiji.

49. The Commonwealth Office of Education at Sydney had undertaken the care and guidance of Nauruan students in Australia. The students thus had ready access to professional advice and guidance.

50. Adult education had been intensified and new classes established in elementary accounting and cookery. In addition to normal on-the-job training, a class for works foremen in workshop administration and associated subjects had been opened, and the Director of Police had started a class for members of the police force in elementary law, court procedure and first aid.

51. The Girl Guide movement had been re-established, and in September 1954 a company of fifty had been formed. In addition to guiding, the girls were taught dressmaking and cooking.

52. In conclusion, the special representative said that he would do his best to provide any further information that might be requested by members of the Council.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY AND REPLIES OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

53. Mr. ROBBINS (United States of America) asked what the reaction of the Nauruans had been to the consultations held between them and the Administering Authority with regard to providing a solution for their future.

54. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that there were still differences of opinion in that respect: some of the Nauruan leaders felt that action should be taken at once to provide a home to which they could gradually be transferred; others felt that since the prob-

lem would not arise for about fifty or sixty years there was no immediate need for action. The Administering Authority was of the opinion that some action should be taken immediately to provide land which would be suitable for the future settlement of the Nauruan people and at the same time to prepare the people for the move by training them in agriculture and trades. When that had been done and suitable areas were ready for them, it would be for the Nauruan people themselves to decide how and when to transfer themselves to their new home.

55. Mr. ROBBINS (United States of America) pointed out that whereas on page 21 of the annual report it was estimated that the phosphate deposits on the island would be exhausted in sixty years, in the previous year's report the estimate had been sixty-five to seventy years. He wondered what the reason was for that change in the estimate.

56. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the estimates were based on the knowledge gained during the past twenty or thirty years. The depth of the phosphate deposits varied greatly and it was therefore hard to estimate how long it would take to raise all the phosphate that was available.

57. Mr. ROBBINS (United States of America) asked how the former inhabitants of Ocean Island were adjusting themselves to their resettlement as a result of the exhaustion of the phosphate deposits on their island.

58. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that he had visited Ocean Island some twelve months previously, at which time he had been informed by the British representative there that the inhabitants were happy and were making good progress. He had no more recent information.

59. Mr. BARGUES (France), referring to the part of the report which dealt with the electoral system, noted that voting was compulsory. He asked what penalty was imposed for failure to vote.

60. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that electors who did not exercise their right to vote were liable to a fine. In the first election, held about a year previously, various electors had not voted; but as they had all had a reasonable excuse no penalties had been imposed.

61. Mr. BARGUES (France) observed that it was stated on page 14 of the annual report that the minutes of the meetings of the Local Government Council were kept in the English language. He asked whether only English was spoken in the meetings and whether a knowledge of English was obligatory for members.

62. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that a knowledge of English was not an essential qualification for election to the Council. He had attended a meeting at which English had been spoken throughout, but he thought it probable that unless the Administrator or an English-speaking visitor was present, the Nauruan language was used. It was at the desire of the members that the records of the Council and all correspondence with outside bodies were in English.

63. Mr. BARGUES (France), referring to page 15 of the annual report, where it was stated that the Judiciary Ordinance was being examined with a view to amending the constitution of the Court of Appeal so that there would be a clear distinction between the executive and the judiciary, asked what action the Administration proposed to take to that end.

64. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that an ordinance to reorganize and reconstitute the courts

of the Territory had been drafted and would be promulgated within the next few months. The separation of the executive from the judiciary mentioned in the annual report referred to the present provisions of the Ordinance, under which the Administrator constituted the Court of Appeal. Under the new ordinance the Court of Appeal would be constituted by a judge. The Administering Authority intended to appoint additional judges from Australia and from the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, who would function in Nauru as and when required. The number of offences which had to be heard before a higher court was very small in Nauru; he estimated that 99 per cent of cases were simple offences which could be heard before a magistrate.

65. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) referred to the statement on page 13 of the annual report that the Local Government Council might advise the Administrator in relation to any matter affecting Nauruans and that the Administrator might act in opposition to the advice of the Council on a matter where he felt justified in so doing. He asked whether there had been any instances of the Administrator's not taking the advice of the Council, particularly in the year under review.

66. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said he knew of no case where the advice given by the Local Government Council had not been accepted by the Administrator.

67. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) asked for some further explanation of why the Movement of Natives Ordinance could not even be modified.

68. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) recalled that he had said in his opening statement that the Local Government Council had recently passed a resolution agreeing to the repeal of the statutory provisions restricting movement on the island. It was the practice of the Administrator and his officers to confer with the Local Government Council and even to attend meetings, and it had been at one of those meetings that the Council had passed the resolution mentioned. The next step was for the Council formally to advise the Administrator of the resolution and to inform him that it would like those restrictions to be repealed. The Administrator would then decide whether to accept or reject the Council's advice; there could be little doubt that he would accept the recommendation.

69. Mr. S. S. LIU (China) asked whether it was the Administration's intention to expedite the legal training of indigenous inhabitants and to expand the programme of indigenous participation in the judiciary.

70. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said there could be no doubt that as the standard of education improved, law would be one of the professions the Nauruans would take up. When there were qualified Nauruans to fill the positions, they would of course occupy them.

71. Mr. SERRANO GARCIA (El Salvador), referring to part V, chapter 3, of the annual report, asked whether the Local Government Council had taken the initiative in organizing, financing or engaging in any business or enterprise, carrying out any public works or providing any public or social service, or whether what had been done had been entirely on the initiative of the Administration.

72. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the so-called co-operative store was managed and controlled by the Council. As he had already said, preliminary discussions were being held with a view to promul-

gating a social services ordinance to provide for the administration by the Nauru Local Government Council of a scheme for the payment of old age, invalid and widows' pensions and other benefits.

73. It was very difficult to get the Nauruan people to take action or use the powers they possessed. It was hoped that eventually they would display more initiative. Both the co-operative and the suggestions regarding social benefits had been inspired by the Administering Authority.

74. Mr. SERRANO GARCIA (El Salvador) asked what the reason was for the reduction in staff employed by the Administration, shown in the table on page 39 of the annual report.

75. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the reduction had been mainly in connexion with the Department of Works. The reason for it had been that two of the major building projects were being undertaken by the Phosphate Commissioners, by arrangement with the Administration.

76. The Department referred to as the "Department of Works" was in effect a technical training centre combined with a works section, which was capable of carrying out minor public works and maintenance. At the fourteenth session (535th meeting) it had been suggested in the Trusteeship Council that the Administration was overstaffed, and he had replied that the Administration was aware of the fact but felt that it had the advantage that the people were acquiring some knowledge of a trade or something else which would be of use to them. As a result of the arrangement that the Phosphate Commissioners should erect the hospital and the new schools, the Department had been reorganized.

77. The Nauruans were now in a better position than they had been previously, since of the former total of sixty-one Nauruans in the Department, thirty-eight had been general labourers, whereas at the present time there were forty Nauruans in the Department, all holding skilled or semi-skilled positions. The labourers formerly employed by the Department were now probably employed by the Phosphate Commissioners.

78. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) pointed out that according to the summary of conditions in the Territory prepared by the Secretariat³ there had been no Nauruans holding the office of magistrate during the period 1953-54. The special representative had informed the Council that a Native Affairs Officer had been appointed magistrate of the District Court in 1954. He asked whether he was the first indigenous magistrate to be appointed in the Territory and whether that statement was an amendment to the statement in paragraph 35 of the Secretariat working paper.

79. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) pointed out that the appointment had been made on 11 September 1954, after the close of the year covered by the annual report.

80. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) pointed out that according to paragraph 37 of the Secretariat working paper corporal punishment had been abolished, with certain exceptions, whereas the special representative had informed the Council that it had been abolished completely. He asked whether it was a fact that corporal punishment was no longer inflicted for any reason whatsoever.

81. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) confirmed that that was so.

³ Working paper circulated to members of the Council only.

82. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) was gratified to hear of the abolition of corporal punishment, which was in accordance with numerous recommendations made by the Trusteeship Council.

83. With reference to the Administration's efforts to find land to which the population of Nauru could eventually be moved, he asked what additional investigations were being made, what territories besides Woodlark Island had been explored and with what result.

84. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that inquiries were being carried out by the field staff of the Department of District Services and Native Affairs in conjunction with officers of the Department of Agriculture and the Land Department. He had no information on the results of the inquiries so far carried out. As soon as any information was available, the Council would of course be notified.

85. Mr. ROBBINS (United States of America) said he would like to have more information about the Nauru Local Government Council; in particular he would like to know whether the members of the Council were demonstrating a capacity to assume greater responsibilities so that their powers might be extended in the future.

86. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that so far the members of the Local Government Council had shown reluctance to exercise any of the powers which they had under the Ordinance. The Administration was doing its utmost to encourage and stimulate them to take some responsibility and show some initiative, but so far with little success.

87. Mr. ROBBINS (United States of America) asked whether it would be possible for future annual reports to give some indication of the nature of the proceedings in the Local Government Council.

88. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said he would take note of that suggestion.

89. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand) said that in his opening statement the special representative had referred to the submission by the Nauru Local Government Council of a rule relating to Nauruan citizenship. He would like to have some information about the na-

ture of that rule and the discussions that had taken place.

90. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that in a report submitted about two years previously it had been mentioned that the Nauruan Council of Chiefs, which had existed before the formation of the Nauru Local Government Council, had had a traditional right to confer Nauruan citizenship upon other people. A number of people from other islands had been granted Nauruan citizenship by the Council of Chiefs. The Local Government Council had submitted the rule in question to the Administrator because it wished to retain that right but to have it regularized under the new conditions. After discussion with the Administrator, it had finally been decided that a matter of such importance should be dealt with in an ordinance of the Territory rather than in a rule of the Local Council. An ordinance was now being drawn up to give effect to the Local Council's desires and would probably be ready for promulgation within the next few months.

91. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) pointed out that of the total island population of 3,517, only 1,828 were Nauruans. He was not sure that it should be assumed that it would be impossible in fifty or sixty years' time for the Nauruan population to live on the island. Nevertheless, he agreed that the Australian Government was right in investigating carefully whether or not that would be possible after the phosphate operations had ceased. He asked whether the special representative could give an approximate figure of the population before work on the phosphates had begun.

92. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that he would obtain that information. He would also supply the Council with the estimates of the population for the next fifty years or so which had been worked out on the basis of the increase over the past five years.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.20 p.m.

93. The PRESIDENT announced that as no member of the Council was ready to ask any further questions, he would adjourn the meeting.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.