



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

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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; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Nauru: annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1957 (T/1374, T/1379, T/L.849) (continued)

(Agenda item 3 (c))

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

1. Mr. JONES (Special Representative), replying to a question the USSR representative had asked at the previous meeting, said that he thought that the interest rate paid on the moneys held in the Nauruan Community Long-Term Investment Fund was 4 1/4 per cent, which was the usual bank-rate paid on government loans.

2. Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) recalled that at the twentieth session his delegation had expressed regret that the Council was not given fuller information on the internal functioning and organization of the Phosphate industry. Noting that the information supplied on page 67 of the annual report ^{1/}consisted merely of a balance sheet, he asked whether there were any insurmountable technical difficulties which prevented the Administering Authority from supplying the information sought.

^{1/} Commonwealth of Australia. Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of Nauru 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/1374).

3. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said it was the Administering Authority's view that the information given in the report and in the balance sheet was adequate to enable the Trusteeship Council to determine whether or not the Administering Authority was carrying out its responsibility with respect to the Nauruan people. The Council had been told on previous occasions of the difficulties in the way of preparing a separate account for phosphate operations on Nauru. He pointed out that the British Phosphate Commissioners were responsible for the phosphate industry in Ocean and Christmas Islands. Purchase of shipping, supplies and many other costs were common to the activities as a whole of the Commissioners.

4. In reply to a further question by Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala), Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the conditions of recruitment, employment and training of workers by the British Phosphate Commissioners were explained in the chapter on labour in the annual report, and he had already made it clear that the Administration was training Nauruans and giving them every opportunity to qualify for skilled positions and even professional posts. He had also assured the Council that every qualified Nauruan would be given employment either by the Administration or by the British Phosphate Commissioners. It was not unusual for a special representative to be asked for information concerning the internal functioning of any particular business firm or industry in a Trust Territory; he could provide that information if necessary but did not see what purpose it would serve.

5. Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) asked whether the Administering Authority had considered the possibility of extending technical assistance to the Nauruans in developing a fishing industry and whether any investment budget had been drawn up to assist in organizing such an industry.

6. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that once the plans had been drawn up any technical assistance and funds required would be provided. It was his understanding that funds were about to be made available for the construction of a suitable harbour for fishing boats.

7. Mr. KESTLER (Guatemala) asked the special representative to comment on the effects of the change in the method of financing the Territory's budget introduced beginning with the year 1952-1953.

8. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the Administering Authority had carefully considered the Council's suggestions with regard to the new method of financing the budget (A/3595 and Corr.1, p. 202) and was still firmly of the opinion, as it stated on page 42 of the annual report, that the new method was an improvement and in no way led to the exercise of any influence by the British Phosphate Commissioners over Administration expenditure.

9. Mr. YANG (China) asked whether there were any active cases among the eighty-nine non-Nauruan tuber-

culosis patients in the Territory, whether any of them had contracted the disease after their arrival in the Territory and how many of the active cases, if any, had asked to be sent back to their own countries.

10. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that there was no way of ascertaining how many of the patients had contracted the disease after arrival in the Territory because no thorough examination for tuberculosis had ever been carried out prior to the regulations which had now come into force. He had no information with regard to the number of active cases or the number of patients who had returned to their own countries.

11. Mr. YANG (China) said that his delegation would like the special representative to provide that information at a later date. He asked whether tuberculosis patients, if they contracted the disease in the course of their employment, could claim compensation under the Workers' Compensation Ordinance which had come into force on 17 September 1956 and whether any workers had actually claimed compensation for injuries arising out of their employment since that date.

12. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that under the Ordinance any disability arising out of employment, whether caused by accident or sickness, would make the worker eligible for compensation. Three or four compensation claims had already been submitted and settled; he had no particulars on those cases but would be happy to arrange for details on claims submitted under the Ordinance to be included in the next annual report.

13. Mr. YANG (China) asked whether it would be possible to include in a future annual report the results of the nutrition survey being conducted in the Territory and any recommendations made in connexion with it.

14. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that he would transmit that request to the Administering Authority.

15. Mr. YANG (China) asked the special representative to comment on the suggestion made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in its observations (T/1379), that plans should be made now to increase the facilities available for secondary education by 1960-1961.

16. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the new secondary school recently completed in the Territory would provide adequate accommodation to meet the needs of the Nauruan people. It was true that at present the school provided secondary education only up to the intermediate standard but as soon as there were enough students to justify the additional staff and expenditure which would be required the schooling would be extended to the matriculation standard. In the meantime the Administration would continue to provide scholarships to enable Nauruans obtaining the intermediate certificate to continue their secondary education in Australia.

17. Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) asked whether it was the policy of the Administering Authority eventually to provide all secondary education for Nauruans in Nauru, whether the facilities at present available to Nauruans to go overseas for education above the intermediate level were equally available to the Gilbert and Ellice Islanders and the Chinese in the Territory,

and whether the decline in enrolment at the Administration Secondary School was attributable partly to the fact that some students were going to Australia for courses which were now available in Nauru.

18. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that it was the Administering Authority's policy eventually to provide full secondary facilities within the Territory; there was, however, nothing to prevent a Nauruan student from going to Australia as a private student should he so desire.

19. The scholarship system had been designed primarily for the Nauruan community; since the members of all the other racial groups were migrants to Nauru and did not remain there for long periods. Chinese families, for example, who came to Nauru usually brought only their younger children, who were allowed to remain in the Territory for a maximum of three years. For climatic and other reasons European children were usually sent to Australia for their secondary education. Thus, although he did not think that children of other races were formally excluded from the scholarship scheme, in practice the question had never arisen. He would, however, make inquiries on that point and fuller information on the scholarship system would be given in the next annual report.

20. It was true that a number of Nauruans were now studying in Australia as private students. In that connexion, he would point out that during the past year a change had been made in the conditions of the scholarships granted by the Administering Authority; it was now provided that in order to be eligible for a scholarship a Nauruan must have reached and passed the intermediate examination at the Secondary School in Nauru.

21. Mr. CASTON (United Kingdom) asked whether the shortage of housing on the island accounted for the small proportion of immigrant workers who brought their families with them.

22. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the shortage of suitable accommodation was the main reason why so few of the married immigrant workers had their families with them at present. The British Phosphate Commissioners had made efforts to obtain from the Nauruans more land on which to build accommodation for families. Housing built to accommodate the additional workers engaged in connexion with new installations would be made available for married employees when the new works were completed and the additional workers had returned to their own countries.

23. Mr. FELD (United States of America) asked what considerations had led the Nauru Local Government Council to refuse to agree to the financing of the scheme provided for in the Social Services Ordinance by means of a local tax.

24. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the attitude of the Local Government Council was based on its objection in principle to the idea that the Nauruan people should pay for the cost of the social services scheme.

25. Mr. FELD (United States of America) asked whether the Administering Authority intended to arrange for more Nauruan teachers to travel to Australia to observe teaching methods and techniques.

26. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that he knew of no such plans for the immediate future but was confident that in view of the success of the last visit plans would be made for similar tours by other Nauruan teachers.

27. U THANT (Burma) asked whether there was a written Nauruan script in existence.

28. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that, as far as he knew, the only case in which the Nauruan language had been reduced to writing was a dictionary prepared by the Roman Catholic Mission.

29. When Nauruan children first came to school they knew little English and Nauruan was used as a language of oral instruction. From the start, however, English was a major subject and after a few years it could be used as the medium of instruction. Both the Director of Education and the headmistress of the primary school had special qualifications in the teaching of English as a foreign language and they had produced textbooks which were eminently suitable for Nauruan children.

30. U THANT (Burma) observed that in that case the statement in the annual report that such literature as was available in Nauruan was mostly religious was misleading.

31. It was clear from the annual report that Chinese students were not admitted to European schools because of their deficiency in English. He asked whether Nauruan students were excluded on the same grounds or for racial reasons.

32. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) emphasized that there was no racial discrimination in the school system. Such racial nomenclature as was used in the report reflected the Administration's belief that for efficient teaching classes must as far as possible be culturally and linguistically homogeneous.

33. The kindergarten on Nauru was attended by children of all races. It had been hoped that the Nauruan children would acquire sufficient English at the kindergarten to reach a standard similar to European children by the primary stage. Unfortunately that was not the case and, in the best interests of all, the children went from kindergarten to the schools most suitable for their further advancement. The standard of teaching was the same in all the schools and the policy was that all the children should go to a single secondary school. The report incorrectly referred to the Nauruan secondary school; in fact it was the Administration Secondary School and it was open to students from every racial group.

34. U THANT (Burma) said that his country's experience under British rule had been that most of the Burmese students attending European schools, where the medium of instruction was purely English, had been able to catch up with European students in all subjects, including English. The Administering Authority might therefore do well to try to achieve a higher standard of integration in the schools in Nauru. He would like to hear whether the special representative considered that it was worth-while experimenting in the direction of integration in the European schools of Nauru.

35. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that he would bring the Burmese representative's remarks to the Australian Government's attention.

36. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked what legislation governed working conditions in the industry administered by the British Phosphate Commissioners.

37. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that labour employed on Nauru came under the provisions of the Chinese and Native Labour Ordinance, 1922-1953.

38. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether the Ordinance applied also to European workers. In addition, he would like to know who had drawn up the Ordinance, and what part the indigenous inhabitants and the workers in the phosphate industry had played in the drafting of it.

39. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the Ordinance applied to Chinese, Nauruans and Gilbert and Ellice Islanders only. European workers were employed under special agreements with the British Phosphate Commissioners or the Administering Authority.

40. The Chinese and Native Labour Ordinance had been drawn up by the Administrator under the powers conferred upon him. It was probable that it had been discussed with the Nauruan Workers' Organization but he doubted whether any consultation had been held with the representatives of the Chinese or Gilbert and Ellice Island workers. It should be noted that the Ordinance provided for conditions of employment but did not deal with wages, which were determined by agreement between workers and employers.

41. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the special representative to explain why there was such a difference in the position of workers, and why Chinese and indigenous inhabitants were governed by a special ordinance. He wondered what was the basis of that ordinance, whether it was an Australian law or something else.

42. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) thought it must have been assumed that the European workers were capable of entering into agreements with their employers, while Chinese and indigenous workers required special legislation to protect their interests. Employees of the Administration were governed by the provisions of the Public Service Ordinance and by supplementary agreements regulating terms of employment, periods of employment and pay, payment of passage and the like.

43. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he could not understand why the rights of non-European workers could not be protected on the same basis as those of the Europeans, who seemed to enjoy more favourable working conditions. He asked whether a single wage-scale for all ethnic groups had been introduced.

44. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that no such wage-scale had yet been drawn up. For both European and non-European workers, pay varied according to skill. Fully qualified and professional persons were paid at the same rate as in their own countries.

45. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Re-

public) asked why no action had been taken on the Council's recommendation of a year earlier, that a single pay scale should be introduced (A/3595 and Corr.1, p. 205).

46. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) drew attention to page 42 of the annual report. The question of a uniform pay scale was now being examined and he did not know why there had been a delay.

47. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether the survey which had been made in the Territory of the incidence of tuberculosis had revealed the reason for the constant increase in tubercular cases. He wondered whether the extraction of phosphates was responsible for it.

48. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that there had been no suggestion from the visiting specialists that the phosphates had anything to do with the disease. The most common cause for the spread of tuberculosis was contact and the failure of those affected to present themselves for examination. He was confident that the steps the Administering Authority was taking to improve public health and sanitation would eventually eliminate the disease.

49. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the incidence of tuberculosis depended largely on the living and working conditions of the population.

50. According to the report of the Administering Authority a fairly large number of indigenous inhabitants and of immigrants from other parts of the Pacific had been sentenced to terms of imprisonment or hard labour, while no Europeans had had any such sentence. He asked whether Europeans were subject to the same laws as indigenous inhabitants and whether indigenous inhabitants served on the courts in which Europeans were tried.

51. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the laws of the Territory applied to all persons equally, except for special ordinances such as the Nauruan Housing Ordinance, which dealt with a particular aspect of administration. Laws for the maintenance of order covered all sections of the community. The fact that no Europeans had been convicted during the year under review would seem to indicate that they had not contravened the law. All persons in the Territory, regardless of race, appeared before the same courts and there were two Nauruan magistrates.

52. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked how many Nauruans had completed a university education, how many were now receiving such education and how many had completed secondary school courses qualifying them for admission to a university.

53. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that no Nauruan so far had completed a university education. A number of students were attending a teachers' college and would obtain certificates as fully qualified teachers if they passed the examination. Two Nauruans were studying civil engineering, one was taking a course in electrical engineering and one in building construction. At Fiji, one Nauruan was studying dentistry and two were studying medicine, while three Nauruan girls were being trained as nurses.

54. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether the education to which the special representative had referred was of university type.

55. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the technical colleges to which he had referred were of a university standard, but on completion of their courses students obtained diplomas, not degrees, and their status was not equal to that of a graduate in the same subject. Nauruans were sent to such colleges because, not having matriculated, they were not eligible for admission to a university. When Nauruans matriculated they would have an opportunity of attending a university and taking a degree.

56. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether the Administering Authority was preparing any textbooks in the Nauruan vernacular or whether the religious missions were ahead in that matter.

57. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the Nauruan people had shown no desire to use or perpetuate the vernacular, for they realized that it was spoken by a very small community only, that it was unrelated to any other language spoken in the Pacific and that it was essential for their future that they should adopt a lingua franca, for which they had chosen English.

58. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he found it difficult to imagine that people would willingly renounce their own language.

59. He asked whether the fact that there were no European children in the mission schools was due to the curriculum of those schools or to any other reason.

60. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the curriculum of the mission schools was exactly the same as that of the Administration schools. He did not know why European parents chose to send their children to the latter.

61. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked why the number of students in the incomplete secondary school had been reduced from sixty-one in 1956 to fifty-one in 1957.

62. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) thought that the reason for the decline was well explained by UNESCO in the observations it had submitted to the Council (T/1379).

63. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that UNESCO attributed the decline to the low war-time birth-rate. The figures for primary and secondary school attendance showed, however, that only a small percentage of the pupils at primary schools were admitted to secondary education, which meant that there was a large reserve available for the secondary schools.

64. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) referred to page 37 of the annual report, in which the Administering Authority explained the decline by the low war-time birth-rate and the fact that students were proceeding to Australia.

65. Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had gathered from the annual report and the special representative's replies that it

was now the Administration's policy not to send children to Australia who could be instructed in the incomplete secondary school in the Territory. That did not seem to be consistent with the Administering Authority's statement that secondary school pupils were proceeding to Australia.

66. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that pupils who had obtained intermediate certificates were eligible to go to Australia and a number had done so. Others had reached the school-leaving age and had been given employment with either the Administration or the British Phosphate Commissioners. The number of those who had left school either to take up employment or to go to Australia had been greater than the intake from the primary schools.

67. Mr. KELLY (Australia) said that the Administering Authority was certainly not neglecting Nauruan education. The educational system of the island was based on that of the State of Victoria, where a pupil completed his course of secondary education either by taking the school-leaving certificate or the matriculation examination. Although the latter was required for admission to a university, there was in practice very little difference between the two examinations.

68. As the Council had already been told, Nauruans sent to Australia on Australian Government scholarships were allowed to sit for an intermediate or a school-leaving certificate examination as often as three times if necessary. The Administering Authority was making every effort to ensure that as many Nauruans as possible could qualify either for the school-leaving certificate or for matriculation.

69. It was true that no Nauruan had taken a university degree, but it might be relevant to point out that in the State of Victoria, for instance, ordinarily superior technical work was done at schools of mines and technical schools, not at a university.

70. Lastly, in discussing the question of university graduates, the Council should bear in mind the fact that the Nauruans constituted a small village community in the middle of the Pacific.

The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 4.55 p.m.

71. Mr. JEAN-LOUIS (Haiti) expressed surprise at the lack of proportion between the hospital accommodation available for the local population and that allotted to the Chinese and Gilbert and Ellice Island employees, who, according to the working paper on conditions in the Territory (T/L.849), had a hospital of 140 beds as opposed to the twenty-nine beds in the Administration General Hospital.

72. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the figure of twenty-nine beds applied only to the main section of the General Hospital. Altogether the hospital maintained a total of sixty-three beds, which was considered adequate to meet the needs of the Nauruan population and the employees of the Administration. The British Phosphate Commissioners maintained a total of 140 beds in order to provide for their employees, who numbered approximately 2,000.

73. Mr. JEAN-LOUIS (Haiti) noted that six Nauruans had had to be sent to Australia for surgery. He asked why the Administration could not maintain a specialized service in the Territory to avoid the inconveniences of transport.

74. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) explained that the patients in question had been sent to Australia for thoracic surgery, which was not available on the island, and that the costs of their transport and expenses in Australia had been met by the Administration.

75. Mr. OSMAN (United Arab Republic) observed that both the annual report and the observations submitted by UNESCO had emphasized the importance of effective planning for the resettlement of the Nauruans. He asked whether the present system of education took into account the need to adapt the local population to its future life.

76. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the educational system, particularly during the last four years, had been designed to meet the needs of the Nauruan people if they had to be resettled. There was an Education Advisory Committee acting as a liaison between the Nauru Local Government Council and the Education Department; its members included senior European and Nauruan teachers and three representatives of the Council. During the year under review it had held seven meetings, at which particular attention had been given to the future needs of the people, and the progress of Nauruan students had been studied with a view to improving the higher education policy.

GENERAL DEBATE

77. Mr. MITRA (India) said that it was difficult to consider the problems of Nauru in the same way as those of other Trust Territories, owing to the small area involved and the small number of indigenous inhabitants, as also to the fact that under the Trusteeship Agreement there was a joint Administering Authority, composed of three Governments, which also controlled the private organization responsible for the utilization of the major natural resource of the Territory. Since the phosphate deposits which constituted that main resource would probably be exhausted in forty years, the Nauruans would no longer be able to subsist on the island. Having had an opportunity to observe the consequences of uprooting an entire people, the Indian Government paid particular attention to the question of resettlement.

78. Since in such an uncertain situation it was difficult to speak in terms of political advancement and the attainment of self-government, the Indian delegation had repeatedly asked the Administering Authority to provide full information on the steps being taken for the resettlement of the Nauruan population. It was with some regret that it noted from page 41 of the annual report that the Administering Authority merely took note of the Council's recommendation and would report its proposals as soon as possible. The special representative had informed the Council that the Administering Authority was intensifying its efforts but he had not given any specific information on the nature of the measures taken. The special representative had pointed to the major difficulties besetting the problem, including a certain lethargy on the part of the local organizations which dealt with the practical problems of administration; such an attitude was understandable in a population with such a feeling of insecurity. On the other hand, since the Administering Authority felt that the Nauruans were not at a sufficiently advanced stage of development to

be able to take decisions about their affairs, it was the duty of the Administering Authority to make concrete proposals and inform the Council of them. He would therefore suggest that in future the report should give full information concerning places visited, consultations carried out with the Nauruan people and tentative plans for their resettlement. The Administering Authority might also launch a campaign to make the Nauruans aware of the need to consider their problems with some urgency and to save considerable funds to help them in their future rehabilitation.

79. In order to set up a community or communities capable of existing at the present economic level, large financial resources would be needed. The Administering Authority had previously assured the Council that it would bear the expenses of resettlement and that additional resources would be available from the Nauruan Community Long-Term Investment Fund. As a practical measure, the sum of 1s.7 1/2d. per ton, which was being paid to refund certain advances and would soon cease to be incorporated in the price of phosphates, might be used to increase the Fund instead of the levy of a royalty of 5d. per ton, especially as the special representative had confirmed that only 19 per cent of the price of phosphates was being paid in one form or another to the Nauruan people. The special representative had stated that the industry administered by the British Phosphate Commissioners was a non-profit-making organization: that might be assumed to mean that the price of phosphates was fixed in accordance with the amount spent on administration and other costs. The phosphates were not, however, used by the Nauruans but by persons foreign to the Territory. In view of the fact that the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand were jointly the Administering Authority and that the British Phosphate Commissioners constituted an organization established by those three Governments, who were known to have the welfare of the people of the Trust Territory at heart, the Administering Authority should have little difficulty in convincing that organization that it was essential to invest a larger sum on the future of the Nauruan people. It would naturally mean increasing to some extent the price of phosphates available to farmers in Australia and New Zealand but the future of the people of the Trust Territory was surely of considerable interest.

80. The Administering Authority might therefore consider providing more detailed information concerning the negotiations in progress between the Nauruan people and the British Phosphate Commissioners concerning an increase in the royalty rates. In view of the fact that landowners were urging an increase in the royalty rates for direct payments, the Administering Authority should also make it clear to the Nauruans that in forty years' time they would have to depend partly on what they were earning at present.

81. Another matter for concern was the fact that, notwithstanding suggestions by the Council concerning the financing of the Territory's budget, the Administering Authority had been unable to change the system whereby the British Phosphate Commissioners virtually paid the costs of administration. Assurances by the Administering Authority that the Commissioners would not control the budget had not sufficed to remove the Council's recommendation. The system was declared to be better suited than the previous system,

although the Indian delegation had suggested that the Territorial revenue could be raised by a tax on the export of phosphates and by a share in the profits from their sales. It was difficult to see why an unknown method of financing a Territory's budget should be considered more practical than the well-tryed method of taxation. With such a small colony, it should not be difficult to calculate the exact amount of tax necessary. If there were a surplus or even a deficit, the Australian Government could undoubtedly cover the deficit until the next year or keep the surplus for a future deficit.

82. It was a matter for regret that the Nauruan people did not yet participate directly in the administration of the phosphate industry. While it might be true that they had not yet reached the standard of education or administrative ability required, some system of consultation might none the less be worked out between the local Council and the British Phosphate Commissioners. The special representative had stated that it was not normal for a special representative to be questioned about the workings of a specific business organization in a Territory. As had been pointed out, however, the organization in question was composed of the very Governments which constituted the Administering Authority under the Charter. Under Article 76 b of the Charter it was absolutely incumbent on the Administering Authority to promote the economic advancement of the people of the Trust Territory and to utilize the natural resources of that Territory exclusively for the well-being of its inhabitants.

83. The foregoing observations had been made in a constructive spirit and in the belief that the Administering Authority would agree with the views expressed and accept some of the suggestions.

84. As far as the actual administration of the Territory was concerned the Government of Australia was to be commended for the able and conscientious manner in which it had discharged its responsibilities. The high expenditure on social services was especially encouraging and considerable efforts were being made in the field of education. In the social field, however, discriminatory work and wage scales based on racial differences should be abolished. The Administering Authority might convince the British Phosphate Commissioners to agree to end such discrimination, which was contrary to the spirit and letter of the Charter. With regard to land tenure, it was disquieting to note that 10 per cent of the land available for cultivation in the Territory was being used for an airstrip. The Administering Authority might give some information on whether it would be possible to use some other land for the purpose.

85. The Indian delegation would urge that more work should be given to the Local Government Council, which should be consulted on all problems relating to resettlement and the economic welfare of the population, and that the details of such consultation should be included in the report. In the higher administrative posts there was still a remarkable dearth of Nauruans and it was hoped that the Administering Authority would increase indigenous participation in the administration of the Territory.

86. Mr. PRESTON (United States of America) said that the main problem facing the Administering Au-

thority was the future of the Nauruan community. He was therefore glad to learn that the Administering Authority was continuing its efforts to find a suitable place for the eventual resettlement of the Nauruans. He noted with satisfaction that the Administering Authority was in continuous consultation with the Nauru Local Government Council on the subject. He hoped that the Administering Authority would keep the Trusteeship Council informed of developments and would perhaps include in its annual report a review of the progress so far achieved towards the solution of the problem.

87. The Nauru Local Government Council was showing rather limited initiative in exercising the authority granted to it. He urged the Administering Authority to continue to encourage that Council to use the powers at its disposal; it might consider other ways of convincing the councillors of the importance of their exercising greater responsibility.

88. He welcomed the entry into force of the new Judiciary Ordinance. The separation of the executive from the judiciary was an encouraging step forward in the Territory's political development.

89. The Administering Authority was to be commended for the large number of Nauruan personnel employed by the Administration and for its excellent training scheme for Nauruan civil servants.

90. It was also to be commended for having so diligently pursued the search for a permanent supply of water for irrigation purposes, even though its efforts had not been successful.

91. The opening of the new Administration General Hospital with the most advanced medical facilities was encouraging news, as was the completion of the extensive anti-tuberculosis survey. It was to be hoped that as a result of the survey tuberculosis would soon be eradicated in the Territory.

92. He noted with satisfaction that during the year under review eight Nauruan primary teachers had been to Australia to observe education practices and techniques and he hoped that other Nauruan teachers would be given a similar opportunity. No Nauruan was at present studying at the university level and his delegation endorsed UNESCO's recommendation that the Administering Authority should continue its efforts to enable Nauruan students to undertake full university-level courses. The Administering Authority should also be encouraged to consider the establishment of an institution of higher learning in the Trust Territory in the near future.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.