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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; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

- Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of New Guinea (continued):
- (i) Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1958 (T/1464 and Add.1, T/1472 and Corr.1, T/L.914);
 - (ii) Petition raising general questions (T/PET.GEN/L.3);
 - (iii) Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, 1959 (T/1451)

[Agenda items 3 (c), 4 and 6]

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)

Social and educational advancement (continued)

1. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) said that it would help to speed up the debate if the special representative could make a general statement at a later meeting, replying to the various observations in document

T/1472 and Corr.1, submitted by the World Health Organization (WHO).

2. Passing on to the observations in the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, 1959 (T/1451), he asked the special representative if he would care to comment on paragraph 169, referring to labour.

3. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that, as a result of the complaints made to the Visiting Mission, an inquiry had been held, which had established that no indigenous inhabitants had ever been without an opportunity of employment.

4. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) pointed out that, according to paragraph 179, the buildings and facilities of some hospitals were in very poor condition.

5. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that after the Second World War it had been necessary to use temporary buildings for some hospitals in order to deal with the cases that required treatment. Those buildings were being gradually replaced by very modern hospitals. The Administering Authority hoped that within the next few years the majority of the buildings which were sub-standard would have been replaced under the building programme. In all hospitals, including those where all the facilities were not up to date, the staff was competent and all possible care was given to the patients.

6. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) noted that the Visiting Mission seemed to have been more or less satisfied with progress in education. He had the impression, however, that it was difficult to attract suitable candidates into teaching. He asked whether it might not be desirable to raise the salaries of teachers.

7. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) admitted that there was in fact a shortage of teachers, which was, however, due to the general shortage of qualified personnel and not to conditions of employment in teaching, which were better than in the majority of other avenues of employment. He did not know whether it would be advisable to attempt to channel all the indigenous students who had reached the required educational standard into teaching, as there were other important fields such as health and agriculture which also attracted the indigenous inhabitants. It should be pointed out that, since the change in the system of making grants-in-aid to the mission schools, those schools had encouraged their pupils to continue studying in the teacher-training colleges of the missions, thus reducing the number of candidates for Administration posts. Under the new five-year plan, it was intended to concentrate on bringing a larger number of pupils up to Standard 8 or Standard 9, which was the level required for entry into the teaching profession or into the public health services.

8. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) inquired whether, in view of the shortage of teachers, the Administration was intending to extend secondary education facilities.

9. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that that was one of the long-term plans of the Administering Authority. The secondary schools at Keravat and Sagiri were being enlarged and teacher-training colleges would eventually be established on the same level as those in Australia.

10. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) regretted that the indigenous population showed so little interest in the work of the United Nations. He wondered if it would not be possible for the United Nations Office of Public Information, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to devise a plan suited to the mentality of the indigenous inhabitants which would give them some understanding of the Trusteeship System and the Trusteeship Council and would deal with such questions as their eventual attainment of self-government or independence.

11. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that teaching about the United Nations was given in the schools, that broadcasting kept the public informed of United Nations activities and that a large amount of material had been sent to the Territory. But, as he had heard that some of that material was not suitable for the indigenous population, he proposed to take the matter up again with the United Nations Office of Public Information.

12. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) thought it might be useful if the special representative could also discuss the matter with the representative of UNESCO to the United Nation.

13. He believed it might be helpful if one or two inhabitants of New Guinea could be associated with the Australian delegation and participate in the work of the Trusteeship Council each year, so that they could learn at first hand how the Council was handling the problems of the Territory.

14. Mr. KELLY (Australia) said that his Government had no objection in principle to the association of an indigenous inhabitant with the Australian delegation, but that no indigenous inhabitant of the Territory had ever requested to be so associated. It seemed to him more important to interest the indigenous inhabitants in the work of the Legislative Council than to include them in the Australian delegation to the Trusteeship Council. Although some of the inhabitants of New Guinea showed ignorance about the United Nations, the Visiting Mission's report revealed that in most of the localities visited, the spokesmen of the local communities were well aware that the Visiting Mission had come from the United Nations and that it was a body to which petitions could be addressed and complaints made.

15. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) thought that it would be excellent training for the indigenous inhabitants to follow the debates in the Trusteeship Council and to act perhaps as advisers. Nearly all the Administering Authorities adopted that procedure. The initiative in the matter should come not from the indigenous inhabitants but from the Administering Authority.

16. Mr. KELLY (Australia) said that the Administering Authority had taken measures to stimulate the interest of educated indigenous inhabitants in international affairs; it had, for instance, taken indigenous

inhabitants to conferences of the South Pacific Commission. He pointed out that reports of the debates in the Trusteeship Council were currently being broadcast in the Territory. In due time, a New Guinean would undoubtedly be associated with the Australian delegation to the Trusteeship Council.

17. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) noted that the Papua and New Guinea Act 1949-1957 prohibited forced labour except in accordance with the provisions of the Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour. In its annual report,^{1/} the Administering Authority stated that the institution of forced labour still existed, as the Native Administration Regulations provided for the compulsory planting and cultivation of farms in an area which had been declared by the Administrator to be liable to a famine or a deficiency in food supplies. Having spent some time in the Trust Territory with the Visiting Mission, he did not think that famine was likely to occur, as the Administration was doing its best to develop agriculture and the indigenous population seemed very anxious to produce more crops. In view of those rosy prospects, would it not be possible to repeal the legislation relating to forced labour?

18. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that it was quite probable that that was one of the provisions which would be considered by the committee now examining any legislation of a discriminatory nature.

19. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) went on to refer to the programme for the training of indigenous inhabitants as masters and engineers for service in coastal vessels. He asked when the training ship would be launched, whether the Administering Authority was also intending to build a shore-based nautical school, how many candidates would be admitted to the training ship, how many coastal ships were being employed by the Administration and whether the members of their crews, whose competence and willingness had impressed the Visiting Mission, would be admitted to the training ship.

20. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the plans for the training ship were being prepared; he did not know when it would be laid down. The training ship could probably accommodate twenty trainees for master's and chief engineer's tickets. The shore-based school, which would probably be opened at the same time, would train deck-hands and engine-room attendants, not only for service on Administration vessels but on any vessels engaged in the coastal trade within the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. There were 163 such vessels and there would be quite a number of openings available to trainees from the nautical school. Applications would naturally be accepted from members of crews with the required educational qualifications and sea-going experience and the Administration would give them preference in recognition of their many years' loyal service under European masters and chief engineers.

21. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) pointed out that on page 99 of the annual report the Administering Authority

^{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, 1957 to 30th June, 1958 (Canberra, A. J. Arthur, Commonwealth Government Printer). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1464 and Add.1).

indicated that the anti-yaws campaign had been concluded and that that disease had more or less disappeared from the Territory. However, according to paragraph 9 of the observations of WHO (T/1472 and Corr. 1), the successful mass campaign against yaws had reduced the prevalence of that disease to a remarkable extent but constant vigilance would still be required for some time to come to prevent its recrudescence. In view of that observation, was not the Administering Authority too optimistic?

22. Referring to paragraph 11 of the observations of WHO, he said he also wished to know the present whereabouts of the officer from the Territory who had received a six-months' fellowship from WHO to observe leprosy-control programmes, and to hear the views of the special representative on WHO's observation that the Administering Authority should supplement the information concerning the leprosy-control programme contained in the annual report.

23. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) confirmed the fact that yaws had more or less disappeared in the areas under complete Government control. The medical patrols, however, had recently sighted cases in the areas which had just been opened up. For that reason, although the mass campaign had been officially completed, the Department of Health would, of course, continue to exercise great vigilance and would intensify its efforts if it became necessary to do so.

24. The officer holding the WHO fellowship had returned to the Territory, where he was engaged in intensifying the leprosy-control campaign. More detailed information about the methods used for outpatient treatment and the follow-up of discharged cases would certainly be of interest to the Council, which could rest assured that the Administering Authority would take full note of that passage in the observations of WHO.

25. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) said that in paragraph 19 of its observations WHO had referred to the insufficient number of trained assistant health inspectors in the Territory. Was the Administration taking any steps to correct that situation?

26. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied in the affirmative. At the present time, it appeared that out of five first-year students studying at the Central Medical School at Suva, Fiji, one or two might choose the course for health inspectors rather than that for assistant medical practitioners. He added that there were 878 medical aid posts, the incumbents of which had received quite comprehensive training in hygiene and sanitation and took refresher courses every two years. Although they did not hold the diploma of assistant health inspectors, they had an excellent knowledge of hygiene and did very useful work.

27. Turning to education, U TIN MAUNG (Burma) recalled that in his opening statement (1001st meeting) the special representative had said that the local government councils had appointed education committees which maintained close liaison with the Department of Education. During his visit to the Territory, however, it had seemed to him that that was not true of a certain number of councils, particularly in the New Ireland, New Britain and Sepik Districts, although some of those councils had been established for two or three years. Could the special representative explain that apparent contradiction?

28. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) explained that all the local government councils which had established schools—and it was to those councils that he had expressly referred in his opening statement—had appointed an education committee. The Department of Education, from which he had received that information, had also stated that indigenous observers attended the meetings of all the district education committees, and indigenous observers were now invited to attend the meetings of the Central Committee on Education.

29. U TIN MAUNG (Burma) emphasized the need to establish education committees in areas where there were no schools and where those committees could help the Administration to build them.

30. Mr. BOTTOMLEY (United Kingdom) said that he was concerned about the education of girls. The Visiting Mission had stated in paragraph 201 of its report that the Administration had had to contend with an aversion on the part of a male-dominated society to encourage or even allow its girls to be educated. That aversion was reflected in the statistics published in the annual report. In that respect, however, it was possible to note a striking difference between the Administration schools, where the ratio of girls to boys was one to three, and the mission schools, where it was two to three. How was that situation to be explained?

31. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) pointed out that the schools operated by the missions were chiefly primary village schools to which the inhabitants had no objection to sending girls as well as boys, whereas the Administration institutions were chiefly intermediate schools, most of which were residential. At the present time, only a few districts had intermediate schools for girls. Under the new five-year plan, it was the Administration's intention to open such schools in all districts as soon as the necessary facilities and staff were available.

32. Mr. BOTTOMLEY (United Kingdom) noted that on page 113 of the annual report the Administering Authority said that the indigenous children usually began school at seven years of age and completed their primary schooling at fifteen years. The general statement followed that attendance at schools was good. The table at the bottom of the page, however, suggested that one of the reasons why the number of indigenous children admitted to secondary schools was relatively small was that only a small proportion of them reached Standard 6. Did that mean that they were kept in the lower standards until they reached the age of fifteen or that a large number of pupils left school before that age?

33. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) thought that both those processes were involved. The situation had considerably improved, however, during the past three years with respect to the number of children who reached Standard 6; that was probably because the indigenous children were beginning school at an earlier age than heretofore. It was possible, therefore, to predict that there would be an increase in the number of children who entered Standard 6 before the age of fifteen and who consequently would be able to continue their studies.

34. Mr. BOTTOMLEY (United Kingdom) said that the table on page 214 of the annual report seemed to in-

dicating a serious wastage among the post-primary students.

35. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that if the 1957 and 1958 figures for the different classes were compared, there would indeed appear to be a considerable wastage. For example, Standard 8 had contained 120 pupils in 1957, whereas Standard 9 had contained only sixty in 1958. The wastage, however, was more apparent than real, as pupils from Standard 8 were admitted to the teacher-training colleges or were recruited by the Department of Public Health, where they received the necessary training. He could not give any other explanation but, on the basis of his own experience, he believed that the wastage among pupils was negligible once they had reached the post-primary level.

36. Mr. DORMAN (United States of America) referred to the problem caused by the number of workers who broke their work contracts and left their employment. He wondered whether, under the existing legislation, it would be possible to find a middle road between penal action and moral persuasion, for example, by withholding a sum of money as a guarantee against contract breaking.

37. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) explained that a civil action could always be brought if an employer suffered any financial or other loss as a result of a worker leaving his employment without reasonable cause.

38. Mr. DORMAN (United States of America) said he would like some information on the disease called kurru.

39. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that that disease had been discovered by two anthropologists between 1951 and 1953. A medical study of it had been begun in 1955. Kurru, which affected 1 per cent of a community which itself comprised only 1 per cent of the Territory's population, did not seem to be spreading outside that area and the mortality rate had remained stationary. Research in that field was co-ordinated by the Department of Public Health. There was no indication as to how long it would take to discover the cause of the disease and the means of treating it.

40. In reply to another question by Mr. DORMAN (United States of America), Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the term "medical practitioner" meant any person who was permitted to practise medicine in the Territory. For that purpose, it was necessary to hold the diploma of bachelor in medicine or surgery obtained at a recognized university. The title of "assistant medical practitioner" was given to an indigenous person who had gained his diploma at the Central Medical School at Suva. Assistant medical practitioners were not authorized to practise medicine except under the supervision of a qualified medical practitioner.

41. Mr. ANDREEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wished to know the reason for the decrease in the number of wage-earners in the Territory. He also asked how the Administering Authority could state that there was no unemployment when the Visiting Mission referred to a surplus of labourers.

42. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) emphasized that any indigenous person who wished to work for

wages could find employment. A certain number of districts even suffered from a shortage of labour. The number of indigenous persons in employment could be expected to decrease from year to year, since more and more of them were working in their own agricultural or industrial enterprises and increased use was being made of mechanical equipment.

43. Mr. ANDREEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked how the Administration proposed to deal with the surplus labourers in the Sepik District.

44. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the labourers in question were unsatisfactory and that for that reason no employer wanted to hire them. That problem solved itself, since the indigenous worker returned to his own area and took up farming. If he wished to earn money rather than live by subsistence farming, he would cultivate cash crops.

45. Mr. ANDREEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that a minimum wage of 325 shillings per year had been established for unskilled labour. That sum did not seem adequate to provide for the minimum needs of a family. His delegation would like to know how employers calculated the remuneration in kind which was added to the wage, whether the Administration intended to put an end to the practice of payment in kind and whether price fluctuations affected the quantity of rations given to the workers.

46. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) pointed out that no more than 1 or 2 per cent of the Territory's workers received only the minimum wage. The workers of the Territory could be divided into three categories. The first comprised unskilled workers who had had no education and whose work output was low; after two or three years, 90 per cent of them returned to their villages for good. The second category comprised workers who intended to keep their employment and who gradually acquired some knowledge. Their wages started a little higher than the minimum and they received an annual increase. They could earn up to £279 a year, plus the supplementary grants. The last category were the workers who wished to make a career in the Public Service. Their maximum basic salaries were sometimes higher than the minimum salaries of European officers. They could move progressively into the Third, Second and First Divisions of the Public Service.

47. The new labour legislation, which had not yet come into force, provided for the establishment of a Native employment board, which would comprise a chairman, who would be a senior officer of the Administration, two members representing the workers, two members representing the employers and two officers of the Administration. The board would consider matters relating to employment, the cost of living, minimum wages etc., and would give the Administrator its views. It would also present a report to the Administrator at least once a year on the operation of legislation relating to the employment of indigenous inhabitants and on any measures which might be desirable in that connexion.

The meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 4.50 p.m.

48. Mr. ANDREEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked why payments were made in kind.

49. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) explained that 90 per cent of the workers came from areas that had only recently been brought under Administration influence or control and they were not capable of buying the food and other articles necessary for their welfare. It was provided that when an indigenous inhabitant had been employed for some time and was considered capable of spending the money wisely to buy what he really needed, he could receive all his wages in cash.

50. Mr. ANDREEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked what steps had been taken to carry out the Council's recommendations to the effect that corporal punishment should be abolished.

51. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the Administering Authority was studying the question but considered that the provisions for corporal punishment should remain in force for the time being. Although they were rarely applied, their very existence had a salutary effect. It was impossible to say how long they would have to remain in force.

52. Mr. ANDREEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked what use the Administering Authority made of the radio, the cinema and the Press in order to raise the cultural level of the inhabitants.

53. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that there was a radio station at Port Moresby which broadcast regularly to the Territory. Special programmes designed for the indigenous inhabitants were broadcast for two hours a day. Mobile cinema units toured the Territory and showed films there regularly.

54. Mr. ANDREEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that the two principal diseases in the Territory were malaria and pneumonia and that those diseases accounted for about 40 per cent of the deaths in the Territory. He asked whether the Administration was considering a long-term plan for combating them.

55. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the Administration's health plan provided for the eradication of those diseases as far as was possible. Efforts were being made at present to reduce the incidence of death in pneumonia cases. The steps taken in regard to malaria had already been reported in his opening statement and in replies to other questions.

56. Mr. ANDREEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that 50 per cent of the children in the Territory were still illiterate. He asked how the Administration could explain that lack of progress in view of its statement that its purpose in the field of education was to provide primary education for all children of school age.

57. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) pointed out that in a Territory where the Administration's authority was being extended to new areas each year the known number of children of school age was of necessity increasing; during the last few years that increase had been greater than the expansion of educational facilities. It was precisely because 40 to 50 per cent of the children were not receiving education that the Administering Authority had revised its policy and established a new five-year plan.

58. Mr. ANDREEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked how the Administering Authority proposed to increase the number of indigenous teachers.

59. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the Administration was taking steps to provide secondary education to enough children to enable it some day to obtain the necessary number of teachers. For some years to come it would have to increase the number of non-indigenous teachers.

60. Mr. RASGOTRA (India), reverting to the question of the representation of the missions in the Legislative Council, asked the special representative whether the Christian missionaries, who already had three representatives in the Council, had the right to vote in the election of the three European members, which would give them double representation in the Legislative Council.

61. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that of the 1,257 missionaries only 550, who were British subjects or Australian protected persons, took part in the election of the European members of the Legislative Council. The Administering Authority's primary objective was to give the Council a balanced composition.

62. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) asked what was the total number of persons who were eligible to vote in the election of the three European members of the Legislative Council.

63. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the number was between 2,700 and 3,000.

64. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) noted that the minimum cash wage of indigenous workers was 325 shillings per year, which seemed very low in view of the Territory's cost-of-living index. He asked whether the Administration had made provision for a periodic review of the minimum wage.

65. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the advisory employment board that was to be set up would be empowered not only to keep under review any changes in the cost of living which might have an effect on the established minimum wage but to consider all matters pertaining to the employment of indigenous labour. The Administration would undoubtedly attach the greatest weight to that body's recommendations.

66. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) asked the special representative whether the Administration had taken steps to provide the illiterate workers recruited in the Highlands with at least the rudiments of education.

67. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that most of the indigenous workers were employed on plantations, which were sometimes very far from the centres where training facilities were available. The only training it was possible to give those workers was vocational training, which enabled them to earn higher wages.

68. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) wondered whether it would not be possible for the owners of plantations to engage a teacher who would give the workers some elementary education at the plantation itself.

69. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said he was afraid such a system was impracticable. In the first place, 80 per cent of the plantation workers did not understand English and some ten to twenty different languages might be spoken by workers on one property. Consequently the only educational medium which could be used was the much-despised Melanesian Pidgin. It would be necessary to begin by teaching the plantation workers to speak, read and write Eng-

lish. On the other hand, on one or two large plantations where workers had settled with their families, the planters had established schools for the children of their employees.

70. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) thought that the experiment was nevertheless worth trying, for the Visiting Mission's report gave the impression that there was a great deal of enthusiasm for education in the Territory.

71. Turning to the question of the recruitment of labour, he noted that according to the Administering Authority's report anyone who wished to recruit indigenous workers had to obtain a special permit from the district authorities. He asked how many permits had been issued during the year under review, how many indigenous workers from the various areas of the Territory had been engaged and how many of those workers had taken their families with them to their place of work, since it was provided that the cost of transport of the workers and their families was to be paid by the employer.

72. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that he could not provide that information offhand but would obtain it.

73. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) noted from paragraph 176 of the Visiting Mission's report that the new hospitals included separate facilities for New Guineans and for Europeans. He had been under the impression that the Administration had discarded the policy of constructing separate hospitals for Europeans and non-Europeans.

74. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the recently constructed hospitals were made up of separate sections which used common facilities. The Administration had, however, abandoned that plan for composite hospitals and all those to be built in the future would be public general hospitals. Those new hospitals would, however, charge fees.

75. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) noted that in paragraph 6 of its observations the World Health Organization referred to various training centres for nurses and assistant medical practitioners that had been or were to be provided for the people of New Guinea. Most of those centres were or would be in Papua, although the aim should be to establish schools and training centres in the Territory itself.

76. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that the medical training centres were established where they would be most useful and where the best facilities were available. The training college for assistant medical practitioners was in Port Moresby, the headquarters of the Administration, because there were specialists in the Health Department there who were available to teach at the college. A new training school for nurses was, however, being established at the general hospital at Nonga, in New Britain, and an agricultural college for the people of Papua and New Guinea was to be established at Keravat, in the Trust Territory. The training centre for local government councils and the malaria-control training centre were also in the Trust Territory. Thus the only training centres that would be in Papua would be the training colleges for assistant medical practitioners and the Co-operative Education Centre.

77. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that he found that reply reassuring for he would not like to think that

the Trust Territory was lagging behind Papua in that field.

78. Turning to the subject of primary education, he asked what was the total number of children of school age in the Territory; that information would give him some idea of the task that the Administration had undertaken in planning to provide primary education for all children.

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

80. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) noted that according to the figures shown in table 1 in appendix XXII there was an average of approximately one teacher per school. He asked if that meant that most of the schools were operated with only one teacher and consisted of a single class.

81. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) replied that most of the village schools were efficiently run with one teacher, who taught all grades, from one to six. That was the normal practice, for it would be impossible to appoint six teachers in an area where there were no more than twenty to twenty-five children of school age in six grades. Where there were up to thirty or thirty-five pupils, there were two teachers, a teacher in charge and an assistant teacher, who divided the grades between them.

82. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) pointed out that since the school day could not be more than six hours, if the teacher had to look after six grades that meant that each grade would receive instruction for only one hour per day; in those circumstances the education could not be very effective.

83. Mr. KELLY (Australia) referred to the efficiency of education in certain single-teacher schools in the Australian bush and pointed out that the word "village", which in India might refer to large communities of from 3,000 to 10,000 inhabitants, was used in the Territory to designate tiny hamlets. One of the problems of education in New Guinea was how to deal with those minute communities separated by custom, tradition and language.

84. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that the only reason that he had brought up the question of the effectiveness of the education provided in the New Guinea schools was that he was trying to discover why there was such a considerable falling-off in attendance in the higher grades. The special representative and the Administering Authority were apparently somewhat concerned about that problem, too. If the village schools had only one teacher to look after six grades, the steady falling-off in attendance might be due to the fact that the education was not so worth-while as it should be. He asked if it would not be possible to combine three or four small bush schools so that the classes could be organized on a more rational basis.

85. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that unfortunately most of the villages were too far apart for such an arrangement. Another solution would be for all the schools to be boarding schools, but that was impossible. He would like, however, to reassure the Indian representative about the methods used in the village schools: while the teacher was taking one class, the five other classes were doing written work, and in some cases the school was divided into two or

three small classrooms so that one class would not interfere with another.

86. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) asked if all the 2,900-odd primary schools had six grades.

87. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that he could not confirm that, since there were still some 1,800 to 1,900 mission schools which had not yet been thoroughly inspected to see whether or not they met the required standards with regard to teachers, accommodation and so forth. That was a major task and the inspecting staff had been increased for that purpose.

88. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) recalled that at the twenty-second session his delegation had asked the special representative to confirm that Melanesian Pidgin was no longer used in post-primary and secondary schools and that the same applied to the mission schools. The special representative had replied that that was not yet the case and that about a year would be needed for the mission school teachers to become qualified to teach in English. He would like to know what progress had been made since then.

89. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the inspection of mission schools had not made as much progress as had been hoped, but the Department of Education now had twenty-four officers working on the inspection. It might be that many of the schools would be found to meet the standards required for classification as recognized schools.

90. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) recalled that in his opening statement the special representative had said that although there had been substantial achievement in education, progress had fallen short of expectations. He asked in what areas the expected progress had not been achieved and how far expectations had been disappointed.

91. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that he would obtain that information from a statement made by the Director of Education.

92. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) thought that the Council would find that information useful. He would like to have as much information as possible about secondary education, where the least progress seemed to have been achieved; in particular he would like to know how far it was intended to accelerate that progress.

93. He asked if the United Nations Information Centre at Sydney helped in the dissemination in the Territory of information about the United Nations, and, if not, whether the Administering Authority thought that it would serve a useful purpose to establish a United Nations information centre in the Territory itself.

94. Mr. KELLY (Australia) said that the Administering Authority would continue to avail itself fully of the resources of the United Nations Information Centre at Sydney. Much of the material published by the United Nations was not, however, in a form that could be assimilated by the Melanesians in the Territory, many

of whom did not read English. The preparation of illustrated brochures in Melanesian Pidgin would, however, run counter to one of the Administering Authority's objectives, which was to make English an auxiliary language throughout the Territory. The Territory's radio services played an important role in informing the people about the aims of the United Nations, the structure of the Organization and the role of the Trusteeship Council. The dissemination of information on the United Nations presented basically technical problems, which could be dealt with in a number of ways other than the establishment of particular types of information centres.

95. Mr. RASGOTRA (India) said that he was sure the Administering Authority was doing its best to ensure the dissemination of information about the United Nations in the Territory. He felt, however, that if an information centre was too far away it could not establish direct contact with the people. Apparently the officials of the Sydney Information Centre had not found it possible to visit the Territory, but he was glad to note that the Australian Government did not object in principle to the establishment of a United Nations information centre in the Territory if the United Nations considered such a step necessary. That, however, was a technical matter which must be left to technical experts to decide.

96. Reverting to an earlier question, he asked about the composition, powers and functions of the committee for the advancement of indigenous women.

97. Mr. JONES (Special Representative) said that the committee consisted of ten members—six officers of the Administration, two representatives of the missions and two representatives of the indigenous people. The committee's main aim was to correct as speedily as possible the disparity between the advancement of women and that of men and to ensure their future progress side by side. Sub-committees, consisting mainly of women, had been formed in each district in the Territory and they carried out individual programmes to meet the specific needs within the district. There had been an enthusiastic response to the efforts of those committees and much work had already been accomplished. Four full-time welfare officers were now assisting the committees.

98. Eighteen women's clubs had already been established in the Territory; they were assisted both by the district committees and by voluntary helpers. In each district areas were being set aside for the establishment of welfare centres which would be attached to the clubs. In addition there were special women's broadcasts, and literature was provided for the women's clubs and committees by the Social Development Branch of the Department of Native Affairs. The delegation to the Fourth South Pacific Conference which had been held recently, had included one female delegate and one female adviser from the Trust Territory.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.