

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

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President: Mr. Rafik ASHA (Syria).

Present:

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

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; World Health Organization.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (*continued*):

- (i) **Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1955 (T/1244, T/1254);**
- (ii) **Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific, 1956 (T/1255)**

[Agenda items 4 (d) and 7]

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

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY AND REPLIES OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE (*continued*)

Political advancement (continued)

1. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered that the Administering Authority could have introduced greater uniformity into the rules governing elections to organs of local government and their functioning. He asked whether any measures to that effect were contemplated.

2. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) replied that there was a uniformity of approach with respect to the election of magistrates, treasurers and secretaries, as deemed necessary by the various municipalities. The same applied to the election of members to the local

councils and congresses. There were differences between the districts with respect to the form of the congress or council, some being unicameral, others bicameral. The Administering Authority did not intend to impose a uniform pattern on the districts. It was respecting the resolutions adopted by the congresses. There was, however, some evidence of uniformity, in that the congresses were thinking in terms of their local problems, which were essentially the same for all districts. A much higher degree of uniformity might be expected to develop in future, because the Micronesians now had more knowledge of the workings of democratic government and a greater desire to set up such a system in the Territory.

3. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered that the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands should have political institutions with powers covering the entire Territory. He asked what were the intentions of the Administering Authority in that regard.

4. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the Administering Authority was working towards an all-territorial congress. However, the physical separation of districts, the separation of islands within districts, and the fact there were eight different languages and cultures in the Territory, meant considerable difficulty in the process of achieving a common legislative body. He believed that such a body would come into being in the foreseeable future, and it would be warmly welcomed by the Administering Authority.

5. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, according to the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific, 1956 (T/1255), one of the difficulties in the way of establishing a capital or administrative centre in the Territory itself was financial: the Administering Authority would have to set aside some \$2 million. He thought that figure excessively high. In any event, if the Territory were given an administrative centre, the measure would be certain to have an effect upon the morale of the people and on the development of national consciousness.

6. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) emphasized that financial considerations were not the controlling factor. The Administering Authority would not hesitate to undertake the necessary expenditure if it felt that the establishment of a capital would serve the interests of the Territory in the present circumstances. However, in order to establish a capital, there must be adequate transportation and communication with the outside world; furthermore, it would be impossible to choose a site which would be representative of the whole area involved. The Administering Authority did not consider that it would be advisable to take such a measure until the entire Trust Territory acquired the consciousness of being an entity.

7. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that in most cases the magistrates and heads of municipalities were elected, but that there were still some municipalities where the magistrates were appointed. He asked why all magistrates were not

ected and how long it would take to reorganize the municipalities.

8. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) stated that ninety-five out of 102 magistrates were elected, and it was hoped that within the next three or four years all magistrates would be elected. The Administering Authority did not wish to impose the elective process on the people; it was trying to convince them of its advantages and they appeared to be slowly accepting the idea.

9. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought it could be inferred from the information given by the special representative that political institutions in the Territory would develop very rapidly. He asked whether the Administering Authority had set a target date so that the Territory could attain self-government or independence in the near future.

10. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the Administering Authority's intention was not to take drastic action, but to guide the people's development by means of constant progressive changes. It desired the Micronesians to become self-governing as soon as possible, but it was difficult to state a definite date, especially in view of the extent of the Territory, its sparse population and various cultures.

11. Mr. SEARS (United States of America) said that it was impossible at the present time to give a time-limit after which the Territory would be independent or self-governing. The Administering Authority proposed, however, to set up intermediate target dates by which it thought that the inhabitants would have reached a further stage in their development; as those intermediate targets were attained, it might be possible to give a final date.

12. Mr. RIFAI (Syria) observed that according to the information supplied by the Administering Authority in its annual report¹ non-Micronesian immigrants could, in unusual circumstances, be granted permanent residence status. He asked whether there had been any instances in which immigrants had been granted such permanent residence status.

13. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) replied that permanent residence status had been granted to two or three persons who had been living in the Territory for a long time, but that no such action had been taken in recent years.

14. Mr. RIFAI (Syria) observed that some of the immigrants, namely the Etscheit families, had certain claims against the Administration. He asked whether any progress had been made in that matter.

15. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) replied that the Administration had had numerous consultations with the families concerned and had offered them a settlement of their claims. They had not accepted the offer and the Administration had not accepted their counter-offer. The Administration hoped that since each party recognized the other's difficulties the problem would shortly be solved, despite its complexity.

16. Mr. RIFAI (Syria) noted that the number of municipalities did not appear to be proportionate to the population of each district. He asked how the Adminis-

tration decided on the number of municipalities in each district. He felt that an increase in the number of municipalities might well work against the development of territorial consciousness as it might encourage the insular, local or parochial feeling of certain groups.

17. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the municipalities were established, at the express request of the communities concerned, when a group had lived in a particular area for a long time. The increase in municipalities was not harmful to the development of national consciousness; indeed the contrary was the case; for example, several small municipalities in the Palau district were thinking in terms of merging into a larger community. The inhabitants were becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of better representation and it could be expected that there would be fewer municipalities in future.

18. Mr. RIFAI (Syria) was happy to note that the Administering Authority had granted new charters to various congresses, for example the Palau Congress. He asked whether the members of those bodies were taking the initiative of presenting draft laws or were doing so only on the suggestion of the Administering Authority.

19. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) replied that the congresses and councils were now presenting resolutions prepared on their own initiative and in response to the wishes of their own people; their interests covered all fields of action.

20. In reply to another question from Mr. RIFAI (Syria), Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) explained that the magistrates of the Truk district were elected biannually in accordance with the wishes of the magistrates and of the people themselves. The explanation was that the election of magistrates was new to the Micronesians. Both candidates and electors were doubtful whether they could adequately perform their functions, the former being desirous of receiving a renewed expression of confidence, while the latter wanted to preserve the right to choose a new magistrate. It was to be expected that as time went on the elections would become annual and that eventually magistrates would hold office for a longer term.

21. Mr. GRILLO (Italy) drew attention to the scale of the task undertaken by the Administering Authority in the Territory. The inhabitants of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands spoke a variety of languages, none of which was common to the whole area. He wondered if one of the local languages or a foreign language was likely to become an official language, the adoption of which might further the development of a feeling of unity among the inhabitants.

22. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the variety of languages was a real difficulty. English was, however, becoming more and more the common language because it was taught in the schools. The problem would no longer arise in five or ten years.

23. In reply to a further question from Mr. GRILLO (Italy), Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the various clubs in the Territory were not at present exerting any real influence in the political field, but their influence would be felt more and more as time went on because their members were mainly young Micronesians who had been educated and possessed a broader knowledge of the world.

24. Mr. GRILLO (Italy) understood that there were no set rules about the length of the term of office of district court and community court judges, and asked by what criteria the term was fixed. He also noted that

¹ *Eighth Annual Report on the Administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, July 1, 1954, to June 30, 1955, Transmitted by the United States of America to the United Nations Pursuant to Article 88 of the Charter of the United Nations*, Department of State Publication 6243, Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1956. (Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by the Secretary-General under cover of document T/1244.)

none of the community court judges had any legal training and the Administering Authority had stated that it was endeavouring to teach them to carry out their duties in as nearly a professional manner as possible. He asked for information on the methods adopted to that end.

25. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the length of the term of office of the district court and community court judges was determined according to the wishes of the inhabitants of the area concerned. To maintain law and order there were constabulary men, public defenders, public prosecutors and sheriffs, all of whom were trained by United States officials of the competent departments. The community court judges were assisted and guided by two United States judges.

26. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) recalled Mr. Nucker's statement at the 709th meeting that the Administering Authority was aware of the responsibilities with regard to the political development of the Micronesian people, but that it intended to make changes as the people showed themselves ready for them. In that connexion, he had mentioned that a law reflecting the needs of the Micronesians might be promulgated in 1960, and Mr. Dorsinville asked for information about it.

27. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) explained that the Territory at present had a code embodying administrative regulations and procedures. The code had been prepared by the Administering Authority to serve as a guide to officials responsible for the administration of the Territory and to enable the Micronesians to understand what was legal and what was not. The law he had referred to would be an organic act on which the entire administration of the Territory would rest. It would be worked out after discussions with Micronesians and in the light of the experience gained by Administration officials. It would be representative of the needs of the Territory and would be submitted to the Congress of the United States for approval.

28. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) asked whether the organic act would also deal with the political institutions and their reorganization with a view to the Territory's independence, which was the ultimate aim.

29. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the act would undoubtedly deal with the legislative bodies, municipalities and districts; in short, it would run the full gamut of the laws and regulations which governed a country. Hence, anyone who wished to review the administration of Micronesia could determine what progress had been made by studying the organic act.

30. In reply to questions from Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti), Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the act would certainly not be promulgated before 1960 and confirmed that the Administering Authority would consult representatives of the population when drafting the act and would associate them with its work.

31. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) asked for information on the question of war damage raised in paragraph 62 of the Visiting Mission's report (T/1255).

32. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) replied that the question related to land which had been damaged by Japanese military operations in the area. Claims in respect of damage caused by Japanese operations were not within the Acting High Commissioner's purview. The question was the subject of negotiations between the United States Government and the

Japanese Government, and he had no information on the matter.

33. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) pointed out that the Visiting Mission had mentioned several times that it had seen traces of the war and war damage almost everywhere in various districts, which detracted from the general appearance of the areas in question. He asked whether the clearance of the land was waiting upon a settlement between the Administering Authority and the Japanese Government or whether no attention had been paid to the matter.

34. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that while there was evidence of the war in numerous areas, it was not to be seen everywhere. Clean-up operations had been in progress for six years but it was a slow and arduous process and some areas had not as yet been touched. It appeared that the Mission had visited one of those areas. Some progress had, however, been made in removing the debris of war and it was probable that in a few years the major areas would have been entirely cleared.

35. In reply to a question from Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) concerning the dissatisfaction of the inhabitants of Kili Island, Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) explained that Kili was the island on which the inhabitants of Bikini had been resettled. Living conditions on Kili were not the same as on Bikini, and the Administration was endeavouring to improve them. It had made a fifty-foot boat fitted with a Diesel motor available to the inhabitants, which would enable them to fish in deep water and to go to Jaluit Atoll, where they could dispose of their copra. The Administering Authority also intended to negotiate with the population the settlement of their claims concerning the land they owned in Bikini. It was anticipated that those measures would satisfy the population.

36. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) understood from paragraph 314 of the Visiting Mission's report that the Administering Authority intended to change the status of United States officials but that the Micronesian staff would not be affected by the new arrangements. He asked whether the provisions of the personnel manual which governed the employment of Micronesian staff laid down satisfactory conditions with regard to security of tenure, retirement, pensions and other benefits.

37. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the regulations under which the Micronesians were employed provided for annual leave, sick leave, medical care, etc.

38. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked for further information on the plan to organize a meeting of prominent Micronesians at Guam.

39. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that about a month previously the Administering Authority had sent each district administrator a letter explaining the Administration's intentions with regard to the meeting and asking him to submit suggestions on several points, in particular, on how the representatives invited to Guam should be elected. It was likely that the representatives would be leading men in the local congresses and councils, but a good deal of weight would be given to the recommendations made on the subject by the district administrators. The Administration hoped that the people attending the meeting would be true representatives of the Micronesian people. It anticipated that each district would be able to send two representatives, with an interpreter where necessary. The representatives would be flown to Guam. The programme provided that during the first part of the session, i.e., during the first

three or four days, each of the directors of the various departments (health, education, finance, commerce and programmes) would speak on his sphere of responsibility and the organization of his department. He would inform the representatives what he proposed to accomplish, what he had accomplished and what were his plans for the future. The representatives would then discuss what they had heard for a few days, after which they would be invited to say what they thought of the work done by the Administration in the past, to express their desires, and to submit their suggestions for the future. To sum up, the Administering Authority would ask for their co-operation in developing the Territory politically, economically and educationally. It was to be hoped that such a free exchange of views between the Micronesians and the United States officials would help to promote mutual understanding. The discussion would not deal exclusively with certain specified fields, but with any questions that the Micronesians might wish to raise.

40. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) drew attention to the importance of the Guam meetings as a first step towards an inter-district conference such as that which had been held at Truk. In that connexion, it would be interesting to know how the Administering Authority intended to ensure continuity of representation at the Guam meeting and the inter-district conferences which might take place subsequently.

41. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the Administering Authority had no precise plan at present with regard to inter-district conferences. The matter would, however, be studied and it was possible that such a conference might take place in the Territory in the following year. If so, it would clearly be advantageous if the individuals invited to Guam could also be present at that conference. It was therefore important that the representatives should be leading men from the local congresses and councils.

42. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) considered that it would be necessary to consult, not only the district administrators, but also the congresses and councils, in appointing the individuals who were to take part in the Guam meeting, in order to ensure continuity of representation at all the conferences.

43. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that he would make certain that the views of congress and council representatives were taken into consideration before selecting the individuals to go to Guam.

44. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) said that some districts had no congresses, but only advisory councils. In districts where they existed, the congresses met at very irregular intervals. The Visiting Mission's report indicated in some detail how often the sessions were held, but failed to state whether the Ponape Congress and the Tinian Congress, which had recently received their charters, had held meetings.

45. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) replied that in 1955 the Ponape Congress had held one special meeting lasting one day, and that the Tinian Congress had also held a meeting.

46. In reply to a question by Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala), Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the Marshall Islands Congress would meet in August. It had not met the previous year because of a request by its own leaders, who had felt that any outstanding matters could be dealt with by the Hold-Over Committee then sitting at Majuro.

47. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) said that under its charter the Saipan Congress was empowered

to pass any legislation which affected the interests and welfare of the population. Such legislation was subject to the Administrator's approval. He asked whether there were any objective criteria for determining whether a law affected the interests and welfare of the population, or whether the matter was entirely at the Administrator's discretion.

48. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) did not think there were any set directives stipulating what laws the Saipan Congress was empowered to discuss or pass. In case of doubt, the district administrator would have to consult his superiors.

49. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) observed that several members of the Council had stressed the importance of the municipalities, and the special representative had cited some of the measures taken by the Administering Authority to accelerate their development. He asked whether the Administering Authority intended to grant charters to certain municipalities empowering them to enact local ordinances and in particular to raise taxes.

50. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the Administering Authority was studying the possibility of granting charters to municipalities in order to define more uniformly their responsibility and authority, particularly with respect to taxes. The charters would be more or less standard in form. Within two or three years most of the municipalities would have charters.

51. In reply to a question by Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala), Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that he knew of no movement, official or unofficial, to bring about a union of the Marianas and Guam.

52. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) stressed the importance of the problem of communications and transportation, which affected all fields of activity, including administration. The naval authorities of the Saipan district had recently appointed a commission to study the transportation problem in the Mariana Islands. He wondered whether a representative of the High Commissioner had been a member of the commission, or whether it had been composed solely of representatives of the naval authorities. He also asked whether the commission had gone into the problem of transportation for the Mariana Islands (including Rota) or only for Tinian, Saipan and dependent islands.

53. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that a representative of the Administering Authority had attended the meetings of the commission, which had devoted particular attention to the problem of transportation between Saipan, Rota and Guam. The Administering Authority had not yet received the commission's report.

54. In reply to a question by Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala), Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the study of the salaries and wages of Micronesian personnel employed by the Administration would be completed within the next two months. Administration officials had gone into the districts to gather information.

55. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked for further details concerning the Administration's plan to help the former inhabitants of Bikini who had been transported to Kili Island.

56. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that originally the Administration had intended to build a few houses at Jabwar for the use of the people from Kili. The plan was that they would go and live there for a month or six weeks, planting and caring for crops, and then take back the harvest to Kili. It was also

intended that they should fish in the lagoon, their catch being hauled back to Kili. The plan had not materialized owing to the reluctance of the people of Kili to live at Jabwar away from their families.

57. He then explained in detail the new plan, which he thought was much more likely to succeed. The people of Kili had been given the use of a boat. The crew would be stationed at Jabwar, and Kilian families could go and live there from time to time and develop some agriculture and fishing. The new boat would enable the people to fish off Kili and bring back their catch to the Kilians within a very short time. The Administering Authority thought that Jabwar might become a kind of outpost, providing the people of Kili with more frequent contacts with Jaluit Island and the Marshall Islands.

58. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) asked the Administering Authority intended to increase the monthly allowance of the inhabitants of Rongelap who had suffered from the effects of the nuclear explosion of 1954 and had been temporarily settled at Majuro.

59. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) replied that the allowance had been raised and that the Administering Authority had received no further complaints from Majuro.

60. Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) said he understood that it might be possible for the inhabitants of Rongelap to return to their island towards the end of the year, and he asked what measures the Administration was proposing to take to assist them when they returned.

61. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the Administration hoped to be able to return the Rongelapese by the late autumn. Housing would be provided for them and an inspection team would visit the island in advance to ensure that sufficient land was available. A special study of the food potential at Rongelap would be made and the inhabitants would be given assistance to carry them over until the harvest. The Administration would take proper steps to help the inhabitants to become readjusted and appropriate measures were now being discussed.

62. In reply to a question by Mr. ROLZ BENNETT (Guatemala) concerning the medical care to be given to the inhabitants of Rongelap upon their return to the island, Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the Rongelapese had recently voluntarily undergone a thorough medical examination which had given excellent results. No illness had been found which could be attributed to their experiences in 1954. After their return to Rongelap, they would continue to have proper medical attention.

63. In reply to a question by U MYA SEIN (Burma), Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) confirmed that there were no political parties in the Territory.

64. U MYA SEIN (Burma) asked whether it was true that there was no real vehicle for public political opinion in the Territory.

65. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that there was no organized expression of the various political views. However, public opinion could find expression during the elections in the municipalities and districts. But the people chose candidates for their personal ability rather than their political opinions.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.10 p.m.

Economic advancement

66. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) referring to paragraph 83 of the Visiting Mission's report, said

he presumed that cacao planting was profitable only on high volcanic islands and that it was of no direct benefit to the inhabitants of the low-altitude islands. He asked what crops, other than coconuts, might be of value to the inhabitants of the low-altitude islands.

67. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said he knew of no crop currently receiving consideration by the agriculturists which would give the low-altitude islands a yield comparable with that derived by the higher islands from the cultivation of cacao.

68. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom), referring to paragraph 364 of the Visiting Mission's report, asked whether the municipalities could not be made responsible for the maintenance of the roads, if they were not already responsible.

69. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that outside the district centres the roads were maintained by the municipalities. He admitted that the roads in the district centres were bad; during the next fiscal year, beginning 1 July, however, funds would be set aside for the repair and rehabilitation of roads.

70. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) noted that in paragraph 367 of its report the Visiting Mission said that it understood the Administering Authority's concern to protect the interests of the Micronesians against foreign investors, but felt that such an attitude must not be carried too far. He asked the special representative to comment on that passage.

71. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that, no doubt, foreign capital investments could be brought in to start a new industry which might be a profitable venture for those who provided the capital. Such an industry, however, would involve the exploitation of natural resources from which the Micronesians themselves would scarcely benefit. Unless the inflow of foreign capital served to establish an industry or activity the benefit of which accrued entirely and exclusively to the Micronesians, he thought it would be to the advantage of the Micronesians to wait until they had developed to the point where they themselves could benefit from the exploitation of their resources.

72. Mr. DE CAMARET (France), referring to paragraph 343 of the Visiting Mission's report, asked what the Territory's agricultural requirements were, and whether there was a shortage of foodstuffs.

73. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said there was no need at present to develop agriculture for the purpose of producing more foodstuffs. In view, however, of the population's steady growth, efforts had to be concentrated on the progressive improvement of methods of cultivation and on the development of food crops. So far as cash crops were concerned, it was to be hoped that cocoa would soon represent a new source of income which would supplement that now being generated by the sale of copra.

74. Mr. DE CAMARET (France) asked for particulars concerning action taken by the Administering Authority to develop the production of cocoa.

75. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said the first cacao trees had been planted only three or four years before; cocoa could not yet be regarded as a cash crop. Considerable quantities of seeds had been distributed throughout the Territory, and thousands of cacao trees had been planted. Some five or seven years were required, however, for a planting to produce a good crop, and tangible results could not be expected before 1957. Meanwhile, to prevent the planters' efforts from being completely unremunerative, the Administration was buying and distributing the pods for addi-

tional planting. In addition, it was intended in the coming months to send two Micronesians and one American to a cocoa-producing country to study local methods of cultivation and the problems arising in connexion with such matters as the preparation, sale and shipping of cocoa.

76. Mr. KIANG (China) drew attention to paragraph 105 of the working paper, prepared by the Secretariat (T/L.685) concerning Japanese currency, postal savings and bonds. He considered that Japanese securities should be included in the category of bonds.

77. He asked what the Administration's plans were in the matter of shipbuilding, since the Visiting Mission and the Administering Authority had stated in their reports that shipbuilding would benefit the economy of the Territory.

78. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said it was not possible, at the moment, to undertake the construction of vessels with a tonnage sufficient for inter-island service or for service between the islands and the outside world. In the Marshall Islands, however, a private firm repaired small boats, and a small boat-building programme had been started on Mokil. He considered that the Administration should confine its activities to assisting local industries engaged in the building or repairing of small boats.

79. Mr. KIANG (China) said it was gratifying that the production of copra, the Territory's most important market crop, had increased in 1955 and was expected to increase further during 1956. He asked whether the Administering Authority had evolved a long-term programme for developing the industry.

80. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) replied that a number of measures had been taken to develop copra production. Mr. Pieres, an internationally known copra expert, had been called in and had gone from district to district making inquiries, offering recommendations and organizing meetings with the local congresses and councils. He had also instructed and advised agriculturists. On one of the islands, for instance, having noticed that many of the coconut palms were too old, he had immediately started a nursery project. The Micronesians had been told how far apart trees should be planted. Mr. Nucker had observed that the islanders heeded Mr. Pieres's recommendations.

81. The Administering Authority intended to continue its educational programme and to encourage the inhabitants to increase copra production by enabling them to buy a wider variety of goods, by ensuring regular shipments and by informing them several months in advance of the price that the copra would fetch. The increase in copra production during the two previous years had been largely due to such measures.

82. Mr. KIANG (China) asked for details about the carnivorous snails in the islands.

83. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) replied that the giant African snail which was found in Micronesia attacked green plants and caused serious damage. The methods of control first used — poison and traps — had not produced decisive results. About five years previously a small carnivorous snail — the *gonaxus* snail — had been introduced into the island of Aguijan as an experiment; it ate nothing but African snails so long as they were available. After a few years, it had been observed that the giant African snails had practically disappeared and that a large colony of carnivorous snails had settled on the island. The experiment had been repeated in other islands. According to the experts, there was no danger that the carnivorous snails would

become another pest, for when they could not eat African snails they ate each other.

84. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) said that, according to paragraph 349, sub-paragraph (d), of the Visiting Mission's report, the copra produced was in many cases inferior because of primitive drying methods. He asked how the copra produced in the Territory compared in quality and price with other copra in the world market.

85. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) replied that the copra produced in the Territory was superior to that produced in other parts of the world and received a premium price on the world market. It was true that the copra dried in certain parts of the Territory was inferior, but the Administration was making great efforts to improve it for it wanted to maintain the quality of copra not only for reasons of prestige but also because of the cash value of the commodity.

86. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) said that the reply was very satisfactory. His next question was whether, in addition to the joint stock companies (the main form of commercial organization in the Territory) it would be possible to establish co-operatives, especially as communities possessed land and resources in common and generally subscribed to the co-operative philosophy. Had the Administration considered taking steps to favour the establishment of co-operatives during the past twelve months?

87. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) replied that the Micronesians favoured the system of joint stock companies for trading purposes. The Administration hesitated to establish co-operatives where they were not popular. However, the question of establishing co-operatives for buying, producing and marketing in fields other than trade goods had been studied. As the Micronesians were already used to working together within the family and village, the co-operative movement might possibly develop in Micronesia in the next few years.

88. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) said that, in paragraph 316 of its report, the Visiting Mission stated that the islands were of such strategic value to the Administering Authority that it should increase its appropriations so that the development of the Territory was not hampered. What was the special representative's opinion on that point? He personally had reservations about its validity as an objective standard by which to plan the development of the Territory and to set the level of appropriations.

89. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) replied that the funds appropriated for the administration of the Territory had never been so small as to hamper growth. On the contrary, during the past three years progress has been achieved in the political, economic, educational and medical fields. If appropriations were doubled and more Americans sent to the Territory, development might be quickened. But haste was not advisable and the inhabitants should not be encouraged to set themselves a target so high that they could not attain it when the Territory become self-governing. With the aid of appropriations at the prevailing rate, the development of the Territory was proceeding at a pace which allowed the Micronesians to adapt themselves gradually to the conditions of modern life.

90. Mr. THORP (New Zealand) said that the payment of compensation to islanders might give rise to certain problems, in that it would increase their purchasing power; he inquired what action the Administration had taken to forestall those problems.

91. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) replied that the question had been discussed at length in the Headquarters offices and in the various administrative districts. Some Micronesians would probably invest their money in the joint stock companies in order to obtain annual dividends. Others would build houses or buy things they wanted. Certain communities would establish trust funds, particularly, it was to be hoped, when large payments were made.

92. The Micronesians would probably use their money wisely; compensation had already been paid in the Truk district, and there was no evidence that any had been squandered. Most beneficiaries had invested their money in the Truk Trading Company.

93. U MYA SEIN (Burma) said that at the 709th meeting the special representative had stated that the Administering Authority's policy was to return to Micronesian hands as soon as possible all land in the category of public domain. What criteria were used in defining land as public domain?

94. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the public domain comprised land which had belonged to the Japanese and which had been vested in the Administering Authority when the latter had acquired jurisdiction over the Trust Territory. The Administration had not acquired any land since and was gradually, in the light of the circumstances, returning the land to the people. The return of land was a complicated and fairly slow process but was being speeded up from year to year through the settlement of disputes between claimants, the organization of land surveys, the replacement of records destroyed during the war and the straightening out of land titles. The Administering Authority heard the statements of the Micronesians concerned and consulted with the land advisory boards in each community which were composed of Micronesians and Americans. In the final analysis, however, the Administering Authority took the necessary decisions on the basis of existing laws.

95. U MYA SEIN (Burma) asked what the procedure was with regard to lands which did not come into the category of public domain, in other words, land which had been alienated from the Micronesians.

96. Mr. NUCKER (Special Representative) said that the Administering Authority had not alienated any land since the end of the war. In the past, however, Micronesians had been dispossessed of their land and it was in order to compensate them that the payments mentioned earlier in the meeting had been made.

Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly (T/L.683) (continued)

[Agenda item 18]

97. Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the division of the report into more than one volume might occasion some confusion and complicate matters for the Council and in particular for those members of the Council taking part in its work for the first time. For example, each of the two volumes would contain summaries of debates on the same petitions, as the Council had examined those petitions at the preceding as well as the present session. Furthermore, the volumes would have to be supplemented by the resolutions adopted by the Council, the summary records of its debates and its working documents; that meant that delegations would have to consult a great many documents instead of being able to find all the information in one report. Again, in connexion with the accession of Trust Territories to self-government

or independence, the Council had adopted recommendations concerning a group of Territories. The logical plan would be to give those recommendations at the beginning of the report, in the first volume, as they constituted a starting point.

98. The Secretariat's idea had been that Governments would be better able to give instructions to their delegations if they received the first volume before the rest. He wondered whether that was so. Governments could issue no instructions until they had studied the entire documents, particularly the second volume which ostensibly would cover what had been called administrative organization, but in fact would deal with questions of substance.

99. The financial aspect of the problem should also not be overlooked. Obviously, the more numerous the documents, the costlier their publication. In any case, there had so far been no complaints on the grounds that the report had been published in a single volume. The question which had arisen at the General Assembly's tenth session was that of translation; and the translation could be undertaken at once.

100. For all those reasons his delegation did not think it wise to divide the report into several volumes, especially as the Council's work would end in a month's time, and the time left to the Secretariat was limited. Some other plan should be sought. His remarks were in the nature of a preliminary statement and he reserved the right to expatiate further on the matter at a later stage.

101. Mr. RIFAI (Syria) said that at first he had been impressed by the Secretariat's suggestion, at the 701st meeting, that the report should be divided. The representatives who had pointed out the disadvantages of that system, however, had convinced him that it would be more advisable, in 1956, too, to continue publishing the report as a single document. Since the document was of interest mainly to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, that Committee could, if it thought fit, establish a sub-committee to study the question.

102. Mr. ARENALES CATALAN (Guatemala) recalled that his delegation had expressed misgivings (702nd meeting) concerning the effects which the division of the report might have on the presentation of questions relating to self-government. The Secretariat had not dispelled those misgivings by its assurance that the problem would be dealt with in the same way in the different parts of the report.

103. He opposed a division of the report for still another reason. The Administering Authorities had made commendable efforts to publicize the activities of the United Nations in the Trust Territories, and he realized how arduous that task was: to ask the Administering Authorities to distribute a report divided into a number of volumes would only make their work more difficult. It was not impossible that some readers might receive the first part of the report and not the second.

104. The increase in the number of Members of the United Nations had, of course, added considerably to the work of the Secretariat, but he did not think that was an argument in favour of dividing the report. As the membership of the United Nations increased, so the Organization's resources expanded accordingly, and the work of the Secretariat should in consequence become easier.

105. In view of those three considerations he would support the Syrian representative's proposal that it

should be left to the discretion of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly to establish a committee to study the question; for the time being the report should continue to be published as a single document.

106. Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti) suggested that the part of the report which was ready might be sent to the printer, the remainder to follow later, and that the report should still appear as a single volume. In that way time would certainly be saved, and since, as a number of representatives had observed, the next session of the General Assembly was to open later than usual, he thought that as a result Governments would receive the report in good time.

107. Mr. THORP (New Zealand), referring to the United Kingdom representative's observations at the 709th meeting, proposed that two volumes should be published, the second to contain the chapters relating to the Territories studied at the last session, which could be sent to press immediately. The printer would receive the material for the first volume later.

108. The PRESIDENT asked whether any delegations wished the Council's report to the General Assembly to be divided into two volumes.

109. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said he did not agree with those who thought that dividing the report into two volumes would have serious consequences. In his opinion, the disadvantage of having to consult two or three volumes instead of one would be largely offset by the greater ease of handling and by the saving which the Secretariat would make by giving the printers more time. The matter was a purely technical problem of printing which the Council could leave to the Secretariat.

110. Mr. RIFAI (Syria) was of the opinion that, since no formal proposal had been made, the Council could close the discussion.

111. The PRESIDENT said he interpreted the Council's silence as acquiescence in the Syrian representative's last suggestion.

112. Mr. GRILLO (Italy) said he would be in favour of a division of the report into a number of volumes, provided that each volume contained a complete table of contents. He would not, however, make a formal proposal.

113. The PRESIDENT suggested, in the absence of formal proposals, that the question should be left as it stood.

It was so decided.

Examination of petitions (*continued*)

[Agenda item 5]

ADDITION OF TWO PETITIONS TO THE AGENDA (T/PET.11/679/Add.1, T/PET.11/687)

114. The PRESIDENT said that the Council would consider at its next meeting the hundred and fifty-eighth report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.678), which dealt with certain petitions concerning Somaliland under Italian administration. The Secretary-General had received two new petitions dealing with the same subject (T/PET.11/679/Add.1, T/PET.11/687), which could perhaps be examined concurrently with the report, under rule 86, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.