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President: Mr. HENRÍQUEZ UREÑA (Dominican Republic).

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

Examination of the annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of Nauru for the year ending 30 June 1950 and of the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific on Nauru (T/827 and T/790) (continued)

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

1. The PRESIDENT invited the USSR representative to continue his questions to the special representative with regard to political advancement in the Trust Territory of Nauru.

2. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that there was a plan, which was mentioned in paragraph 22 of the Visiting Mission's report (T/790), to change the composition and powers of the Council of Chiefs. He asked whether the change would be effected by legislative or by administrative action and by whom and how the plan had been prepared.

3. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) replied that the new Council of Chiefs would be constituted by an ordinance of the island. Full agreement on the proposed legislation had been reached between the existing Council of Chiefs and the Administration; the indigenous inhabitants had participated in the preparation of the plan through the district chiefs, who were their representatives. After it had been drafted in legal form, the plan had been referred back to the Council of Chiefs for final comment. If it was promulgated as an ordinance, a complete description of it would be given in the following annual report.

4. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought it would be desirable to include the full text of the ordinance in that report.

5. With reference to section 15 of the annual report,¹ which dealt with suffrage laws, he inquired whether the indigenous inhabitants, in particular, women, took an active part in the elections and in what manner secret balloting took place.

6. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) said that since members of the Council of Chiefs were elected for life, elections were infrequent. Since the end of the war, only two had been held, in which about 90 per cent of the electors had taken part. During elections, scrutinizers and returning clerks were appointed by the Council of Chiefs, and the voting usually took place in the district school house in secluded compartments which gave the electors complete privacy.

7. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) further wished to know whether there had been several candidates at each election, thus affording a proper choice to the electorate, and whether the candidates had been nominated by organizations or by private persons.

8. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) replied that there had been a competitive ballot; on one occasion, to the best of his recollection, there had been four candidates. He would be able to reply more fully when he received from the Administering Authority further information which he had already requested.

9. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked how the Administering Authority explained the fact that important administrative posts in the Trust Territory were still occupied by Europeans, although there had been compulsory education in the Territory for twenty-five years and adequately trained Nauruans should therefore be available.

10. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) answered that heads of departments were Europeans because the Government considered that the Nauruans, with only a single exception, were as yet incapable of holding such posts. That was due in part to the heavy loss of life among educated Nauruans during the Japanese occupation. It was the intention of the Administering Authority to develop education so as to build up a generation of Nauruans who would be interested

¹ See *Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of Nauru from 1st July, 1949 to 30th June, 1950*, Commonwealth of Australia, 1950.

in the administration of their island and capable of taking part in it.

11. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) remarked that he did not consider that reply satisfactory.

12. In reply to a question by Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China), Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) said that the British Phosphate Commissioners had no intention of seeking to lease the fertile land surrounding the Buada lagoon and that the Administration would not agree to such action. He believed that the land referred to in paragraphs 52 and 53 of the Visiting Mission's report was a coastal strip in the district of Aiwo, a large area of which had been voluntarily leased to the British Phosphate Commissioners. The Commissioners had since sought to lease another small area there, but since the landowners had not unanimously agreed to that step, the land had not been leased. The Administration had supported the landowners. The Visiting Mission must have been approached by landowners who were opposed to leasing land in that area and who wished to ensure that they would not have to do so in the future.

13. In reply to another question by Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China), M. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) said that the development of agriculture in the Territory was fraught with difficulties, such as irregular rainfall, lack of natural catchment areas, a scarcity of suitable agricultural land and the general infertility of the soil. Nevertheless, new types of coconuts were being introduced and a consignment of pineapple suckers was being imported from Australia for experimental plantings.

14. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) asked the special representative to elucidate his opening statement (331st meeting) regarding a new scale of royalties. Mr. Sayre wondered whether there was a connexion between the increase referred to by Mr. Reeve and the Visiting Mission's statement, in paragraph 39 of its report, that additional revenue was required. He also wished to know whether that increase was sufficient to cover ordinary expenditure for the coming year.

15. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) replied that the royalty of sixpence to meet the ordinary expenses of the Administration, mentioned in paragraph 36 of the Visiting Mission's report, had since been increased to one shilling. Provided that the shipment of phosphate was maintained at its current level, sufficient revenue was expected for the ordinary administrative activities.

16. In reply to further questions by Mr. SAYRE (United States of America), Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) said that arrangements had been made to increase the reconstruction advance from 200,000 to 300,000 Australian pounds and that the royalty of sixpence to be used in liquidating that advance had accordingly been increased to ninepence since 1 July 1950.

17. The school building which was to be financed out of those funds was still at the planning stage, but developments could be expected shortly.

18. With regard to the petition concerning the air strip, which was mentioned in paragraph 55 of the

Visiting Mission's report, he entirely agreed with the Visiting Mission that it would be impracticable to construct an air strip on the worked-out phosphate land; owing to the extreme roughness of the terrain.

19. Mr. DE ANTUENO (Argentina) referred to a passage in the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/789, paragraph 89) to the effect that, in contrast with the situation in Nauru, it had been found possible to reclaim the phosphate lands by filling the pits with coral. He wondered whether the same procedure could not be followed in Nauru.

20. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) replied that the Administering Authority would welcome any opportunity to reclaim the worked-out phosphate lands. Because of the geological formation of Nauru, however, such a project appeared to be a physical impossibility. A photograph of a worked-out field had been reproduced in the annual report for 1948-1949,² it would give the best possible illustration of the difficulties involved.

21. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) observed that the United States was studying the question but had not yet found a way to reclaim worked-out phosphate lands and that it was very doubtful that a way could be found.

22. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) added that the phosphate mining in the Pacific Islands was of a quite different character; there were marked differences in the soil formations, and it seemed impossible that the worked-out land in Nauru, which had never been useful for any purpose save phosphate mining, could ever be reclaimed.

23. Mr. DE ANTUENO (Argentina) hoped that some information on the matter would be included in future annual reports; if the United States should find a way of reclaiming worked-out phosphate fields, it would certainly share its knowledge with the Administration of Nauru.

24. He then asked whether consideration was being given to replacing the capitation tax by some other form of taxation, if an income tax were not introduced.

25. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) answered that, while the capitation tax was still in operation, the problem of taxation in Nauru was being considered, as requested by the Trusteeship Council.³ As far as the immigrant community was concerned, the capitation tax amounted to a labour tax, since it was paid by the employer and not by the employee. As far as the indigenous population was concerned, it was felt that the question should be discussed at length with the new Council of Chiefs which was about to come into being. There was as yet no accepted solution.

26. In reply to a question by Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq), Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) explained that the air strip referred to in paragraphs 55 and 56 of the Visiting Mission's report had been constructed by the Japanese during their occupation of the

² See *Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of Nauru from 1st July, 1948, to 30th June, 1949*, Commonwealth of Australia, 1950.

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourth Session, Supplement No. 4*, page 77.

island without any regard to the wishes of the individual landowners. The Administration was anxious to reduce the area required for the air strip to the minimum necessary to meet the provisions of international air conventions, and to compensate the owners for the loss of their land. Since Nauruans were very jealous of the title to their land, the Administering Authority preferred in general to lease the land from them rather than acquire it outright. With regard to the air strip, proposals had been referred to the Council of Chiefs in December 1950 for a rental for the use of the land since 1945 and a lump sum for its purchase. The Council's comments had not yet been received and the matter was still pending.

27. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the financial operations of the British Phosphate Commissioners as reported in appendix VII of the annual report, requested an explanation concerning the income and net profit derived from the exploitation and sale of Nauru phosphate resources.

28. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) explained that the British Phosphate Commissioners did not represent a profit-making organization, that production expenses were met from the proceeds of phosphate sales, that there were no shareholders and that no dividends were paid. The Commissioners had been appointed by the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, and those governments received repayment of the capital, plus interest, which they had contributed to enable the Commissioners to buy out the former holder of mining rights in Nauru. The phosphate produced was sold in the form of fertilizers and its price merely covered the cost of production.

29. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that consumers in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Australia were consequently able to purchase the phosphates at a price lower than that prevailing on the world market, and the margin of profit resulting from the operations of the Commissioners was apparently transferred to those privileged purchasers.

30. Referring to the tables shown in appendix VII of the annual report, he asked whether the figure of 50,201 Australian pounds, which was indicated as the cash in hand on 30 June 1950, did not represent the net profit received by the British Phosphate Commissioners during the financial year ended on that date.

31. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) explained that the figure of 50,201 Australian pounds was not profit, but represented the necessary working capital of the Commissioners. The figure of 7,811 pounds, indicating the trading balance for the year ended 30 June 1950, showed that there was virtual equality between the cost of production and the proceeds of sales.

32. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) urged the Administering Authority to submit a full financial report on the operations of the British Phosphate Commissioners together with its next annual report. He recalled that a similar request had been made at the fifth session of the Trusteeship Council.⁴

33. He wished to know, moreover, whether the Administering Authority intended to introduce a progressive income tax affecting individuals as well as corporations.

34. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) explained that the whole field of taxation was being studied by the Administering Authority. The possibility of replacing the prevailing capitation tax by an income tax would be included in that study and no action would be taken until the views of the population had been ascertained.

35. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that information on that subject was particularly necessary in view of the Council's recommendation at its fifth session and the statement of the Visiting Mission, in paragraph 40 of its report, that the Administering Authority had not yet considered any modification of the taxation system.

36. Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China) recalled that the Council, at its seventh session,⁵ had recommended that the Administering Authority should report on the progress made in reviewing the existing legislation in Nauru for the purpose of removing discriminatory provisions. He wished to know whether the special representative could convey any information to the Council on the subject.

37. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) said that the Administration hoped to proceed in that undertaking when the Council of Chiefs had been reconstituted.

38. Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China) did not understand why a review of the legislation should be contingent upon the reconstitution of the Council of Chiefs, especially since the indigenous population, against which it was alleged that discrimination was practised, would obviously welcome such a review.

39. Mr. HAY (Australia) said that the recommendation of the Council to which the representative of China had referred had been made in the middle of 1950 and that the annual report under consideration covered the period ending at about that time. If the report had been considered in June 1951, as anticipated, some progress might have been reported.

40. Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China) regretted the delay and hoped that the Administering Authority would furnish full information on the subject in its next annual report.

41. Turning to the statement contained in section 38 of the annual report, to the effect that thirty-three convictions had been recorded against employees for breaches of the Chinese and Native Labour Ordinance 1922-1924, Mr. Liu asked the special representative for information concerning the nature of the convictions and the consequences attendant thereon.

42. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) said that details concerning the convictions could be obtained only by referring to the administrative records in Nauru. The scale of punishments awarded to the Chinese, which was set out in appendix III (B) of the annual report, showed that the persons concerned had been convicted for minor breaches of contractual obli-

⁴ *Ibid.*, page 77.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Fifth Session, Supplement No. 4, page 138.

gations. The small number of breaches of the ordinance was indicative of the excellent employer-employee relations existing during the period under review.

43. Replying to a question by Mr. Shih-shun LIU (China) concerning the problem of the admission of the families of Chinese workers to Nauru, Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) said that no practical solution to that problem had yet been found. The suggestion of the Visiting Mission, in paragraph 95 of its report, that the families of Chinese with long service should be admitted, was under study, but the reluctance of Nauruan landowners to release suitable land for housing was impeding progress.

44. Replying to a question from Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) regarding improvement of working conditions of indigenous inhabitants, Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) noted that Nauruan workers had received two wage increases in 1950 and were being paid in accordance with the rates requested by the Council of Chiefs.

45. In reply to a query by Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regarding the discrepancy in funds allocated for health and police activities respectively, Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) explained that for a considerable part of the year under review the post of government medical officer had been vacant. Moreover, the Administration had not had to incur heavy expenditure for medical supplies, as previously acquired stocks had been used up. The next annual report would reflect more accurately the expenditure on health as compared with other activities.

46. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that at its fifth session,⁶ the Trusteeship Council had recommended that the Administering Authority should take the necessary measures to end the segregation effected by restricting the movement of the indigenous population in the Territory. He noted that Chinese and Nauruans were required to carry passes after 10 p.m. whereas Europeans were not subject to that restriction.

47. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) explained that the requirement was intended to prevent Chinese and Nauruans from being out at night for unlawful purposes. There had been fighting between individuals and some pilfering of food. It was the general desire of the indigenous population to place some control upon such activities. Movement for normal purposes was in no way hampered. Moreover, the legislation governing the question would be reviewed in consultation with the Council of Chiefs.

48. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was not satisfied with the reply to his questions. No justification had been given for the maintenance of segregation and of special police measures which seriously restricted the freedom of movement of Chinese and Nauruans. In his opinion that was flagrant racial discrimination.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

49. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) inquired what measures had been taken by the

Administering Authority to put an end to the inequalities existing between Europeans on the one hand, and Chinese and Nauruans on the other, in respect of wages and working hours.

50. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) explained that the wages of Nauruan workers met the requirements of the Council of Chiefs, while the Chinese workers were paid on the basis of wage levels applicable in the country of their recruitment. Similarly, European workers were paid at the level prevailing in the country where they had been engaged. The hours of work of all employees had been reduced from 56 to 44 per week. Thus Chinese and Nauruans were paid wages on the basis of a 44-hour week while European employees worked a 40-hour week, in conformity with the work schedule operating in the country of their recruitment. The Administering Authority considered that the results achieved by the non-European workers were not equal to those achieved by the European workers and that equality of wages was therefore not warranted.

51. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) strongly disagreed with that approach and considered that it constituted unwarranted discrimination. The labour legislation of many countries did not differentiate in matters of wages and hours between groups of workers, whether skilled or unskilled, performing the same kind of work.

52. He asked the special representative for further information concerning piece-work, minimum wages, and the proportion of the total income of the British Phosphate Commissioners expended on wages.

53. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) said that a piece-work system had been instituted with a minimum wage for a certain level of output and bonus payments for extra output. The phosphate industry was very highly mechanized and that factor should be considered in evaluating the relation of wages to capital or output.

54. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) emphasized the disproportion between the capital of the British Phosphate Commissioners and the sums expended in wages.

55. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) said he would direct the attention of the Administering Authority to the question, but reiterated that the industry was highly mechanized.

56. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested an explanation concerning the breaches of the Chinese and Native Labour Ordinance 1922-1924 for which thirty-three employees had been convicted, despite generally satisfactory employer-employee relations in the Territory.

57. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) said that the details of the cases could be obtained only by reference to the records in Nauru. It was clear, however, from the small number of convictions and the mild penalties imposed, that the cases had involved only minor breaches of contractual obligations. The record of the convictions gave no indication of the quality of the work or the efforts expended by the various groups of employees.

58. In reply to a request by Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) for detailed in-

⁶ *Ibid.*, Fourth Session, Supplement No. 4, page 77.

formation on social welfare provisions for Nauruans, Chinese and Europeans, Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) said that Nauruan workmen, whether employees of the Administration or of the British Phosphate Commissioners, were eligible for dependants' allowances for their wives and for children under the age of 16 in addition to their salaries. Nauruan widows were granted pensions. In addition there was a comprehensive post-natal maternity or mothercraft service for the indigenous inhabitants, who were provided with houses at very low rentals and were supplied with funds for furnishing. Free education, free hospitalization and free medical services were provided, while sickleave benefits with full pay were available to workers on a progressive scale, depending on length of service.

59. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the information contained in appendix III of the annual report gave the impression that there was a high percentage of crime in Nauru and asked for further information on the subject.

60. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) suggested that crime was rather a harsh word in the circumstances; most of the violations were in the nature of misdemeanours. Reference to the penalties imposed on the individuals concerned would indicate that there was no major problem of crime on the island.

61. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that the report of the Administering Authority gave statistics of violations of capitation tax regulations and included a list of twenty-seven sentences for such violations. He wished to know the reasons for the non-payment of the tax and wondered whether the Nauruans in question were poor and unable to make the payment.

62. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) knew of no special reasons for non-payment of the tax. The people of Nauru were familiar with the tax, they knew the date of its collection and the Nauruan chiefs themselves had complete control of the manner of collection. The prosecution and conviction of any Nauruan failing to pay the tax was handled exclusively by Nauruan magistrates.

63. He himself was unaware that there were any poor Nauruans. Nearly every indigenous inhabitant had a bank account and an income of some kind. He did not know the details of the specific cases in question, but thought it unlikely that they were due to any financial hardship. There were people in other countries who sought to avoid paying taxes.

64. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested that the Administering Authority should in future provide information about the reasons for failure to pay the capitation tax.

65. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) took note of the request but observed that the capitation tax might not remain in effect very long.

66. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) recalled the statement of the special representative (331st meeting) regarding the training course for Nauruan teachers. In view of the supreme importance, in any effective educational programme, of training teachers, he was anxious to know whether the bi-weekly classes for

adult Nauruans and weekly classes for apprentices referred to by Mr. Reeve provided adequate training for Nauruan teachers.

67. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) stated that the bi-weekly classes for adult Nauruans were entirely separate from the classes for teachers. The bi-weekly classes were a development of adult education and were held in the evenings for the Nauruan public. The training classes for teachers were conducted by the Director of Education and were held three or more times each week. During those classes, teachers engaged in teaching during the day received extra-curricular education. Classes for apprentices also constituted a separate activity.

68. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) noted the statement in paragraph 100 of the report of the Visiting Mission that "the Nauruan teachers for the most part have received no special course of training but consist of graduates of the system and receive training on the job". He desired further information concerning the training of teachers.

69. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) confirmed the fact that Nauruan teachers were being trained as they taught. In addition, the instruction to which he had referred in his opening statement was given to teachers after they had conducted classes for the Nauruan children. At the existing stage, that arrangement provided the best means of achieving a working educational programme. Sixteen Nauruan students were attending secondary schools overseas and would be given additional professional training in Australia. It was likely that some of that number would engage in teaching in Nauru and assist in the development of the island's educational programme.

70. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) gathered that the training of Nauruan teachers took two forms: on the one hand, adults already engaged in teaching were trained as they taught; on the other hand, Nauruan students were sent to Australia for training.

71. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) concurred in the interpretation given by the representative of the United States. The teachers who were now in Nauru certainly lacked the fundamental general education that was needed. It was felt, however, that too much time would be required to send those adults overseas to receive such education. It should also be borne in mind that not many years had elapsed since the reoccupation of the island. It was to be hoped that the first group of Nauruans who had received their training as they taught would eventually be replaced by educated teachers trained overseas.

72. Some consideration had been given to the possibility that the wives of officials stationed in the island might engage in teaching, but a difficulty had arisen because indigenous children generally spoke only Nauruan and became proficient in English only after some training. Occasionally the wives of European residents had assisted in the teaching of higher grades of the primary level, but it had been impossible to develop that arrangement to any great extent.

73. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) expressed concern at the statement in paragraph 103 of the report of the Visiting Mission that almost five years after the reoccupation of the island, educational facili-

ties were less than they were before the war. In view of the importance of education in preparing people for self-government, he requested the special representative to outline the educational programme contemplated by the Administering Authority.

74. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) said that while it might be correct to say that physically the educational facilities in the island were less than they had been before the war, the same could not really be said in regard to the development of actual education. Education was compulsory for Nauruan children. The programme envisaged by the Director of Education through the Administration was primary school instruction followed by secondary school instruction of a general character and of a specific technical or professional character within the island. The new high school which was to be built would contain a section for girls who, after completing the primary classes, would receive not only general education above that level but also domestic and homecraft training. Boys would be given general education followed by professional education such as courses in book-keeping and clerical work and technical education such as training in various crafts.

75. The Administration was very sympathetic to the suggestion of the Visiting Mission that, where appropriate, extra-territorial study should be offered to suitable Nauruans in the professional and technical fields.

76. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) expressed gratification at the increase in the number of Nauruan students who were being sent abroad to complete their education. He requested information regarding the method by which students were selected for study abroad.

77. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) explained that students were chosen for study abroad on the basis of competitive examinations at the level of the highest class in the island. Both boys and girls were selected as a result of those examinations in general relation to their adaptability and suitability to leave the island.

78. In reply to a further question by Mr. SAYRE (United States of America), Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) said that where subjects such as medicine or theology were concerned, the selection of the type of studies in which a student was to engage abroad was made in Nauru. The question of girls going abroad almost resolved itself since their main interest, so far as Nauru was concerned, was in homecraft activity. In some cases, where neither the inclination of the child nor the wishes of the parents were known, the child was sent to Australia for general education. The system had not been in operation long enough to permit the development of any clear principle on the basis of which students could be guided towards various occupations upon the completion of their secondary education.

79. Mr. SAYRE (United States of America) hoped that the next report of the Administering Authority would provide fuller information on the Administration's plans in the field not only of general education but also of training for specific occupations.

80. Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the data included in section 46 and in appendix XIII of the annual report indicated that four times as much money was expended on the education of European children as on Nauruans and requested an explanation of the difference in expenditure.

81. Mr. REEVE (Special representative for Nauru) said that he would reply to that question at a later stage.

82. The PRESIDENT said that since no other delegation wished to raise questions on the separate parts of the report, the Council could proceed to a general discussion.

83. Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom) recalled that reference had been made to the bearing of the royalties paid by the British Phosphate Commissioners on the revenue available to the Administration of Nauru. According to paragraph 36 of the Visiting Mission's report, those royalties, at the time of the visit, had amounted to one shilling and sixpence per ton on the phosphate exported. Sixpence of that amount was intended to meet the ordinary expenses of the Administration. In view of the suggestions of the Mission, in paragraph 39 of its report, that either the royalties should be increased or some additional source of revenue should be found, it was gratifying to learn from the statement of the special representative that the amount of royalties to meet the ordinary expenses of administration had been doubled and now amounted to one shilling per ton. In addition, a further sum of threepence per ton, representing an increase of 50 per cent on the figures at the time of the writing of the report, had been imposed to repay the rehabilitation advance. Those amounts should be sufficient to meet the increasing costs of administration.

84. It was interesting to learn of the revival of the copra trade with the laudable objective of raising funds for the purchase of furniture. It should be said, in that connexion, that the Visiting Mission had been impressed by the excellent type of houses being built for Nauruans on the island.

85. It was encouraging to note from the annual report that provision was being made for the training of indigenous practitioners at Suva and that one Nauruan medical assistant had been sent to Australia to learn the X-ray technique. It was also gratifying to know that a qualified nursing sister would be placed in charge of nursing in the Native hospital and would take an active part in the training of Nauruan nurses.

86. It was also gratifying to know that school buildings now existed within reasonable walking distance of the homes of all primary school children. In connexion with education, the report of the Administering Authority had been greatly improved by the inclusion of additional statistics in appendix XIII.

87. Sir Alan's personal observations as a member of the Visiting Mission which had gone to Nauru and his study of the annual report had given him the impression that the Administering Authority was making a genuine and sincere effort to carry out its responsibility in the Trust Territory of Nauru in the true spirit of the Trusteeship System.

88. Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) remarked that the report on Nauru really covered a period of only six months and related to a very small territory with only about 1,500 indigenous inhabitants. In a territory of that size, there could really be no extremely high positions. Professional services and facilities were, however, essential for the population.

89. The small size of Nauru must also be considered in connexion with elections and nominations for office. There were only nine electoral districts, with some seventy or eighty adults in each. In the circumstances, the nomination of candidates and the formalities of election by secret ballot were far less important than in large territories.

90. The main issue in Nauru was the relationship between the Administration and the British Phosphate Commissioners. Mr. Ryckmans associated himself with the representative of the United Kingdom in commend-

ing the increases in royalties. On average, the Commissioners paid a total of \$500,000; that meant, for a population of 1,500, about \$300 *per capita*. That amount compared favourably with the expenditure incurred in many highly civilized countries for the benefit of the inhabitants.

91. It must also be remembered that the British Phosphate Commissioners operated by virtue of a concession which dated back to a period preceding the Trusteeship Agreement and the Mandate and that many of the rights they enjoyed had been granted during the days of German control. While those rights must be respected, it was the responsibility of the Administering Authority to supervise the fixing of the scale of royalties and to continue to exercise careful control in the matter.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.