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President: Mr. Max H. DORSINVILLE (Haiti).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Belgium, Burma, China, France, Haiti, India, Italy, New Zealand, Paraguay, 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; World Health Organization.

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Western Samoa (continued):

- (i) Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year 1958 (T/1450, T/1455, T/L.908);
- (ii) Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of Western Samoa, 1959 (T/1449)

[Agenda items 3(g) and 5]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Lall, Chairman of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of Western Samoa, 1959, and Mr. Powles, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Western Samoa, took places at the Council table.

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

Political advancement (concluded)

1. Mr. JEAN-LOUIS (Haiti), referring to the statement, in paragraph 167 of the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of Western Samoa, 1959, that some hesitation and some outright opposition to immediate self-government had been expressed in Western Samoa, asked what the position of the Administering Authority would be if the majority of votes in the plebiscite were against immediate self-government.

2. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied that the relations between New Zealand and Western Samoa would continue to be governed by the wishes of the Samoan people, as they had been in the past.

3. Mr. JEAN-LOUIS (Haiti) noted that the system of matai suffrage was apparently to be maintained in the Territory. The Visiting Mission had felt that it would be wrong to oppose the wishes of the people, but it had suggested that there should be a secret ballot in the matai constituencies in which there were several candidates. He wondered whether the Administering Authority was contemplating any revision of the regulations governing the matai system.

4. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that the Visiting Mission had expressed its views to the Samoan representatives and had received assurances that the matter would be given very careful consideration.

5. Mr. JEAN-LOUIS (Haiti) pointed out that in the first foot-note to paragraph 33 of its report the Visiting Mission stated that the land owned by the Government of New Zealand consisted at present only of the land occupied by the airfield and the observatory. In paragraph 80, however, the Visiting Mission noted that many people feared that after the attainment of self-government they might not continue to enjoy security of tenure over land which they held as freehold or under leases from the Government or the Western Samoa Trust Estates Corporation. He would therefore like to know the current policy with respect to Crown lands, the extent of those lands and the conditions of tenure.

6. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that there were two kinds of Crown land in Western Samoa: Crown land owned by the Government of New Zealand and Crown land owned by the Government of Western Samoa. Crown land owned by the Government of New Zealand consisted only of the airport and the observatory, and the future of those two installations was being discussed in the Working Committee on self-government with a view to ascertaining what would be the attitude of the Samoan people to them after independence. The Government of Western Samoa, on the other hand, owned many thousands of acres, which it had acquired in various ways in the past, mainly by purchase from estates, by proclamation and so on. Most of it was held as an undeveloped reserve for the future. Certain blocks consisting of several hundred acres had in the past few years been cut up and offered for lease to applicants, but the bulk of it was still held by the Western Samoan Government.

7. Mr. KOCIANCICH (Italy), referring to paragraph 47 of the Visiting Mission's report, asked whether the Western Samoan leaders realized the need for some arrangement which would apply should the two joint heads of State ever be in disagreement.

8. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative), said that in view of the present excellent relations no need was

felt for any such arrangement, but it was obvious that something would have to be worked out at a later stage.

9. In reply to a further question from Mr. KOCIANCICH (Italy), Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that he was not aware of any new development in Samoan thinking regarding the elimination of racial distinction in the electoral system of Western Samoa.

10. Mr. KOCIANCICH (Italy), referring to paragraph 106 of the Visiting Mission's report, asked for further information about the District and Village Government Board and the nine local bodies which had been set up on its recommendation.

11. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that the nine local bodies had been set up under the provisions of the District and Village Government Board Ordinance passed by the Legislative Assembly in 1953. They were intended to act as local government authorities for the particular areas they covered, but owing to a number of difficulties they had not functioned effectively. One difficulty was that the majority of local authorities covered an area comprising only one or possibly two villages. The authorities in Western Samoa had always felt that larger areas were required if local government was to function effectively.

12. It should be remembered that for all practical purposes the Samoan traditional method of local government was perfectly satisfactory; its drawback was that it was a static system and did not therefore provide a good basis for economic development. Further difficulties were caused by the lack of funds and of trained and adequate personnel.

13. Mr. KELLY (Australia) stated that the copious documentation placed before the Council by the Administering Authority and the Visiting Mission, together with the lucid and comprehensive statements of the New Zealand representative and the special representative, made it unnecessary for the Australian delegation to put any questions on political development.

Economic advancement

14. Mr. KOCIANCICH (Italy), referring to paragraph 112 of the Visiting Mission's report, asked whether the statement that the New Zealand Government intended to continue to accept shipments of bananas from Western Samoa could be regarded as a formal pledge.

15. Mr. McINTOSH (New Zealand) said that it should be regarded as an intention rather than a definite pledge.

16. Mr. KOCIANCICH (Italy) asked whether, in the view of the special representative, more bananas from Western Samoa might find access to the New Zealand market if the price were lower than that of the Fiji and Tonga produce.

17. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) explained that, although shipping costs from Western Samoa were higher, under the marketing scheme all bananas were sold in New Zealand at a standard price, whether they came from Samoa, Fiji or Tonga.

18. Mr. KOCIANCICH (Italy) drew attention to the statement on page 48 of the annual report of the Admin-

istering Authority^{1/} that no funds from the Copra Board had been used during the current year. He would like some elucidation on that subject, for according to the Visiting Mission's report price fluctuations had been so severe as to have an adverse effect on the growing of copra.

19. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that one reason for not drawing on the Copra Stabilization Reserve Fund was that there had not been any long-continued period of depressed prices. Early in 1958 the Copra Board had been prepared to increase the local price but there had been an increase in the overseas price which had made it unnecessary to touch the Fund.

20. Mr. KOCIANCICH (Italy) asked what measures had been applied in Western Samoa to combat the rhinoceros beetle and if there had been any improvement in the situation recently.

21. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that it had been found that the most effective method was to carry out intensive measures of plantation hygiene, such as clearing all areas of dead wood and undergrowth and treating the young trees. That method was being widely used in the Territory, particularly in the Apia area, and considerable success had been achieved. Intensive research was also being carried out under the auspices of the South Pacific Commission to ascertain whether anything could be done to diminish the incidence of the beetle. So far, however, no real results had been achieved in that direction.

22. Mr. KOCIANCICH (Italy), referring to the memorandum of the New Zealand Government on the political future of the Territory in annex II of the Visiting Mission's report to the effect that the authors of the Financial and Banking Survey of 1957^{2/} had mentioned the possibility of the development of tourism in Western Samoa, asked what were the views of the Administering Authority in that respect.

23. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that the Administering Authority felt that was a matter for the Western Samoan Government to decide. The present attitude in Western Samoa was not in favour of developing tourism as an industry.

24. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it seemed from the statement of the representative of New Zealand (968th meeting) that Western Samoa would achieve independence in August 1961. He asked what steps the Administering Authority was taking to ensure the economic and financial future of the independent Samoan State.

25. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that one very important step had already been taken in the transfer to the Samoan people of a large body of estates formerly known as the New Zealand Reparation Estates and now renamed Western Samoa Trust Estates Corporation.

26. The question of further assistance was still under consideration. The financial position of the Western

^{1/} Report by the New Zealand Government to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of Western Samoa for the Calendar Year 1958 (Wellington, R. E. Owen, Government Printer, 1959). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1450).

^{2/} Wellington, R. E. Owen, Government Printer, 1957.

Samoan Government was extremely sound: there was a substantial surplus and no debt.

27. Western Samoa was, however, an under-developed territory and, like other under-developed territories, would continue to require assistance from outside after the attainment of independence. Methods of assistance had been suggested by the Visiting Mission and by the New Zealand representative in his opening statement (967th meeting). All those suggestions would be taken into consideration by the Administering Authority in the same spirit as it had shown towards Western Samoa in the past.

28. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether the ordinance of 4 February 1959 establishing the Bank of Western Samoa would be maintained in its current form or whether there would be a new Act to provide for a Bank for the independent State.

29. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that the Bank had been established by an Act of the Legislature in Western Samoa as a completely Samoan-controlled institution, in the sense that its organic law was a product of the Samoan Legislature and could be altered at any time. The ordinance would therefore last as long as the Samoans wished it to last.

30. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the fact that the ordinance setting up the Bank would remain in force after Western Samoa had attained independence caused his delegation the greatest misgivings. Article 16 of the ordinance provided for a directorate of five for the Bank, two to be appointed by the Government of Western Samoa and three by the Bank of New Zealand. Decisions would be taken by simple majority vote and only Directors appointed by the Bank of New Zealand would be allowed a casting vote. It was therefore evident that the Bank of New Zealand would have complete control. In those circumstances, the finances of the Territory would not be the finances of an independent State.

31. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that while it was perfectly true that the Bank of New Zealand had a controlling share in the Bank of Western Samoa, the arrangement was not necessarily permanent. The ordinance had been freely accepted by the Western Samoan Government, which had realized the advantage of having some close tie with a banking institution outside its own small territory. The arrangement provided that the Bank of Western Samoa could call upon the Bank of New Zealand for all services throughout the world. As he had said, the Samoan legislature would be free to change the ordinance after independence.

32. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that the Administering Authority should have taken the initiative in proposing to the Samoans that they should have an independent bank which would have some working agreement with the Bank of New Zealand. The Bank of Western Samoa should be controlled by the Samoans themselves. Clearly, Western Samoa would need some assistance but its bank should be established as an independent body.

33. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that the current arrangement had been evolved after six or seven years of discussion and after very mature consideration in the Western Samoan Legislature. From a

practical point of view the course chosen was undoubtedly the most advantageous.

34. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had not wished to give the impression that his delegation favoured an entirely isolated Bank of Western Samoa with no connexions with the outside world. Quite naturally relationships and ties were essential to the existence of any bank. The important point was the nature of those ties and whether they were on a basis of equality and co-operation or of control from outside.

35. He noted from the budget for 1959^{3/} in the folder supplied by the Administering Authority to members of the Council that in 1958 estimated grants from the New Zealand Government to Western Samoa had been £81,600, while the actual sum granted had amounted to £61,060. For 1959 the estimate was £53,950. He would like some explanation of that decrease.

36. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that the table referred to did not reflect the actual position, because the financial year of the Western Samoan Government was the calendar year whereas the financial year of the New Zealand Government ran from April of one year to March of the next. The major respect in which there had been reduction in the grant from New Zealand had been in the figure of £20,000 for Agricultural, Land and Survey Development. The New Zealand Government had offered the Western Samoan Government £20,000 for that purpose for the year 1958. Only £14,200 had been spent during the nine months of 1958 which were applicable to the New Zealand fiscal year, the balance would have been spent during the first three months of 1959. The estimates for 1959 gave no figure for Agricultural, Land and Survey Development, the reason being that although the New Zealand Government had offered a grant for that purpose the Western Samoan Government had decided that it was in a position to provide the necessary finance from its own resources.

37. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the actual position was far worse than it seemed for according to what the special representative had just said the estimate of £53,950 for 1959 would include the unexpended portion of the sum granted from the previous year.

38. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that a further factor accounting for the reductions in the estimates for 1959 was that there had been a fall in expenditure on scholarships. Under a new arrangement a certain proportion of that expenditure was being borne directly by the New Zealand Government and did not go through the Western Samoan budget at all.

39. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to paragraph 118 of the Visiting Mission's report, asked who would receive the vacant Government land referred to and what the ownership position would be.

40. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that he thought the figure of 18,000 acres given in the report was an error. That figure represented approximately the total area of Government land which could be made

^{3/} Estimates of Receipts and Payments of the Government of Western Samoa for the Year ending 31 December 1959, Sessional Paper 1959—No. 15 (Apia, V. W. Wilson, Government Printer).

available for settlement. The five areas contemplated for development were, however, very much smaller than that.

41. The general plan for the settlement of the areas concerned was set out in the Western Samoa Development Plan passed by the Legislative Assembly. The principle was that areas would be subdivided into sections sufficient for a single family to occupy and cultivate for the necessary crops. The various sections would be offered for lease by tender. The tenure system would in general be on the basis of a twenty-year lease with the right of renewal for another twenty years. Rental would be only for the land, not for the improvements. The intention was that tenure should in most cases be on an individual basis. There would, however, be cases where rural villages or sections of a village might be established on parts of the land. In those cases consideration would be given to modification of the traditional Samoan system of land tenure to adapt it to the problem of establishing a village.

42. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) asked whether in the opinion of the Administering Authority the economy of the Territory was likely to be viable in the foreseeable future.

43. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that that question had been causing the Administering Authority concern for a long time. A special mission had been sent to Western Samoa in 1957 and had produced the report Financial and Banking Survey, copies of which had been circulated to the Trusteeship Council during the twenty-second session. That report made it clear that the situation in Samoa was reasonably sound provided certain measures of development were undertaken. The question of whether those measures would be undertaken was for the Samoan people themselves to decide; it had not been easy to persuade them to be as bold and imaginative in the economic field as they had been in the political field. The Territory would undoubtedly need outside assistance for a considerable time to come.

44. Mr. RASGOTRA (India), drawing attention to paragraph 110 of the Visiting Mission's report, which stressed the need to expand and wherever possible to diversify the economy, asked what measures in that direction were contemplated by the Samoans or by the Administering Authority.

45. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) observed that one way of diversifying the economy was to increase the number of primary products which were exported. In that respect the progress made in Western Samoa had been marked. Fifty years previously Western Samoa had relied entirely on exports of copra; then, entirely owing to the initiative of the Administering Authority, the banana industry had been founded; later cocoa production had been extended and now coffee was being grown in the Territory. The cultivation of other tropical crops, such as pepper, was being considered and developed in the experimental station of the Department of Agriculture.

46. The other way in which an economy could be diversified was by the development of some sort of secondary industry. There was not much secondary industry in Western Samoa and he did not think there ever would be, since the Territory was a long way from markets and did not provide a sufficient volume of production to make secondary industries economic.

47. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) pointed out that the Visiting Mission had emphasized the need to develop secondary industry and that there was a chapter devoted to the subject in the Western Samoa Development Plan. He felt that there were fields in which secondary industry could be developed. He wondered, for instance, whether the cases in which bananas were exported could not be manufactured in the Territory.

48. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that that question had been considered and some Samoan-made cases were used, but unfortunately cases made from Samoan timber, though serviceable, rapidly went black and purchasers preferred bananas in a clean-looking white case.

49. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) asked whether any experiments had been made with a view to finding a kind of tree which would grow well in the Territory and would furnish the timber required for the manufacture of banana cases.

50. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that certain types of trees had been planted as an experiment. Such a project, if successful, would no doubt help the Territory considerably in the years to come.

51. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) asked, in connexion with the question put by the USSR representative concerning the Bank of Western Samoa, whether at any future time it would be possible for the Government of Western Samoa to purchase the shares now owned by the Bank of New Zealand.

52. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied that that would be possible.

53. Mr. RASGOTRA (India), referring to the paragraph headed "Capital Goods" on page 44 of the annual report of the Administering Authority, asked if there was any special reason why no requests had been made for financial or technical assistance from international agencies, in view of the fact that it was clear from the report that development in certain fields had had to be suspended.

54. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied that the assistance given by international organs such as the specialized agencies was not as a rule of the type needed by the Western Samoan Government. The whole question of technical assistance was, however, under careful study at the present time.

55. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) was glad to note that considerable progress had been made in connexion with co-operatives. Unfortunately the only co-operatives officer had now left the service of the Territorial Government; he would like to know whether there was any qualified person in the Territory who could take over the post and, if not, how the Administering Authority intended to fill the vacancy.

56. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) agreed that the situation was unfortunate. The co-operatives officer's resignation had been quite unexpected. There had been a trained Samoan ready to take over the post but he had decided to go into politics and had been elected to the Legislative Assembly. The third man in the organization was carrying on for the time being and it was hoped that a suitable candidate would be found before long.

57. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) asked where the real difficulties lay in connexion with land reform and

what the solution was. It occurred to him that the system of land reform in Western Samoa was hardly likely to lend itself to co-operative farming on a large scale. He wondered whether the problem might be solved by the mechanization of agriculture in the Territory and whether any thought was being given to that possibility.

58. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that mechanization had certain limited advantages in Samoa and was being rapidly developed. The country was stony and hilly and did not lend itself to mechanization on a large scale. There had, however, been a substantial growth in the use of small types of mechanized equipment in recent years.

59. Mr. MONTERO de VARGAS (Paraguay) recalled that at the previous meeting the special representative had mentioned the road construction programme designed to facilitate transport and to give farmers an incentive to increase production. His delegation would like to know if there was any financial assistance programme to help farmers to increase production.

60. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that there was for the moment no programme under which financial assistance could be given to farmers or planters. No satisfactory system had yet been devised whereby security could be given for a loan in a way that would satisfy commercial organizations. It was to be hoped, however, that some special system might be developed in Western Samoa which would permit loans to be made in certain circumstances by a development branch of the new bank.

61. Mr. MONTERO de VARGAS (Paraguay) said that at the previous meeting the special representative had mentioned a scheme to increase livestock breeding. If it was true that the land in Western Samoa was not suitable for any great increase in livestock, he wondered whether some programme was necessary to prevent any increase in livestock from affecting adversely the general economy of Samoa and whether the cattle were of sufficiently high quality to be used for export.

62. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that although Samoan cattle were not of sufficiently high quality to be exported as beef cattle, local demand for meat was such that cattle production could be increased substantially without any difficulty. There was also the possibility of establishing export markets for such items as hides.

63. Mr. MONTERO de VARGAS (Paraguay) referred to efforts to resettle farmers in certain areas and to difficulties that had been encountered with regard to so-called municipal lands. He asked if it would not be possible for the Administering Authority to take action to ensure that the situation with regard to those lands was more closely in line with the needs of rational land development.

64. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that the question of land tenure was under active consideration. The Land Use Committee, a representative Samoan committee, had been considering it for some time past. A usehold system of land tenure was in preparation and it remained to be seen whether it could be applied in some suitable districts.

65. The difficulty of inducing Samoans to move from one area to another was a problem which only time

could solve. The Samoan farmer was very attached to the soil on which his family had lived for hundreds of generations and was sometimes deliberately blind to the fact that it had become inadequate to meet his needs.

66. He went on to reply to two questions the representative of Burma had asked at the previous meeting. Firstly, the number of Samoans employed in senior positions in the Government was ten in 1959 and had been seven in 1958. Secondly the value of the banana case timber imported from New Zealand had amounted to £66,000 in 1957 and to £140,000 in 1958.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.15 p.m.

Social and educational advancement

67. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) said that his delegation found it disquieting that the already inadequate number of health personnel in the Territory had had to be reduced owing to lack of funds. The result might well have been that the skill of the medical personnel had not been fully utilized and that the Territory's already deficient health services had suffered a setback. He would be glad if the special representative would comment on the consequences of the financial retrenchment and on the steps taken to counteract them.

68. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that the effects of that retrenchment should not be exaggerated. Personnel had only been slightly reduced and, with one exception, the services carried out by the Health Department had been maintained at their full vigour and even increased. The World Health Organization (WHO) had referred in its observations (T/1455) to the reduced number of tuberculosis patients under care and to the lower numbers of confinements in district hospitals. In fact, as the table on pages 146 and 147 of the annual report showed, those were the only two cases in which the figures showed a decrease; elsewhere, there had been a steady increase in the amount of treatment given and work done. The only reduction of any moment had been in connexion with public health, where activities during 1958 had been largely confined to the neighbourhood of Apia itself. In his opinion, however, that was a situation which would shortly be remedied.

69. The World Health Organization had observed that the situation with regard to fully-equipped medical officers threatened to become even more serious in 1959 since fully-qualified Samoan medical officers were not yet available in sufficient numbers to take the places of those who left. The intention was, however, to maintain the number of fully-qualified medical staff with qualified doctors from overseas until such time as fully-qualified Samoan doctors were available. He felt that WHO had paid insufficient attention to the valuable part played by the forty-three Samoan medical practitioners who were graduates of the Suva Medical School. In very many respects, they were nearly equivalent to fully-qualified doctors.

70. Nevertheless, the Western Samoan Government and the Administering Authority welcomed WHO's observations; in particular, they would be very glad to pursue the subject of the provision of fellowships, to which WHO had referred.

71. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked the special representative whether it was intended to launch a compre-

hensive development plan, as recommended by WHO, during the current year.

72. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied in the negative.

73. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) said that, according to paragraph 129 of the Visiting Mission's report, six schools had been amalgamated and three had been closed; there had been a reduction of 3,021 in the number of pupils compared with 1957. He asked the special representative whether other posts had been found for the redundant teachers and how many pupils had been obliged to discontinue their studies as a result of the amalgamation or closing of the schools.

74. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that about 100 teachers had lost their posts. Some of them had been re-engaged later; no cases of hardship had been brought to light among the others, most of whom had returned home to cultivate their family lands. He did not think that any children had had to discontinue their studies because of the closing of the schools. The reduction in the number of pupils arose largely from an attempt to enforce the school-entry age of six years instead of five years.

75. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) said that he understood that tuition was free in the primary schools, while the fees charged at the main Government schools and colleges were negligible compared to those at mission schools. Yet the Visiting Mission had reported that more than one-third of the primary pupils and two-thirds of the post-primary pupils attended mission schools. He would ask the special representative to comment on that peculiar state of affairs.

76. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied that the major church organizations in Western Samoa had always possessed schools. In recent years the improvement in the Territory's economic situation, in the standard of living and in the Government's own educational system had led to increased efforts on the part of the missions. They had embarked on a substantial programme of building schools and in many cases had obtained qualified teachers from overseas. The result had been that there were proportionately more pupils attending mission schools than in previous years.

77. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked the Special Representative to comment on the statement in paragraph 135 of the Visiting Mission's report that, if the report submitted by Dr. C. E. Beeby, ^{4/} Director of Education, had been implemented, the situation would have been greatly improved.

78. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) agreed that that observation was substantially true. It had, however, to be remembered that Dr. Beeby had merely been asked to report on what should be done to develop the educational system, without reference to financial considerations. Generally speaking, it had been for reasons of finance that it had not proved possible to give full effect to Dr. Beeby's recommendations.

79. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked for particulars of the numbers of fully-qualified expatriate personnel employed in the medical and health service. He

wondered whether any plans had been made to replace those who would shortly be leaving the Territory.

80. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied that a list of such personnel appeared on page 145 of the annual report of the Administering Authority. It was intended to maintain fully-qualified personnel at the necessary strength by using the system of contract engagements which had been accepted as a proper system for use by the Western Samoan Government after independence. Active steps were contemplated for stepping up the training programme in all branches and it was hoped that substantial assistance would be given by WHO through the provision of fellowships.

81. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) asked why the building of dormitories for pupils attending Samoa College—which, as he recalled, should have begun in 1956 or 1957—had been delayed.

82. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that the delay had been due mainly to financial reasons.

83. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) recalled that, in paragraph 149 of its report, the Visiting Mission had enumerated four steps which might be financed by the New Zealand Government, at least during the next few years. He asked whether the Administering Authority had any comments to make on those suggestions.

84. Mr. McINTOSH (New Zealand) replied that his Government had asked the New Zealand Director of Education and the Western Samoan Director of Education to prepare a report on these and other suggestions, together with estimates of costs. It had not been anticipated in the 1930's that the movement towards self-government would be so rapid and it was only since 1948 that primary education had been so developed that further consideration could be given to secondary schools. Recent financial stringency had caused a further setback but he hoped that, once the report from the two Directors of Education had been received, his Government would be able to state exactly what assistance it could give in hastening the process of education during the transitional period.

85. Mr. GERIG (United States of America) asked why it was that the number of primary pupils in schools in 1957, 1958 and 1959 had been less than in 1956.

86. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) explained that when the schools had first been opened they had been attended by pupils of all ages from four to twenty and even older. The results had been so unsatisfactory that efforts had been made from 1956 onwards first to reduce the number of over-age pupils and later the number of under-age pupils. The Administration was trying to limit the primary school population to the recognized age limits of six to fourteen.

87. Mr. GERIG (United States of America) asked whether consideration had been given to the suggestion in paragraph 147 of the Visiting Mission's report that an advisory committee on education should be established to advise the Western Samoan Government on all matters connected with education.

88. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied that the matter had been given close attention. A meeting of representatives of mission and Government schools had been called early in the year to discuss the question, certain preliminary arrangements had

^{4/} Report on Education in Western Samoa (Wellington, R. E. Owen, Government Printer, 1954).

been made and a further meeting had been held in May to discuss the actual composition of the advisory committee. The committee would undoubtedly be formed, though when had not yet been settled.

89. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that his delegation was conscious of the financial and other difficulties which had hindered the spread of education in the Territory.

90. In 1954 Dr. Beeby had recommended the introduction within ten years of compulsory education between the ages of seven and thirteen. He asked the special representative whether the Government of Western Samoa or the Administering Authority were proposing to issue a statement of policy on the introduction of compulsory education; whether any provision to that effect would be made in the basic law or in the constitution; and whether any financial provisions for it had been made in the three-year plan for the development of the Territory.

91. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that a statement on the lines referred to by the Indian representative had been made some years previously by the Government. Moreover, the Legislative Assembly had passed a resolution accepting that part of Dr. Beeby's report and the policy had been to work towards the eventual establishment of compulsory education throughout the Territory. It would be enforced in particular districts as and when school facilities became sufficient. The three-year development plan had deliberately omitted any reference to education, which would be considered at a later date.

92. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) asked whether conditions in any particular district would make it possible to introduce free and compulsory primary education on an experimental basis within the next two years.

93. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that there were some districts in which the facilities very nearly approached requirements. He felt that compulsory primary education would be enforced in at least some districts within a few years.

94. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) asked whether the Administering Authority intended to carry out the Visiting Mission's recommendation that mission schools should be brought under government control and, if so, what measures they proposed to adopt.

95. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that he felt sure that very early consideration would be given to that matter. The Administration had always felt it desirable that the mission schools should be inspected and it was known that such inspection would in fact be welcomed by the schools themselves. Qualified inspectors would, however, be needed and hitherto financial considerations had prevented their engagement.

96. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) observed that about 80 per cent of the children of school age were enrolled at schools. In paragraph 129 of its report, the Visiting Mission had noted the wide-spread interest in education and the keen desire for more schools among the population. He therefore found it difficult to understand why the Legislative Assembly should have had misgivings about appropriating money to pay for the Western Samoan Government's share in the maintenance of the Agricultural College at Avele. He asked what the reasons were for such apathy towards an

agricultural college in a Territory where the economy was predominantly agricultural.

97. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that it was probably true to say that agricultural education, as such, did not arouse great enthusiasm among the Samoans. There was a community which for many hundreds of years had lived on the land, and, generally speaking, the Samoans felt that they did not need to be taught anything about agricultural methods. As in many other countries, the prevailing attitude was that the purpose of education was to lead to a white-collar position, but he thought that that attitude would gradually change.

98. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) asked the special representative whether it was proposed, in accordance with the suggestion made by the Visiting Mission, to raise Samoa College to university standards.

99. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that it was essential to raise Samoa College to an appropriate pre-university standard. The great difficulty was that of language; but for that, the position would have been very much better. For Samoan children to be fluent and confident users of the English language, it was necessary that they should be at a boarding establishment where they would have constant practice in that language. The Samoan language was not found in written form except in certain important texts, such as the Bible, and English was therefore their only avenue to advancement in education. The difficulty was more apparent at the high school level than in primary education.

100. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) asked whether there were any plans for the establishment of a high school in the Island of Savai'i in the near future.

101. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied that he was sure that a high school would be established in Savai'i before long, and possibly in 1960. As it was, children from Savai'i who were fit for high school went to Apia. The difficulty was that the number of children suitable for high school had only just become sufficient to warrant the building of such schools. There had been a plan to establish a high school in Savai'i in 1959 but it had been learned from the Education Department that the total number of pupils would be thirteen. Thereupon it had been decided that the considerable expenditure involved would not have been warranted, and the project had been postponed.

102. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that his delegation recognized that educational development in Territories of the size and resources of Western Samoa had to be planned on a regional basis. Some of the territories round Samoa provided higher education facilities, such as the Suva Medical School in Fiji. He asked the special representative whether it would not be possible to develop an institute for higher secondary education in Western Samoa, especially as a basis for such an institution already existed in Samoa College, and whether any regional consultations had taken place with that in view.

103. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) observed that that was a very important point. His own view was that the Avele Agricultural College would be developed on a regional basis. Such an institution could accomplish in agriculture what the Suva Medical School had achieved in medicine. Negotiations had already been

taking place with the Governments of neighbouring Territories. The A'avele Agricultural College was in fact already a regional school, since about one-third of the boys came from the other island territories, such as American Samoa and Tonga. The Administering Authority paid half the cost of maintaining it, Western Samoa paying the other half. Moreover, the Administering Authority was providing the funds for all capital development.

104. As far as Samoa College was concerned, he felt that steps should first be taken to bring it up to a genuine pre-university standard.

105. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) inquired whether the Territory was in a position to avail itself of the offer of fellowships made by WHO and referred to in its observations.

106. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied that he had specific instructions from the New Zealand Government to discuss the whole matter with WHO while he was in New York.

107. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) referred to the Secretariat working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory (T/L.908), which stated that where social inferiors felt dissatisfaction at treatment received under the matai system they were at liberty to withdraw their support and attach themselves to some other branch of their family connexion in another part of the country. He asked whether that meant that the persons concerned would transfer their allegiance to another group depending on an entirely different authority.

108. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that in some cases such movements involved changing from one aiga group to another but in most cases the move was simply from one branch to another.

109. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said that according to the annual report of the Administering Authority the aigas, or family groups, could split up when they became too large. He asked whether in such cases land was available for the new groups.

110. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that normally a ma'ai would have authority over a certain area of land, which area might not be fully used. If the matai title were split up the new group would be able to make use of some of the undeveloped land in the area.

111. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) asked whether it ever happened that an old-established family group which owned surplus land agreed to the incorporation of new members who did not belong to their own family.

112. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied in the affirmative; the principles of adoption were well known in Western Samoan society and were frequently put into practice.

113. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to page 115 of the Administering Authority's report, asked the special representative what were the basic provisions of the contemplated comprehensive labour legislation and whether that legislation had yet been debated by the Legislative Assembly. He would also like to know whether it would include measures to encourage the organization of trade unions amongst Samoan wage-earners.

114. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied that the legislation had not yet been debated in the Legislative Assembly, but some of the principles to be embodied in the draft law had been considered by a select committee of the Assembly and by the Executive Council. The report of the select committee appeared to envisage a bill which would give effect to five basic recommendations: the appointment of a labour and statistics officer; the setting up of machinery for conciliation and arbitration in wages and labour disputes; the introduction of a universal forty-four-hour week; the introduction of a forty-hour week for drivers; and minimum age and wage provisions.

115. The question of trade unions in the Territory had come up at previous sessions of the Trusteeship Council and it had been noted that the Western Samoan Legislature was very reluctant to pass any legislation of that nature. There was no inhibition against the formation of trade unions; indeed, in a certain unofficial and practical way some associations of that kind were operating in the Territory already. The most important of them was the Public Service Association, which was quite a powerful and useful organization.

116. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the special representative whether there were plans to build new hospitals or to extend existing hospital facilities during 1959-1960. He also wished to know whether the recent reduction of medical staff in the public health services was still in effect or whether the dismissed staff was being re-employed.

117. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied that no major expansion of hospital buildings either in Apia or in the outlying districts was contemplated for the immediate future. A substantial building programme was reaching completion in the out-station hospitals. The Apia hospital, however, required modernization, since it had been designed on the cottage hospital principle, with wards and facilities all in separate buildings. The project had been considered ten years earlier but the cost of erecting a single modern building comprising all hospital services had been so high that the idea had been dropped. It was a problem which would have to be faced very soon.

118. With respect to medical staff, one doctor and one radiographer, both from abroad, had left the Territory on the expiration of their term of employment; a contract would be arranged for the services of another doctor. The number of sanitary inspectors and of laboratory assistants had dropped from six to four and from eight to six, respectively. On the other hand, there were at present eight trained sisters instead of six. The number of nurses in training had been reduced but that situation was being remedied during the current year.

119. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the decrease of medical staff from 259 persons in 1957 to 206 in 1958 was quite considerable, particularly in view of the small number of trained personnel. He wished to know whether provision was made for the speedy replacement of medical staff who left and for the training of new specialists from among the indigenous population.

120. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said that to compare the total figure for 1957 with the total for 1958 gave an erroneous impression, since almost all

the reductions had occurred in the least trained categories, such as nurses in training, nurses' aides and locally trained nurses. The contract of the expatriate doctor had not been renewed, by decision of the Samoan Executive Council. The same had been true of the radiographer; there was already a Samoan radiographer. The position of pharmacist, shown on page 145 of the annual report as being vacant had now been filled.

121. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the fact that the number of students, teachers and schools in Western Samoa had been reduced owing to financial difficulties, asked why the Administering Authority had not provided emergency aid to meet the financial difficulties.

122. He also wondered if the special representative could furnish official figures on the number of children of school-age so as to determine the number of school-age children who were unable to attend school.

123. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied that the Administering Authority had in fact given emergency aid in 1958. It had made a series of direct grants to the Territory mainly for development purposes, allowing the Western Samoan Government freedom to spend its own money, as it were, on its own educational services. The Administering Authority had also shouldered the entire burden of the scholarship expenditure for 1957 and 1958.

124. Exact figures of the children of school-age were not readily available. It was clear from the 1956 census, however, that there must be some children in Western Samoa who did not go to school. It was not easy to find out the exact age groups involved since mission schools did not keep very accurate records and in any case it was difficult to determine the exact age of any child in Samoa.

125. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether it could be said, roughly, that one-fourth or perhaps one-third of Samoan children from six to eighteen years did not, for one reason or another, have the opportunity to attend school.

126. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) said he did not think the proportion would be as high as that. The largest numbers not attending school would be found in the lower age groups.

127. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether any Samoan students had benefited from the fellowships provided by States Members of the United Nations under General Assembly resolution 557 (VI).

128. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied that fellowships had been offered to inhabitants of Western Samoa by the Governments of the United States and India. Samoan students were studying in the United States and there was every reason to believe that it would be possible to take advantage of the Indian offer.

129. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked how many fellowships had been offered by the Administering Authority to Samoans from the beginning of the Trusteeship System until the present time, how those fellowships had been used and how many Samoans were thus trained to occupy responsible positions in the organs of Government of their country.

130. Mr. POWLES (Special Representative) replied that paragraph 133 of the Visiting Mission's report contained a table showing the distribution of scholars and ex-scholars from the beginning of the Administering Authority's Scholarship Scheme for Samoa (1945) until the year 1959. That table should be amended slightly: under the heading Law the number in training was three and not two; under Agriculture it was four and not three. He had a complete list of the scholars who were in training and of those who had been trained and what they were doing at present. He would gladly show that list to the USSR representative.

131. The PRESIDENT said that as no more representatives wished to ask questions, the Council would proceed to the general debate at its next meeting.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.