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President. Mr.] Miguel Rafael URQUIA (El Salvador).

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

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands: annual report of the Administering Authority (T/1118, T/1122) (*continued*)

[Agenda item 4 (e)]

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

GENERAL DEBATE (*concluded*)

1. Mr. QUIROS (El Salvador) stated that any evaluation of the Administration's achievements must take into account the geographical situation of the Trust Territory, which consisted of a vast number of small scattered islands with a population of about 60,000. Those facts, together with the diversity of languages and traditions, explained why there had been little noteworthy progress in the Territory, particularly in the political sector, since the visit of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific, 1953. It would be wiser to assess progress in the Territory with reference not to the previous year but to the three or four years preceding, particularly as the Administering Authority was trying to ensure that development in the Territory would not take place to the detriment of local customs. Although he himself supported that policy, he felt that modernization of the Territory should not be unduly retarded.

2. He noted, with satisfaction that the High Commissioner's office had selected Guam for its new headquarters and would thus be closer to the chief centres of the Territory, but he would like to see the administrative services set up their offices in the Territory proper. The indigenous inhabitants must assume an increasing proportion of posts of responsibility in order to prepare themselves to administer their own Territory.

3. Economic expansion of the Territory raised certain difficulties as local resources were limited. He hoped that the Administering Authority would continue to give the inhabitants the benefit of its technical and economic resources.

4. The public health situation was not entirely satisfactory and it was to be hoped that the Administration would make efforts to improve it.

5. He agreed with the conclusions put forward by the UNESCO representative (555th meeting), and supported the legislation for compulsory primary schooling. He paid a tribute to the efforts of the religious missions. The possibility of using broadcasting for adult education should be borne in mind. Finally, he called on the Administering Authority to spare no effort to develop education in order to place the economic and political development of the Territory on a sound basis.

6. He reserved the right to return to the problem raised by the Marshall Islanders' petition (T/Pet.10/28) when the Council had considered the report to be submitted on the subject by the Standing Committee on Petitions, and the accompanying proposals.

7. Mr. RIFAI (Syria) recognized that the geographical, economic and cultural conditions in the Territory made the Council's task difficult. Nevertheless, he was surprised at the Administering Authority's tendency to reduce financial aid to the Territory, even though such aid was undoubtedly much greater than local revenue. He could not see, for example, how the Administration could implement its various projects if that tendency were to continue. He agreed that modernization of the Territory should not be pressed too rapidly. But it must be borne in mind that the population of the Territory had already come into contact with modern civilization. Moreover, there was no need to delay the development of improved living standards for the inhabitants of the Territory, as that was one of the objects of trusteeship. No country could decide to remain apart from the world and deny itself the benefits of progress. He hoped, therefore, that development would not be retarded for lack of funds.

8. In the political sector, the Administration had endeavoured to respect local customs and, while establishing democratic institutions, had left the local bodies undisturbed. Consequently, the political system was too complicated for a population at the apprentice stage of self-government. Many districts had two separate assemblies, one composed of notables and the other of elected representatives. It seemed to him preferable to combine the two. The fact that the inhabitants were called on to take an increasing share in the affairs of the Territory made it all the more important to simplify political organization. In that connexion, everything must be done to enable the inhabitants to advance as soon as possible beyond the trusteeship stage.

9. He hoped the Administering Authority would soon overcome the financial limitations, which seemed to hamper the educational services so important for the future of the Territory. It was particularly unwise to rely exclusively on the meagre means of the population

for primary education. Moreover, it was important to adopt a definite educational policy, taking into account the possibility of a certain amount of emigration.

10. He approved of the choice of Guam as the new administrative headquarters, but, like the Belgian representative, he regretted that certain departments were distributed among Ponape, Guam and Truk. He noted with satisfaction that indigenous firms would soon replace the Island Trading Company. He entirely shared the Belgian representative's point of view on the question of the codification of local customs and thought that such a measure might be detrimental in the long run. Finally, he hoped that the Administration would soon solve the problems of land claims, war damage, post office savings bank deposits and the repayment of yen.

11. Turning to the problem arising from the Marshallese people's petition, he recalled that they had every right to hope that they would no longer have to bear the terrible consequences which thermonuclear tests were always liable to involve. The question was not purely a legal one; it was human and moral as well. He agreed with the French representative, but thought that examination of the problem was best limited to its legal aspects if a practical solution was to be found. There was no reason why the International Court of Justice should not be asked for an opinion on the legal aspects of the question and called on to take a decision not based solely on political motives. His delegation would take up the question again when the report of the Standing Committee on Petitions was submitted.

12. Mr. TSARAPKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stated that the annual report¹ showed that the situation in the Territory had not improved at all; on the contrary, a stricter political régime had been imposed. The attempt of a few years before to transfer the administration to the civil authorities had been abandoned and power had again been divided between the High Commissioner and the naval authorities. There was nothing to indicate any evolution towards even the most limited measure of self-government based on democratic principles. At the municipal level, the administrative organs were under the authority either of hereditary non-elected chiefs or of leaders appointed by the Administering Authority with the consent of the chiefs, as had been brought out in the report of the 1953 Visiting Mission (T/1077). There was no legislation providing for the progressive development of local autonomous administrative bodies. Moreover, the establishment of central administrative bodies composed of representatives of the indigenous population had been postponed on various pretexts to the distant and quite indeterminate future. The United States Government should be reminded that the United Nations had not entrusted it with the administration of the Territory in order that the latter should be converted into a naval and military base. As the United States had assumed the responsibility of trusteeship, it was required each year to furnish evidence of political, economic, social and cultural progress. The fact that the population was not large did not detract in any way from those requirements.

13. The Administering Authority had no achievements and no progress to show. The population lived in truly

¹ See *Report on the Administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for the Period July 1, 1952, to June 30, 1953, transmitted by the United States to the United Nations pursuant to Article 88 of the Charter of the United Nations*, Department of the Interior and Department of the Navy, Washington, D.C.

lamentable conditions. The information available to the Council showed that agriculture was primitive and that the few indigenous inhabitants who were employed were paid a starvation wage which did not afford them a tolerable existence. The Administering Authority was doing nothing to assist the population to acquire modern implements with which they could adopt more modern and efficient agricultural techniques. An overwhelming majority of the population had no income but were nevertheless compelled to pay to the local authorities a fixed poll tax established with no regard to the taxpayers' ability to pay; they were consequently obliged to pay the tax in kind or by labour. That iniquitous system must immediately be replaced by a system of income tax assessed according to the economic status of the taxpayer. The considerable decrease in the area of land available to the indigenous inhabitants had had the gravest effects on their material situation. Following successive occupations of the Territory by the Germans, the Japanese and finally the United States administration, the indigenous inhabitants had lost 63 per cent of their original meagre holdings of land. The Territory had no virgin soil which might have been brought under cultivation so as to absorb the population from the alienated land. It was therefore unrealistic to claim that the standard of living of the indigenous inhabitants was improving thanks to the development of the economy, in view of the fact that a constantly increasing population had to live off lands which had been so drastically reduced in size. The population had submitted many requests for the restitution of those lands, which were its only means of existence. The 1953 Visiting Mission had noted that there were 1,080 such requests presented; that was an enormous figure if it were remembered that the Territory had only some tens of thousands of inhabitants. Far from acceding to those claims, the United States Government arbitrarily alienated any land which it found suitable for military purposes such as the construction of naval bases or installations or for testing atomic and hydrogen weapons. The indigenous inhabitants of the regions concerned were driven out by force in defiance of the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement, and without the slightest regard for their interests or desires. In any case, he failed to see how those interests could be defended by leaders who were not the elected representatives of the people but officials of the United States Department of the Navy, and how any contact could be made for the purpose of defending those interests between officials who did not speak the language of the country and a population which did not speak English.

14. When, despite the undertakings given, the Administering Authority decided to expel the population of whole islands, it gave no thought to what might be their fate and did nothing to ensure their livelihood. The case of the people of Bikini was very typical. In 1946 all the inhabitants had been expelled from that island, which had been covered with fertile lands and had included a lagoon rich in fish and which had been transformed into a testing ground for atomic bombs and hydrogen weapons. The people had been removed by stages to two small islands where they had been suffering ever since from famine because, despite its promises, the United States Government was not helping them to resettle. Finally they had been removed to the island of Kili, which had meagre natural resources and was isolated from the world for seven months of the year. There they were again left to their fate without any assistance, and had to clear the brush with primi-

tive hand tools in order to make a precarious living. The Administering Authority had tried to gloss over the very harsh conditions to which those people were subjected. It had asserted that the inhabitants of Bikini had been consulted beforehand and were satisfied with their lot and that the United States Government had done everything to ensure their well-being. In that connexion he recalled the statement made at the 18th meeting of the fifth session of the Council by the United States representative, whose assertions were belied by the facts. With regard to the alleged consultations with the population, the Associated Press had reported that in 1951 a United States naval officer had succeeded by deception in inducing the representatives of the Bikini population to sign a document by which they relinquished all claims to that island and agreed to live on Kili; in return they had been promised assistance in the form of foodstuffs and clothing, which they had never received. The opinion of the inhabitants of Bikini concerning their treatment could be judged from an article in *The New York World-Telegram and Sun* of 20 July reporting statements by one of the chiefs of the Bikini islanders at present living on Kili. After referring to the promises made to the population, the chief had pointed out that none of them had been kept, that the people were suffering from famine and received no assistance and that the extent of their sufferings had been confirmed by a doctor from the University of Hawaii. It was thus clear that the inhabitants of Bikini had been grossly deceived in a way which was reminiscent of the methods used during the colonization of Africa, Asia and other regions in an era which was thought to have vanished.

15. Far from promoting the economic, political and social advancement of the population, the United States trusteeship over the Territory had brought great suffering to its inhabitants. The Council could not remain indifferent and inactive before the grievous and cruel fate of the indigenous population. If it were genuinely concerned about the future of those forsaken people, it must not just express sympathy but must take positive steps to prevent the population from disappearing. Hunger, privations and atomic and hydrogen bomb tests were an immediate and very serious threat to the inhabitants of the Territory, which could not be ignored by the Council, particularly as the population asked for its help. The Council should recommend the Administering Authority to take the necessary steps forthwith to restore to the indigenous population the lands which had been alienated, to forbid any alienation of lands in the future and to put a stop to the tests of atomic and hydrogen weapons which had already caused the destruction of part of the Territory, wrought irreparable harm to the population and had a deleterious effect on their health.

16. There had been a decrease in appropriations for public health in comparison with the preceding year and the funds available for education were being continually reduced. The Administering Authority was not fulfilling its obligations in that respect and, although it had immense financial resources available and was spending hundreds of millions of dollars on atomic and hydrogen bomb tests carried out in the very heart of the Territory, it laid the financial burden for the construction and equipping of schools on the indigenous population, who were clearly not able to finance the development of education from their own resources.

17. It was plain from the statements of the special representative that the Administering Authority had no intention of assuming responsibility for the education of the indigenous population, though such an attitude was contrary to the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement. The results of that policy were manifest: in some areas, there had been a decrease in the number of children attending schools, which the special representative had been unable to explain. The overwhelming majority of pupils were receiving only elementary education; the Administering Authority was doing nothing to develop secondary education and was not awarding enough scholarships to allow the indigenous inhabitants to continue their studies outside the Territory. There was not one of them who had received a higher education. The position of the indigenous teachers, who received a miserable pittance, was wretched in the extreme. Furthermore, racial discrimination was practised in education; American teachers received salaries infinitely higher than those of indigenous teachers. The Visiting Mission had also remarked that evidence of racial segregation existed. The high proportion of illiteracy, amounting to a third and a half of the population in some areas, showed how deficient the education system was. The Trusteeship Council must draw the attention of the Administering Authority to the need for increasing the appropriations for education and other cultural activities. There must be an increase in the number of schools, of pupils and of teachers. The quality of the teaching must be improved, and it must be made possible for the indigenous population to follow courses in secondary, higher and vocational education. Finally, every effort must be made to eliminate illiteracy both among children and among adults. It was also essential to train qualified staff from among the indigenous population. The Trusteeship Council must stress the need for improving the medical and health services for the islanders and the Administering Authority must therefore increase the funds for those services. The Administering Authority was obliged to supplement the budget of the Territory by making considerable allocations from the Federal budget, for it was clear that, if economic, educational and public health service development was financed only from the local budget, which depended on taxation of the inhabitants, no progress could be expected.

18. In conclusion he recalled the objectives of the Trusteeship System as laid down in Article 76 of the Charter. The United States Government was not fulfilling its obligations as an Administering Authority; the fact that the Territory of the Pacific Islands was a strategic area in no way released the Administering Authority from those obligations, since Article 83 of the Charter expressly provided that the basic objectives set forth in Article 76 should be applicable to the people of each strategic area.

19. Mr. SEARS (United States of America) said that, while the arguments of the Indian delegation, which was using events in the Marshall Islands as a background to re-emphasize its belief in a neutralist foreign policy, were plausible though, in his view, lacking in realism, those of the Soviet Union, which were based on obvious misstatements of fact in which no one believed, were completely indefensible. It was well known that in 1946 the United States had conducted its first nuclear test in that area. In 1947, the Trusteeship Agreement had been negotiated between

the United States and the Security Council with the Soviet Union representative in complete accord. That agreement had been predicated on the fact that the United Nations clearly approved those islands as a strategic area in which atomic tests had already been held a few months previously. Accordingly, from the very outset it had been clear that the right conferred on the United States to close areas for security reasons anticipated closing them for atomic tests. Further tests had been held in 1948, 1951 and 1952, and official notice that such tests would be held had been given to and accepted by the Security Council as a matter of course. It was, therefore, only after eight years of testing that the Soviet Union had decided to reverse its previous position. It must be pointed out that all persons who had been exposed to radiation were now restored to health. No person had ever been killed as a result of the tests or even seriously injured, no homes destroyed, no islands blown up. The only destruction had been that of two sandpits, uninhabitable and without vegetation. The Marshall Islands had been selected because there was no other place in the world over which the United States had jurisdiction where certain experiments could have been successfully conducted with less danger. The United States could not stop its experiments while the Soviet Union continued its tests of atomic and hydrogen weapons. It was clear from the statements made both by Mr. Nikita Krushchev, a leading official of the Soviet Union, and by the Chairman of the United States Atomic Energy Commission that the Soviet Union had begun work on the hydrogen weapon before the United States. The United States must therefore continue to produce devices which would enable the free world to defend itself.

20. Mr. MIDKIFF (Special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands) said he would like first to reply to the observations and to note some helpful suggestions which had been made during the preceding meeting.

21. The representative of El Salvador was doubtless right in saying that in the Pacific Islands self-government seemed to be confined to the municipal government level; it must not, however, be forgotten that considerable advances had already been made at the district level in politics as well as in law, education and public health.

22. Referring to the removal of the High Commissioner's office to Guam, he said he fully recognized that that step could only be temporary; he could assure the Council that the office would be set up in the Territory as soon as the necessary funds were available.

23. There was no need to deal again with the reasons which had prompted the Administering Authority to reduce the financial assistance granted to the Trust Territory; he would only point out that the United States, benefiting from its experience with American Indian communities, considered that its first duty must be to develop a sense of independence and self-dependence among the people for whom it was responsible.

24. The general debate had emphasized the need for blending the old and the new and for simplifying governmental organization in the Territory. The views expressed were identical with those of the Administering Authority, which was fully aware of the importance of preserving local institutions that had stood the test of time, and planned to provide the Territory at

some future date with a central government similar to that of the United States, where the administrative structure had been built up from the township level to that of the Federal Government.

25. With reference to the comments made on the atomic tests, the authorities concerned had given the assurance that there would be no further untoward incidents similar to the single one which had occurred during the long series of experiments conducted in the area. The most elaborate precautions had always been taken, but in future the final check on weather conditions made before every detonation would be still further retarded.

26. In reply to the USSR representative, he said that the Administration was carefully studying the tax system to be adopted and that, despite assertions to the contrary, there had been progress in that field since the preceding year. Local governments had requested and obtained authorization for a taxing system by which they could finance various activities within their competence in so far as their economies permitted.

27. He protested strongly against the charge that the welfare and rights of the Micronesians were being cynically trampled upon. The Administering Authority had never tried to hide from the Council the situation as it existed in the Territory, and access had been given to the Press at all times. The Administering Authority's policy was to draw up completely truthful reports, and the Visiting Mission was entirely free to verify the statements they contained. That also applied to the information submitted by the Administering Authority on the basis of competent doctors' reports about the condition of persons who had suffered from atomic radiation. In addition, he stated categorically that there was definitely no racial discrimination in the Territory.

28. He thanked the members of the Council for the interest and care with which they had considered the various problems involved in the administration of the Pacific Islands. It was encouraging that the Council generally recognized the need for preserving the customs and culture of the Micronesians and for furthering at the same time their social, political and economic development. The Administering Authority in no way desired that the indigenous inhabitants should stagnate, but neither did it wish to cast them into a state of confusion and personal insecurity by over-hasty action.

29. The Administering Authority's programme of political development was based on those concepts. New concepts should be introduced on the basis of the customary local unit, namely the family, clan or municipality. In several cases the Administration had progressed beyond the municipalities and established district organizations with Micronesian participation in advisory bodies. That concept, however, was still strange in most districts, and the population had not yet gained sufficient experience to be accorded legislative powers. The situation noted in that respect by the 1953 Visiting Mission had not substantially changed, and some time would be necessary before the establishment of a territorial legislative body could be contemplated. The difficulties were due to the long distances involved and to a diversity of language and culture which militated against any community of interests.

30. In reply to the Indian representative's question about the abolition of the Legislative Advisory Committee, he recalled that the Committee had been entirely

composed of United States officials from the High Commissioner's staff and that its chief concern had been the preparation of a code of laws and the drafting of an Organic Act. On completion of that task, the Committee had fulfilled its mission and had simply ceased to exist. It could easily be re-established if necessary. At present the Administration had the assistance of advisory committees in which Micronesians workers with United States personnel. The system was efficient and would continue.

31. He confirmed that the Administering Authority was following a policy of employing Micronesians in all administrative posts for which they were qualified. In that respect some slightly premature decisions had been made, but the Administration was convinced that in time the persons concerned would acquire the necessary competence and experience. Three Micronesians had been appointed to the headmasterships of three intermediate schools at Yap, Ponape and Majuro; two superintendents of elementary education were also Micronesians, as were all the Territory's magistrates except the Chief Justice and Associate Justice of the High Court. That policy was already fully operative at the municipal level and would be steadily implemented in the districts. Furthermore, 100 young men and women were studying abroad, and many of them would qualify for higher-level posts on their return, thus increasing the number of Micronesian officials promoted during employment.

32. Members of the Council had rightly stressed the importance of agriculture for the Territory's economy. Fully aware of its duties, the Administration spared no effort to improve agricultural production by searching for new and improved crops. Unfortunately, measures taken in that regard brought only long-term results, especially where such crops as coconuts and cacao trees were concerned. The best method of inducing Micronesians to adopt new methods was by persuasion and demonstration. Progress was not merely a matter of introducing modern equipment, which, moreover, was not advantageous on low coral islands and was difficult to maintain because of climatic conditions.

33. The winding-up of the Island Trading Company had evoked many comments and admittedly would give rise to some problems. However, the Administration was confident that the Micronesian companies that would succeed it would meet the situation and soon show themselves capable of shouldering their new responsibilities. The growth of those companies was the best means of ensuring economic progress in the Territory and the attainment of real self-government. The Administration felt too that the measures it contemplated would improve the marketing of copra. It would certainly note the Council's opinion on the need for maintaining the Copra Stabilization Board. It was obvious that the complexities of selling copra on world markets would necessitate some outside assistance, and a plan for such assistance could probably be worked out to the best interests of all concerned.

34. He shared the hope expressed by several Council members that the fishing industry, which because of lack of capital and specialized knowledge had remained somewhat backward, would be developed. The Administering Authority, together with the branch of the United States Fish and Wild Life Service devoted to Pacific oceanic fishery investigations, was now studying how the situation could be remedied.

35. Attention had been drawn during the debate to the differences between the pay scales of Micronesian and United States personnel. The Micronesian pay scale was geared to the normal range of income for persons engaged in copra production or shipping enterprises, or in other words was tried to the standard of living and the economy of the area, while the American pay scale had been established in order to attract the highly qualified officials required in the Territory.

36. Turning next to the problem of land disputes, he said that the Administering Authority was most anxious to arrive at a solution. Whereas, previously, the settlement of disputes had been dealt with by a single centre in Saipan, the Administration had now set up land offices in each district as well as land advisory boards composed of Micronesians. It believed that a just and lasting settlement would be achieved but realized that the extreme complexity of the problems involved made a speedy solution unlikely. It hoped, however, that all title determinations in Saipan would be completed by the following December.

37. He pointed out that the greater percentage of the public domain consisted of hilly slopes unsuitable for cultivation. The Administration was trying, however, to reduce as far as possible the areas it felt it necessary to keep under public domain either as a precautionary measure or in order to create new resources for the Territory. He emphasized in that regard that the 1,080 land claims mentioned by the USSR representative were not complaints to the Visiting Mission but rather claims which the Administration had received and duly classified and of which it had itself notified the Visiting Mission. That was an important distinction which should be borne in mind.

38. In a general statement about the Bikini people, he stated that when the Bikini and Eniwetok atolls had been selected for atomic tests the people had freely agreed to be transferred to the Ujelang and Rongerik atolls respectively. The former inhabitants of Eniwetok appeared satisfied with that choice, but the population of Bikini had been unwilling to remain on Rongerik, stating that it was infested with spirits and that the fish from the lagoon were inedible. As, in addition, a fire had destroyed the pandanus and other vegetation, the population had been transferred to Kwajalein, where the United States Navy had taken care of them for eight months. However, the Navy's generosity had made them somewhat indolent, and it had been decided to transfer them to another island so that they could resume their normal lives. They had agreed to go to the island of Kili, which under German occupation had been rich in coconut plantations. There had, however, been a major drawback in that the island had no lagoon. As fishing was one of the Micronesians' principal means of subsistence, the Administration had made it possible for the new inhabitants of Kili to fish in the lagoon of the Jaluit atoll situated about 30 miles from Kili. There were some months in the year when weather conditions made it difficult to navigate between Kili and Jaluit, and one boat had been lost in a storm. While the Administration desired to help the inhabitants to adjust themselves to their new life, it did not wish to encourage them to lose their sense of self-dependence. It had therefore selected Mr. James Milne, a young Micronesian with outstanding qualities of leadership, for a course of training at the University of Hawaii in community development. He had gone to Kili with an expert in taro culture and an expert in handicrafts.

Under his guidance the inhabitants had cleared a portion of the island and had planted new varieties of taro, as well as bananas, pandanus, bread-fruit, papaya, pumpkins and sweet potatoes. Copra production had been increased and handicrafts developed. They would soon be able to export taro and charcoal, and the profits would be used to purchase a boat. There was also a plan for a fish pond. A few of the inhabitants would probably be stationed permanently on some of the small islands of the Jaluit atoll. They would be given wireless equipment to enable them to keep in touch with the population on Kili and to transmit weather information that would make the voyage between Kili and Jaluit less dangerous. The selection of a suitable anchorage at Kili raised a problem that it was hoped would be solved shortly. The Administration felt that the initiative and leadership qualities of Mr. Milne would be helpful in enabling the former inhabitants of Bikini to settle permanently on Kili. In any case, they could not return to Bikini and did not wish to settle on an atoll already occupied by other Micronesians.

39. In connexion with the question of settling yen claims, he pointed out that payment had begun in the Saipan district on 27 May 1954 and would gradually be extended to all the other districts. The United States Government had entered into negotiations with the Japanese Government concerning postal savings and war war bond claims, and he thought that there would be progress in the matter before the next annual report was due.

40. In connexion with public health it should be noted that after December 1954 the staff would include twenty-five new doctors and dentists who had taken training courses on Fiji. Auxiliary indigenous staff had taken courses at Honolulu and in local hospitals of the Territory with very satisfactory results. Tuberculosis was a serious problem in the Territory, and the Administration was trying to improve nutrition by publicity through the schools and agricultural extension agents. The representative of India had said that budgetary expenditures on public health had been reduced over the past three years. Actually, they had been increased during that period. A careful study of the tables on page 28 of the annual report would show that some figures applied to districts other than the Saipan district. Total expenditures on public health for the whole Territory amounted to \$641,329 in 1952, \$823,561 in 1953 and \$792,818 in 1954. The figure for 1953 was unusually high because the Administration had bought large quantities of drugs and medical supplies during that year. Thus, it was obvious that expenditures on public health had continued to rise during the period under review.

41. In connexion with the problem of education, he noted that a number of representatives had shown some concern regarding the Administration's policy of placing the administration and financing of elementary schools in the hands of the local communities. The United States authorities believed that the people would attach more importance to institutions to which they had contributed their own time and money. The schools might not have popular support if the Administration had the responsibility of organizing them without the support and consent of the people. However, it should not be concluded that the Administering Authority did not concern itself with educational development. In all

districts, educational supervisors visited the schools and worked in close co-operation with local heads. In January 1954 the Administration had made the Truk district a loan of \$4,000 to pay the salaries of school teachers, and a new tax had been instituted in that district and in the Marshall Islands for the same purpose. He emphasized that what he had just said applied only to elementary schools; the intermediate schools and the Pacific Island Central School were financed entirely by the Administration. The representative of India had said that expenditures on education had been reduced during the past three years. Apparently, as in the case of expenditures on public health, there had been a misunderstanding in the interpretation of the figures on page 28 of the annual report. There again, some of the figures referred to districts other than the Saipan district. Actually, total expenditures on education for the whole Territory amounted to \$437,888 in 1952, \$435,440 in 1953 and \$476,901 in 1954. In reply to the Indian representative's question whether the Administering Authority had any plans for organizing higher educational institutions in the Territory, he said he doubted that that was possible but pointed out that there was a territorial college on Guam, which, in view of Guam's geographical location, could probably be attended by students coming from all districts of the Trust Territory.

42. He concluded by thanking the members of the Council for their useful suggestions; the Administering Authority would not fail to benefit from them.

43. Mr. TSARAPKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) objected to the United States representative's charge that the USSR delegation disregarded facts. He wished to point out that his statement had been based on the petition addressed to the United Nations by representatives of the Marshall Islanders (T/PET.10/28). The petitioners asked for the cessation of tests of nuclear devices in that area. Such a petition could not be termed propaganda; the request was legitimate, and, under the Charter, the Council must consider it. It expressed the will of the people and the Administering Authority was making the basic mistake of believing that the will of the United States Government was more important than that of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory.

44. The special representative had said that there was no discrimination and no segregation in the Territory. With regard to discrimination, he drew the special representative's attention to the difference between the salaries of United States and indigenous school teachers. As to segregation, it was enough to refer to paragraph 51 of the Visiting Mission's report (T/1077), which stated: "... a degree of segregation exists".

Mr. Midkiff, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, withdrew.

APPOINTMENT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

45. The PRESIDENT proposed the representatives of El Salvador, France, New Zealand and Syria as members of the Drafting Committee on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.