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President: Mr. Alfred CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Belgium, Burma, China, France, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Italy, New Zealand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, 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.

Welcome to Mr. Dragoslav Protitch, Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories

1. The PRESIDENT welcomed Mr. Protitch, the new Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, on behalf of the Trusteeship Council.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of New Guinea (continued)

- (i) Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1957 (T/1375, T/1380, T/L.851);
- (ii) Petitions raising general questions (T/PET.8/L.3, T/PET.8/L.4, T/PET.8/R.1)

[Agenda items 3(b) and 4]

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

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

Economic advancement (continued)

2. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) explained that the figure of £100,000 he had given at the 906th meeting as the first year's yield from the new personal tax levied in the Territory was the total for Papua and New Guinea. He would estimate the total for the Trust Territory alone as at least £60,000.

3. He now had further information on the gold royalty. As at 30 June 1957, a royalty of 5 per cent had been paid on all gold won, and a subsidy of £1 10s. per fine ounce was paid by the Australian Government on all gold won up to 500 fine ounces. Since the close of the year under review the royalty had been reduced to 1-1/4 per cent; the subsidy remained unchanged.

4. Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) noted that although a personal tax of £2 had now been instituted, no direct taxes had yet been imposed on foreign companies operating in the Territory. He asked whether the Administering Authority was considering plans to tax the profits of such companies.

5. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) reiterated that a review of the Territory's finances was being carried out and might result in the introduction of a more extensive system of direct taxation. It had been felt for some time that under the present system the burden of taxation was not spread sufficiently evenly over the population of the Territory.

6. Replying to further questions from Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala), Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that there was no contradiction between the Administering Authority's statement on page 42 of the annual report 1/ that investment of outside capital in the Territory was subject to safeguards ensuring that the interests of the indigenous inhabitants were fully protected, and the fact that no statistics were available to show the exact amount of capital invested in the Territory by foreign companies, the earnings or dividends of those companies, or the extent to which their earnings remained in the Territory. The Administration's chief concern was that the indigenous inhabitants should in no way suffer through the activities of any company and it maintained a careful watch to ensure that their interests were protected. It was aware of no instance in which the interests of the inhabitants had been adversely affected by the activities of those companies; on the contrary, many of them were doing a great deal to develop the Territory and the indigenous inhabitants were profiting thereby. Under the Territory's Com-

1/ Commonwealth of Australia. Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of New Guinea from 1st July, 1956, to 30th June, 1957 (Canberra, A. J. Arthur, Commonwealth Government Printer). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1375).

panies Ordinance, foreign undertakings were obliged, on registering in the Territory, to meet certain requirements, the details of which he would supply to the Council in due course.

7. With regard to the apparent decrease in expenditure on construction and maintenance of roads and bridges and in the mileage of vehicular roads during the year under review, he would try to furnish more information at a later meeting.

8. Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) said that his delegation had noted with satisfaction the many statements of economic and political policy made by the Administering Authority in its annual report, and he asked whether it now considered that it was in a position to work out general plans for the Territory's economic development.

9. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the Administration had no over-all plan for the economic development of the Territory. A number of surveys had been carried out in order to further that development, and in particular to further the expansion of agricultural activity by the indigenous population. Enough information was now available to enable the Administration to carry out its annual work programmes and to provide for agricultural expansion in certain areas. Further information was being collected and collated steadily, but it would be sometime before a complete picture of the needs of the Territory as a whole was obtained.

10. Mr. ATKINS (New Zealand) asked for further information on the difficulties involved in establishing a cattle industry among the indigenous inhabitants.

11. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the indigenous inhabitants had never engaged in animal husbandry; moreover, most of the areas they now inhabited were not suitable for grazing. In general, the Territory did not lend itself to the breeding of live-stock on ranges; any live-stock industry developed would therefore be confined mainly to small areas where special grasses had been grown.

12. In reply to further questions by Mr. ATKINS (New Zealand), Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the annual contribution paid to the Copra Fund by copra producers varied according to the price of copra. The recovery in cacao prices anticipated in the annual report had in fact taken place; the price of cacao had increased by an average of £80 a ton between June 1957 and April 1958.

13. Mr. ATKINS (New Zealand) said that his delegation had been pleased to note the Australian Government's continued and increasing financial assistance in the development of the Territory, and the Territory's enviable freedom from debt. He asked whether the Administering Authority envisaged a stage in the Territory's development when it might be necessary to seek financial assistance from international sources, and whether any steps in that direction had been considered.

14. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that to the best of his knowledge no such steps had been considered.

15. Replying to another question from Mr. ATKINS (New Zealand), Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that a sum of £57,000 was available under the

Native Loans Fund for loans to indigenous groups or individuals. No other funds were available for loans except through the banks; one such loan had been made, and guaranteed by the Administration, in the case of the Tolai cacao scheme.

16. Replying to questions put by Mr. SALOMON (Haiti), Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the Copra Fund had not been brought into operation during the recent fall in the price of copra because the prices paid had been high enough to provide the growers with a reasonable return. The Fund was available for use when, in the opinion of the Administering Authority, the price of copra was such that the industry required assistance.

17. A map showing the work completed on the fisheries survey had been prepared, and provided information of great value to any persons interested in entering the fishing industry, as well as to indigenous fishermen.

18. With regard to the advanced agricultural course given at the Mageri Agricultural Training Centre, it was a one-year course and differed from the courses held at the extension centres and stations in that students successfully completing it were eligible for appointment to posts as Administration agricultural assistants in the Auxiliary Division of the Public Service. He believed that the full diploma course to be given at the agricultural college would require three or four years.

19. Mr. YANG (China) noted that during the year under review, as in previous years, the Territory's budget had been balanced only with the help of a substantial grant from the Australian Government. In view of that unhealthy situation, and the likelihood that it would not greatly improve in the near future, his delegation felt that the Territory's budget called for careful scrutiny. He asked what measures had been taken or were contemplated to increase the Territory's revenues.

20. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the purpose of the financial review to which he had already referred was to ascertain the best means of obtaining more revenue. The ultimate solution must of course lie in the general development of the Territory towards self-sufficiency and a situation in which the indigenous inhabitants would play a substantial part in the economy of the Territory. Meanwhile the Administering Authority would continue providing funds to make up the budgetary deficit each year.

21. In reply to further questions from Mr. YANG (China), Mr. JONES (Special Representative) explained that the advance of £119,100 made to the Territory by the Australian Government had been additional to the Administering Authority's regular grant and had been made in order to cover expenditure not foreseen in the Administration's previous budget. An item of the equivalent amount would be included in the 1957-1958 budget specifically for the repayment of the loan.

22. The personal tax collected in the Territory would in no way affect the work of the local government councils or their taxing authority since it was provided that persons already paying local government taxes would be required to pay only the difference, if any, between the amount of those taxes and £2, and would be exempt from the personal tax if they already

paid a local government tax of £2 or more. The personal tax was similar to a per capita tax except that it was paid only by males over the age of eighteen. The Administration believed that the introduction of the personal tax would lead to the establishment of additional local government councils because the people would realize that whilst the personal tax would be paid into general revenue, if the people of a particular area formed their own council the taxes collected by the council would be under their own control and would be used for the development of their own area.

23. In reply to questions asked by Mr. YANG (China) concerning the cocoa industry, Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the experimental work of the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries had resulted in a very high production per tree. The average yield per acre was from five to seven hundredweight. With regard to the Tolai scheme, there were 2,977 registered growers, and a number of applicants waiting to be registered. The net income for the year ending 31 March 1957 had been £122,000. About 20 per cent of the bank loan of £80,000 had been repaid. The growers, who had not themselves subscribed financially, would eventually have a capital asset worth at least £80,000, in addition to their bearing cocoa properties. None of the growers depended for his living solely on his cocoa; they all had other sources of income either as wage-earners or planters of other crops.

24. Under the Cacao Ordinance a planter must have 500 trees before he could be registered. The idea was to ensure that the cocoa was properly planted and that due attention was given to pest control. In countries where random forest planting had been permitted, all the trees in some areas had died as a result of pest infection. The number of trees planted to an acre was 214, so that 500 trees covered approximately 2 1/2 acres and, with an average yield of six hundredweight an acre, would bring in three-quarters of a ton of cocoa. At the net value of the price of cocoa on 31 December, that would return a net income of about £160 a year, or at the present increased price of cocoa, nearer £175 a year.

25. Mr. YANG (China) asked how students were chosen for training at the three different levels in the excellent agricultural training programme.

26. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) explained that at the lowest level, i.e., at the agricultural extension stations and centres, courses were given to which all the farmers in the surrounding districts were invited. At the intermediate level, i.e., at the Mageri Agricultural Training Centre, applicants had to have successfully completed their primary education. From that Training Centre they would be selected to enter the Auxiliary Division and they would then have an opportunity of attaining higher status in the Public Service. Arrangements were being made for the establishment of a school similar to the Mageri Centre in the New Ireland District, and the same type of training would gradually be extended to other centres.

27. At the highest level, students must have matriculated in order to be eligible for admission to the agricultural college, where training would commence in 1960. In the first instance, however, students would probably be admitted if they had passed their leaving

certificate, which was a little lower than the matriculation level.

28. Replying to questions asked by Mr. FELD (United States of America), Mr. JONES (Special Representative) estimated that the present revenue from the personal tax for the Trust Territory alone was probably not less than £60,000, and the figure would undoubtedly increase slightly each year as indigenous agriculture developed and more people became liable to payment of the tax, even at the lowest rate of ten shillings.

29. With regard to the possible effect on the Territory's economy of the decline in the world price of copra and the possibility of reduced production owing to the ageing of many of the European-owned coconut plantations, he said that every effort was being made through new plantings and fertilizer trials to rehabilitate some of the older plantations; the quantity of copra produced had increased in the year under review. In addition, both the Administration and many of the people in the Territory had realized the dangers of a monocrop, and other tree crops, such as cocoa and coffee, had been introduced. Copra would still be a profitable crop needing no subsidy if the world price remained at its present level or even if it dropped another 10 per cent.

30. In reply to a question asked by Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom), concerning credit facilities in the Territory, Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that, although the Native Loans Fund had been publicized throughout the Territory, only two loans had been made so far: a loan of £3,000 to the local government council in Lae to build accommodation for stevedores from the surrounding area and a loan of £1,070 to another local government council for the purchase of a diesel truck. There were no other non-commercial credit facilities available to the indigenous people, but the Treasury Ordinance provided that the Administration could guarantee repayment to a bank of an approved loan, as in the case of the Tolai cacao scheme.

31. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) noted that the indigenous people were taking an increasing part in commercial activities. He would like to know which were the activities involved and whether the Administration had devised any special schemes for training the indigenous people or assisting them in the development of trade.

32. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the main branches of indigenous commercial activity were the trade stores and, in one or two areas, trucking services. The co-operatives had their stores throughout the Territory and did an increasing amount of their own importing.

33. Apart from the training provided by the co-operatives at the co-operative schools there were no courses aimed directly at training indigenous people in trading or business practices, although the schools gave a certain amount of business training, such as bookkeeping, in the final year.

34. In reply to further questions by Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom), Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the land reclamation schemes were meeting with great success. Most of the areas concerned were in the highland regions. It had been the practice of the indigenous people over many years to set fire to the grass, thus driving out small animals,

which they used for food. After two or three years of intensive education the people now understood that they must stop burning the grass and plant trees. The consequent regeneration of the areas was proving very successful. The Administering Authority was providing tens of thousands of trees annually for planting and it also had its own extensive planting programme in the area. Some of the trees were now five or six years old. The Administration was confident that the scheme would eventually be able to bring the people down from the mountains to inhabit the valleys again.

35. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) asked how far the special representative considered credit and loan facilities important in encouraging the development of cash crops and how far that development could proceed without such loans.

36. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that experience had shown that the people could make rapid economic progress without the assistance of loans. That could in part be explained by the free technical assistance given by the Administration's agricultural staff and the fact that seeds and plants were made available at a nominal charge.

37. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) asked what happened to the people who completed the agricultural training courses. He had the impression that the Territory could do with a considerably larger body of indigenous agricultural staff.

38. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) explained that the lower-level courses were designed mainly to make the farmers conversant with new crops and better methods of agriculture. Among the hundreds of farmers attending the courses, a number showed exceptional ability and had been selected for an additional course of training and then employed as agricultural assistants.

39. There were thirty-seven indigenous agricultural assistants working with the extension officers, and one assistant agricultural officer. Since an increasing number of boys were completing their primary education and would be eligible for the Mageri Centre, it was hoped that a number could be increased within the next two years. Students at the Mageri Centre failing their examinations were still offered employment as agricultural assistants. It was the Administration's intention to increase as rapidly as possible the number of trained indigenous assistant agricultural officers and agricultural assistants.

40. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) emphasized the importance of road-building to the development of the Territory. Great progress had already been made. What future road-building plans were there?

41. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the programme for 1957-1958 provided for an expenditure of over £600,000 on new roads, an increase over the sum spent in 1956-1957.

42. Replying to further questions asked by Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) concerning various aspects of the fishing industry in the Territory, Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that by the time he left the Territory in May 1958 no commercial fishing ventures other than that at Rabaul had been started. As a result of the efforts of the Administration, however, the coastal people were now taking a greater interest in fishing, mainly for their own consumption.

Indigenous fisheries assistants, who had received training in fishing techniques and the use of the new gear, were stationed throughout the Territory. The training programme was continuing. It was the Administration's aim to encourage fishing so that the Territory could supply its own requirements locally. Imports of fish for Papua and New Guinea were currently valued at £275,000. The encouragement of fishing would also help to remedy the deficiency of animal protein in the diet of certain areas. The Administration's fishery vessel had almost completed a survey of the Territory's waters and had completed a map showing the best areas for fishing.

43. He believed that the five persons who had attended the training course at Nouméa in 1957 would be offered positions with the Division of Fisheries.

44. Mr. JONES (Special Representative), replying to questions asked by Mr. KOCIANCICH (Italy), said that the collection of the new personal tax was made by Administration officers. The total sum collected in the Territory for the first year was probably at least £60,000. Loans granted under the Native Loans Fund Ordinance 1955 totalled £4,070. The total amount of royalties collected, given on page 73 of the annual report, referred to royalties on gold, not on oil.

45. Mr. KOCIANCICH (Italy) said that in order to assess the comparative importance of the technical assistance given to the two Territories, it would be interesting to know how many Papuan students were attending the Mageri Agricultural Training Centre, and whether there were students from outside areas.

46. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said he had no information as to the number of students attending the school, but he understood that the maximum number was thirty. The students did not come from any Territory other than Papua or New Guinea.

47. Mr. KOCIANCICH (Italy) expressed approval of the Administration's policy of employing workers from rival tribes in joint road-making endeavours. He would be interested to know how recruitment was affected—whether the local councils played any part in it, and also whether the policy was applied to other types of public work.

48. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) explained that the indigenous people appreciated the value of having roads to such an extent that they frequently volunteered to assist the Administration in the work of construction. The fact of rival tribes working together on a single project had been mentioned to illustrate the success of the Administration's efforts at patrolling and bringing about peaceful relations.

The meeting was suspended at 4.5 p.m. and resumed at 4.25 p.m.

49. Mr. DALLIER (France) wondered whether the Administering Authority had considered the problems that might arise from promoting the transition from collective ownership of land to individual ownership through the Native Land Commission. He would be interested to know whether consideration had been given to the possibility of establishing inalienable family reserves, as had been done in French-administered Territories.

50. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) pointed out that an indigenous inhabitant could not dispose of his land as he chose, but only with the permission of the Administration and to the Administration. The main problem was that the present system of land-holding was not suitable for the development of cash crops or for the future advancement of the indigenous people. The Native Land Commission was inquiring into the indigenous ownership of land, and the course those inquiries would follow, in the light of the information now available, was being given careful consideration. In the Gazelle Peninsula, the location of the Tolai cacao scheme, there was already a realization by the indigenous people that the present system of land-holdings was unsuitable, and a desire for family, or even individual, ownership. The Administering Authority was giving a great deal of thought to the problem of land tenure and was fully alive to the fact that in the interests of the people some reform was necessary. The first move in that direction, when a decision was reached, would be in areas where cash cropping had recently expanded and where the people themselves were favourable to another system of ownership. In any area where there was a likelihood of a shortage of land as a result of over-population, no land would be alienated other than to the indigenous peoples themselves.

51. Mr. DALLIER (France) asked whether in the course of field trips made by staff of the Department of Agriculture an improvement had been observed, as frequently happened elsewhere, in the methods of indigenous growers as a result of the proximity of plantations operated by non-indigenous people.

52. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the non-indigenous plantations had indeed played an important part in improving indigenous agriculture in the Territory.

53. Mr. DALLIER (France), observing that the main income of the indigenous population from the forests derived from the lease of land to foreign concerns and the use of forest roads and clearings after the termination of the lease, asked whether the Administration proposed to establish indigenous co-operatives for forest exploitation with modern equipment.

54. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that although there had been no such development up to the present, the two Administration sawmills that operated in the Territory also acted as training centres and there was a suggestion that co-operative sawmills might also be established, as an extension of co-operative activities.

55. Replying to a question asked by Mr. EL-ERIAN (United Arab Republic) concerning the problem of introducing a more extensive system of taxation in the Territory, Mr. JONES (Special Representative) explained that the Administration had always felt that in view of the Territory's stage of development indirect taxation was the most suitable method and that taxes on particular industries were not desirable. It was now seeking to work out a system whereby taxation would be more evenly distributed over the whole of the population and, with that end in view, had initiated a financial survey of the Territory's revenues.

56. Mr. EL-ERIAN (United Arab Republic) asked if the succession duties referred to on page 38 of the

annual report were inheritance taxes or some other form of tax.

57. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that he would reply to that question at a later meeting.

58. Mr. EL-ERIAN (United Arab Republic) asked whether there were any private monopolies in the Territory.

59. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that there were none.

60. U KYAW MIN (Burma) asked if the special representative could furnish figures for the areas of arable and non-arable land respectively in the Territory.

61. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that it would be very difficult to make an assessment of the amount of arable land, since there were large areas of mountainous country that would not be suitable for agriculture. He would, however, refer the question to his Government.

62. U KYAW MIN (Burma) referred to the figure of 1,383,724 acres of alienated land given in table 1 of appendix VIII of the annual report, and asked whether all of that area consisted of arable or usable land.

63. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said he did not believe so. Of the freehold land and the 303,784 acres of leased land comprised in the area, the greater part would probably be suitable for agriculture. The 26,926 acres of Native reserves would be suitable for agriculture to some extent. As for the 534,524 acres held by the Administration, he could not estimate the area suitable for development, but certainly not all of it.

64. U KYAW MIN (Burma) said it would be interesting to know the figures for the four types of Administration land listed on page 51 of the annual report.

65. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said he had no further details beyond those given in appendix VIII. The figure for the area of ownerless land would not be shown because, when so classified, it was transferred to the Administration.

66. U KYAW MIN (Burma) said he would appreciate it if the special representative could furnish him at a later date with the figure for the amount of land taken over by the Administration. He would also like to know how the additional land which accounted for the increase of 77,879 acres had been acquired by the Administration, and whether the land alienated to the Administration could be leased out to immigrant communities.

67. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that he would supply the information regarding additional land purchased by the Administration at the next meeting; he confirmed that the alienated land referred to could be leased out to immigrant communities.

68. U KYAW MIN (Burma) recalled that in an address to the Highland Farmers and Settlers Association, the Australian Minister of State for Territories had indicated that the Administration's method of acquiring land had been somewhat haphazard, as many different standards of judgement were being applied. He wondered if any measures had been taken by the Admini-

stering Authority to correct the situation as it was in 1954 and whether any uniform set of standards had been adopted with regard to the acquisition of land.

69. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that there was now a standard system whereby an investigating committee, comprising the district commissioner concerned, the directors of various departments, including the Department of Lands, Surveys and Mines and the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries, studied a particular area before land was alienated from the indigenous owners. Particular consideration was, of course, given to the foreseeable needs of the indigenous population. The matter was considered by the Headquarters Land Committee and no land was alienated unless the Administration was satisfied that those needs would not be affected. Moreover, the fact that land was alienated to the Administration did not necessarily imply that it would be available on lease to non-indigenous applicants.

70. U KYAW MIN (Burma), observing from the annual report that there was considerable variation throughout the Territory in the nature of customary ownership and inheritance of land by the indigenous people, asked what measures the Administering Authority was taking to bring about uniformity.

71. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) reiterated that the Administration was studying the problem from every angle and would, in due course and with the consent of the people, take all necessary steps to change the system to one more appropriate for their future economic development.

72. In reply to a further question from U KYAW MIN (Burma), Mr. JONES (Special Representative) stated that the main reason for the reduction in the royalties from gold and the subsidy of £110.0d. was to stimulate increased mineral production, assist the industry and encourage prospectors to find new fields. The Administration also conducted geological surveys with a view to making information available regarding areas in which mineral deposits were thought most likely to occur, and encouraged the present mineral industry in the Territory.

73. Mr. KELLY (Australia) felt that there might be some misunderstanding with regard to the use of the phrase "alienated land". Although it was sometimes understood to mean alienation of land to non-indigenous inhabitants, the term as used in the report related primarily to the transfer of ownership to the Administration. There was no transfer of the ownership of land in fee simple to non-indigenous inhabitants.

Social and educational advancement

74. Mr. SALSAMENDI (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) introduced the document setting forth the observations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on educational advancement in the Trust Territory (T/1380).

75. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) asked whether there had been any complaints from the indigenous inhabitants about the system of paying wages partly in cash and partly in kind, and whether that system applied to all industrial workers in the Territory.

76. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the system had its origin in the fact that the majority

of the workers came from newly opened areas and were in wage employment for the first time in their lives. In the circumstances, the Administration felt that the best way to ensure that they were properly housed, clothed and fed was for an employer to provide those necessities as part of their total emolument. Under the labour legislation which was to be considered by the Legislative Council in September of the current year there was a provision whereby experienced workers might receive their total wages in cash and provide their own rations, although the employer would still be required to provide such necessities as housing, medical care and travel expenses.

77. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) asked why the indigenous inhabitants still had to obtain written permission to enter or be absent from certain areas at specified times.

78. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the problem was the presence in towns and adjacent places of employment of large numbers of short-term and itinerant workers, most of them single men or married men not accompanied by their wives. It was felt that in view of the conditions obtaining in the Territory and its present stage of development the restrictions could not yet be abandoned, although the Administration planned to relax them as the indigenous people developed a sense of civic responsibility.

79. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) asked whether the malaria-eradication scheme to be introduced in the New Ireland District was to be extended throughout the Territory; also, what differences there were between the types of hospitals admitting indigenous inhabitants, Europeans and Asians respectively and what justification there was for making a distinction.

80. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the malaria-eradication scheme was to be so extended.

81. With regard to the hospitals, treatment at all three types was the same. All indigenous hospitals had Australian or European medical officers on their staffs and many of them had Australian nurses. The existence of the three types of hospital was not a sign of discrimination but was dictated by the fact that the standard of living and the requirements of the people in the newly opened areas were different from those of either the coastal dwellers or the Asians and Europeans in the Territory. The former had their own living habits, liked to bring their relatives with them to the hospital and even have them cook the kind of foods they were accustomed to eating. Furthermore, most of the indigenous hospitals were situated in areas where most if not all of the population was indigenous. The hospitals now being built in the main centres were composite hospitals with accommodation for people of all races and central facilities for specialist treatment.

82. Mr. SALOMON (Haiti) inquired about the progress of the Administration's plans for overcoming the housing shortage in urban areas and asked whether funds had been set aside for that purpose.

83. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that such funds had been set aside. The shortage had been aggravated by the great increase in the number of Administration officers but was being rapidly overcome.

84. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) asked what progress was being made in the investigation of the new disease called kuru described on page 89 of the annual report.

85. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that as far as he knew the team conducting the investigation had not completed its work and had therefore not yet issued a report.

86. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) asked what would be the responsibilities of the four officials and six indigenous assistants who were shortly to be appointed to deal with social welfare matters and how they would fit into the administrative structure.

87. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that they were to be appointed to the Social Development Branch which had been established within the Department of Native Affairs since the close of the year under review. The Branch had taken over from the Department of Education responsibility for the broadcast known as the Native People's Session, and for the film unit, the work of which included the showing of educational films throughout the territory. It was also to take charge of the literature bureau, which now controlled over 200 small libraries, and was to be extended by the introduction of a mobile library in advanced areas where the road network and population density permitted. Another of the Branch's functions would be to promote women's activities and develop adult education. Women welfare officers, together with indigenous assistants, were to be recruited and posted to all the districts. Plans had been drawn up for a pilot welfare centre which would be duplicated in the main centres throughout the Territory if it proved satisfactory. The Social Development Branch would also extend its activities through the medium of the co-operatives and local government councils. The programme covered all aspects of social development, such as housing, community drives and voluntary social organizations.

88. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) asked whether the great increases in the number both of Administration schools and of pupils enrolled were attributable to any special circumstance obtaining during the year under review.

89. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the increases were simply the result of the Administration's expanded educational programme. The shortage of indigenous teachers continued to be a problem. One of the contributing factors was the Administration's decision to select for teacher training pupils who had reached standard IX rather than those who had completed only standard VII, as in the past; another was the fact that quite a number of students who had reached standard VII or VIII had gone into employment in other departments of the Administration. It was hoped, however, that the training of indigenous teachers could be accelerated during the next two or three years.

90. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom), noting that the training of indigenous teachers was aimed at fitting them to be community leaders, asked how students were selected for such courses, whether they

were posted to their own or other areas after completing their training, and how they were received by the communities which they were to serve.

91. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that as far as personal qualities were concerned such students must display character and leadership. They must also demonstrate an aptitude for teaching; that usually became apparent during their final year of training, when they acted as monitor teachers, although they were given a preliminary test before being actually selected. They were free to choose the districts in which they would serve, and about 75 per cent did not go back to their own areas. The local inhabitants received them very favourably, often provided them with accommodations and assisted them in every possible way.

92. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) asked if the special representative could explain the manner in which the Administering Authority exercised control over the mission schools; whether it was satisfied that in places where only mission schools existed the pupils had full opportunities for reaching the same standard as in the Administration schools; and whether there was a marked difference between the schooling provided by some missions as compared with others.

93. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that such differences had been very marked in the past but were being reduced as a result of the Administration's decision to make grants-in-aid dependent on the qualifications of teachers. There was still room for improvement, however, the number of schools so far registered being fifty-seven whereas the number of mission schools recognized was 107 and the number exempted 323. The mission schools were required to follow the same syllabus as that provided by the Administration for its own schools, and their work was supervised by the Department of Education. No teacher could be registered without passing an examination held and supervised by the Administration. It was interesting to note in that connexion that the number of students undergoing teacher training in mission institutions was now well over 500. The missions were making every effort to improve the quality of their teaching staff and to conform to the conditions established for grants-in-aid.

94. Sir Andrew COHEN (United Kingdom) asked if the special representative could elaborate on the statement in the annual report that the Administration's special efforts to overcome the social conservatism which had retarded the educational advancement of women and girls were meeting with success.

95. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that one of the ways of overcoming that attitude was to have the education officers and Native Affairs officers discuss the matter with the people concerned when carrying out their patrol duties. Another was to train the girls as teachers. Quite a number of girls were now qualified to teach and had been posted to girls' schools, particularly in areas where there had been noticeable objection on the part of parents to the idea of allowing their girls to go to school.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.