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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. Powles, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Western Samoa, took a place at the Council table.

GENERAL DEBATE

1. Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) recalled the insular character and remoteness of Western Samoa, which had remained aloof from passions and propaganda and would doubtless gradually assimilate the best of modern achievements without allowing the harmony of its very ancient civilization to be disturbed. It had to be judged in its own right and not by abstract and theoretical standards which did not always bear any relationship to social conditions in the Territory.

2. He had been a member of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of Western Samoa, 1959, and his delegation, which endorsed the conclusions and suggestions made in the Mission's report (T/1449), was happy to note that the New Zea-

land Government in general approved them. He felt that the main problem was to know how to help the people of Western Samoa most effectively. In two years' time the Territory's accession to self-government or independence would have to be considered. The time table which had been suggested with that end in view seemed reasonable, since it covered a limited period and was subject to revision in the light of experience. The introduction of the system of cabinet government as from 1 October 1959 would give the Western Samoan authorities an opportunity to accustom themselves gradually to the exercise of authority. Too much importance ought not to be attached to the question of the head of State, which would have to be settled by the Samoans themselves and did not affect the objectives of trusteeship. The essential point was not that the system of government should resemble the traditional Western parliamentary system in every respect but that it should work well and respect the rights and freedoms of all the citizens. He was convinced that questions such as those relating to citizenship, domestic status, the protection of human rights, public service, the judiciary and economic and social plans would be settled along the lines desired by the Visiting Mission. The latter felt, as did the Administering Authority, that it would be logical to convene the constitutional convention after the 1960 general elections and hoped that the progress achieved in all fields in the intervening period would be sufficiently satisfactory for the General Assembly to consider, as of November 1960, arrangements for a popular consultation on the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

3. There was no legislative assembly elected by universal suffrage and it seemed unlikely that there would be in the near future. The matai system, to which the majority of Western Samoans apparently continued to be strongly attached, was organized along social and family lines, and was in certain respects collectivist. Whatever the drawbacks of the system were, and they were possibly greater in the economic than in the political field, there was no doubt that the people intended to retain it. Even the young Samoans who criticized the system as being somewhat gerontocratic recognized that they would have no chance of winning acceptance for their point of view forthwith.

4. However, even if it were admitted that the establishment of universal suffrage was not a prerequisite to the attainment of independence and that each nation was entitled to establish its electoral system in accordance with its own ideas, it still had to be decided how the wishes of the population on the future of the Territory should be ascertained. How would each individual be able to express his aspirations freely, especially when it was remembered that public opinion was not unanimous on the question of terminating the trusteeship in the near future, as the Visiting Mission pointed out in paragraph 167 of its report? A way out of the impasse had been found thanks to the intelligent

insistence of the Chairman of the Mission. The Western Samoans would retain their traditional electoral system, but had agreed that the termination of the trusteeship should be effected in conformity with United Nations principles and that a plebiscite should be held on the basis of universal suffrage on the issues of the abrogation of the Trusteeship Agreement, the promulgation of the proposed constitution and the treaty of friendship with New Zealand. He felt it should be clearly understood that those Samoans who were opposed to the matai system were precisely the ones who thought that it was too soon to terminate the trusteeship: even if no separate question were put on the electoral system, the Samoans would still make their views clearly known in voting on the constitution and the termination of the trusteeship: in any case, the General Assembly would have to decide in agreement with the Administering Authority at the appropriate time what questions should be put.

5. A number of representatives had wondered whether Western Samoa would be self-governing or independent, since the Visiting Mission and the New Zealand Government had used both terms which differed greatly in meaning. Whereas independence involved full responsibility for both external and internal affairs self-government involved the exercise of all internal powers, in other words the acceptance of full responsibility for internal affairs while responsibility for certain external fields such as foreign affairs, defence and currency were temporarily either partially or totally delegated by means of a voluntary transfer of powers based on free and reciprocal consent. Both were envisaged by the United Nations Charter as objectives of the Trusteeship System. An intermediate formula, with autonomy as the key-note, seemed to be envisaged for Western Samoa; that was consistent with the provisions of the Charter, once the Samoans themselves requested it; the important point was that they should be able, when the time came, to express themselves freely.

6. His delegation felt that the Samoans were showing great wisdom in recognizing that they would have enough difficult problems to settle without accepting responsibility for their foreign relations and defence. In fact, they would need assistance for a long time to come, in its development the Territory was encountering difficult geographic, demographic and economic issues with their attendant financial implications.

7. Recalling by way of example the situation as regards secondary education and therefore higher education in the Territory, which was causing concern, he pointed out that the Samoans, who were devoting a considerable part of their revenue—20 per cent—to education, would not be able to correct by themselves certain deficiencies which might seriously threaten their future. The Prime Minister of New Zealand had stated that the assistance which his country had already provided would be continued during the transition period, but his delegation felt that the aid would be just as indispensable long after the end of that period, particularly in the field of higher education. The doors of New Zealand's universities would have to be opened to far more Samoan students. The language difficulties could be overcome by following the example of a number of the great French scientific schools, to which foreigners were admitted without taking the French test which was usually compulsory

provided they successfully passed the tests in technical subjects.

8. As the special representative had pointed out, Western Samoa needed internal incentives, because its social structure and its customs sometimes exerted a restraining effect on initiative and progress, and it needed outside aid, because it was an under-developed country. The United Nations, the specialized agencies, technical assistance and the Special Fund would doubtless play their part, but the demands on them were already numerous and their means would continue to be limited as long as the developed and prosperous countries were unwilling to adopt the course, recently advocated by General de Gaulle, of pooling a percentage of their resources in order to overcome poverty and help other, less favoured peoples. Pending the organization of such an effort of international solidarity, formulas based on bilateral assistance would be the most effective ones. New Zealand was the country which was in the best position to understand the difficulties that would confront the new self-governing State and the best qualified to lend it assistance. The French delegation hoped that New Zealand would accept those responsibilities and sacrifices, in order that the active friendship which marked the relations of the two peoples in the past might continue.

9. Mr. GERIG (United States of America) was convinced that all the necessary steps had been taken to enable the people of Western Samoa to assume the responsibilities which would be turned over to them when the Territory became independent. The Samoans would certainly be capable of overcoming the economic and constitutional problems that would face them, the more so since they desired to strengthen still further the friendly ties which united them with New Zealand.

10. He paid a tribute to the Government of New Zealand for the manner in which it had discharged its duties, scrupulously respecting local customs and encouraging the Samoans to assume constantly increasing responsibilities. The Visiting Mission deserved thanks for its noteworthy report and for the constructive suggestions it contained. The United States delegation would support any recommendation embodying the recommendations of the Visiting Mission with respect to the question of domestic status. The information on citizenship and also the further clarification of that question by the special representative were of particular interest. The question, which the Working Committee on Self-Government would doubtless help to solve, would have to be settled before the proposed elections of September 1960.

11. He had noted with satisfaction the views of the Visiting Mission on the desirability of removing the racial basis of representation in the Legislative Assembly. Although he was aware of the great difficulties involved in changing customs and traditions of that kind, he hoped that the opinions of the Visiting Mission and the views previously stated by the Trusteeship Council on that subject would result in the elimination of the present system of representation. The matai system was sufficiently flexible for that to be possible. The United States delegation was also pleased to learn that the authorities intended to include proper guarantees in the constitution for the protection of land rights and other property rights. The Administering Authority and the Government of

Western Samoa should be commended for the statement they had issued on that subject.

12. As regards the problem of public service, he noted with satisfaction that New Zealand officials would continue to fill certain posts in Western Samoa after it attained independence. He hoped that the scheme of training Samoans to fill high administrative posts would be carried out successfully, so that the New Zealand personnel could be replaced.

13. He was glad to learn that the future relationship between Western Samoa and New Zealand would be regulated by a treaty of friendship. It was fully understandable that the Samoan people wished to negotiate with New Zealand on an equal footing and that the treaty should be signed only when the Territory was independent.

14. He hoped that the Trusteeship Council would adopt a text noting and approving the resolution (T/1449, para. 164) submitted by the Fautua and members of the Legislative Assembly on the subject of the plebiscite and the enactment of the constitution and the treaty of friendship.

15. Turning to economic problems, he considered that the improvement in the Territory's financial position was encouraging and believed that the Administering Authority should be commended for its offer of further financial assistance to the Territorial Government during 1959. It was to be hoped that the Government of Western Samoa would give favourable consideration to the Visiting Mission's suggestions concerning the appointment of an expert to assist in organizing and stimulating community development and encouragement which should be given to producer co-operatives. At its twenty-second session the Trusteeship Council had expressed the hope that consideration would be given to the establishment of secondary industries (A/3822, Vol. I, p. 67). It would doubtless be worth while to adopt the Visiting Mission's suggestion with regard to investigating the establishment of a fishing industry.

16. On the subject of health, the Administering Authority deserved to be commended for successfully carrying out a yaws control programmed in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO) and for its intention to participate in the execution of a tuberculosis control project in 1960. Nevertheless, the United States delegation ventured to urge the Administering Authority and the Government of Western Samoa to concentrate on generally improving public health and medical services.

17. As regards education, the situation still left a great deal to be desired; that was particularly disturbing at a time when the Territory was so close to achieving independence. If Western Samoa was going to play its proper role, it would have to have an educational system enabling it to further its development in all fields: political, economic and social.

18. U AUNG THANT (Burma) was glad to note that, as in previous years, the Territory had made great advances towards independence, which now appeared to be quite close.

19. The Burmese delegation, which was very anxious that any racial discrimination should be eliminated, had been particularly happy to note that the Legis-

lative Assembly had passed the Status Disabilities Removal Ordinance, 1959, and that the Administering Authority believed that the establishment of a common status for all the inhabitants of Western Samoa was now within the realm of possibility. It was to be hoped that the objective would be achieved before the trusteeship was terminated.

20. The objective of the Trusteeship System was not only to bring about new States, but to create independent and democratic States. However, it could not be said that the matai system was truly democratic. A certain amount of time would of course be required to change customs of long standing, but the Burmese delegation remained convinced that the possibility of broader suffrage before the termination of trusteeship should be studied. It therefore supported the Visiting Mission's suggestions on the subject and hoped that the Working Committee on Self-Government would examine them with due care. It also hoped that a system more equitable than the existing one would be worked out for the elections and that, at the least, the four additional constituencies for Western Samoans which were under consideration would be established before those elections.

21. The headway that had been made towards the adoption of citizenship legislation was very encouraging. The enactment of one citizenship law for the Territory would go a long way towards solving other difficult problems in that domain.

22. As regards public service, the Burmese delegation regretted that few Samoans had found their way to positions of high responsibility in the administration of the Territory. It was important that the Administering Authority should spare no efforts in ensuring the training of Samoans who would form the administrative staff of the country.

23. Dealing with the question of the plebiscite, he expressed the opinion that it was premature to attempt to decide at the present stage what questions should be asked in the plebiscite. He wondered whether it was legitimate to include questions relating to a treaty of friendship with New Zealand in a plebiscite held under the auspices of the United Nations. His delegation would reach a decision at the appropriate time, after careful consideration of the issues involved.

24. The Burmese delegation wished all possible success to the Working Committee on Self-Government which would make an over-all study of conditions in the Territory and draw up a draft constitution for a modern democratic State. It would also request a more categorical statement by the Administering Authority as to its intentions in matters of defence and external affairs.

25. The economic development of Western Samoa was satisfactory: production had increased, the expected effects of the recession had failed to materialize, the Bank of Western Samoa had opened recently and the Visiting Mission had paid a tribute to the Avele Agricultural College. The suggestions of the Visiting Mission deserved careful study. As regards social and educational conditions, the Burmese delegation had nothing but commendation for the efforts made by the Administering Authority in those fields. It regretted, however, that, for reasons of financial stridency, it had not been possible to continue certain health services and that schools had had to be closed.

Moreover, the key function of education in the proper working of a democratic State could not be overemphasized. It was to be hoped that in the future social and educational services would be given all the attention they deserved.

26. Mr. CLAEYS BOUUAERT (Belgium) said that the documents on Western Samoa before the Council were both numerous and of exceptional quality. His delegation wished to associate itself with the well-deserved praise of the Visiting Mission's report and to thank the representative of New Zealand and the special representative for the additional information they had supplied during the debate.

27. One basic question dominated the situation: to what extent was the Territory approaching the stage where the Administering Authority might be considered as having fulfilled the obligations it had assumed under the Trusteeship Agreement? If one of the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System was the progressive development of peoples towards self-government or independence, there was no question that New Zealand had sought to achieve that objective steadfastly and in good faith. Under the Samoa Amendment Act of 1957, the elected representatives of the Samoan people had become largely responsible for administration and for legislation on domestic matters. Only a limited number of reforms remained to be carried out before the indigenous leaders would have power to make final decisions on all political matters. His delegation was convinced that the measures already taken by the Administering Authority and those which it planned to take in the near future would ensure the effective achievement of the objectives of the Trusteeship System.

28. With regard to the exercise of electoral rights by the two categories of inhabitants—those of Samoan status and those of so-called European status—the question should be examined objectively, without giving too much weight to abstract or theoretical considerations. Although universal suffrage was the most democratic system of voting, the institutions of every human society necessarily had to take account of customs and traditions based on social organization and deeply-rooted convictions, if serious disturbances were to be avoided. During the twenty-second session, Mr. Tamasese had explained to the Council the reasons why the overwhelming majority of Samoans remained attached to their family organization and to the security they found within the aiga. That organization undoubtedly had its merits and should not be lightly discarded. However, it was in the interest of every society to avoid any undue rigidity in regard to the legal and social status of individuals. That was particularly true in Western Samoa where personal rights were to some extent still determined by considerations of race. Although the status of the different groups of inhabitants of Samoa was not a matter of arbitrary discrimination, a further relaxation of the restrictions affecting some individuals under the matai system would be desirable. The Visiting Mission had made some very useful suggestions on that subject particularly in paragraphs 65, 66 and 76 of its report. His delegation fully supported the views expressed by the Visiting Mission, with which the representative of the Administering Authority had expressed complete agreement.

29. His delegation did not think that the question of the future relations between Western Samoa and New Zealand came within the scope of the problems to be considered by the Trusteeship Council in determining whether the objectives of trusteeship had been or would be achieved. The Administering Authority had in fact expressly stated that future development of territorial institutions in the period before the attainment of self-government or independence would be in no way conditional upon the conclusion of a relationship agreement between the two countries. That agreement would be a treaty between independent and sovereign States. There was no relation, therefore, between the proposed treaty and the termination of trusteeship. The Western Samoan Legislative Assembly had, however, suggested that that treaty should be included in the questions on which the population would be consulted by means of a plebiscite, and the Administering Authority had approved the idea of such a plebiscite. In those circumstances, although the conclusion of a treaty of the type envisaged should not be confused with formal recognition of the termination of the trusteeship, there would seem to be no reason to criticize the proposed procedure. The fate of a Trust Territory should be decided by the freely expressed wishes of the inhabitants once they had attained maturity. It was up to the Administering Authority and the authorities directly concerned to proceed with the necessary consultations of the people to determine their aspirations.

30. Turning to economic and social conditions, he said that, in his delegation's opinion, the Administering Authority and the local Government deserved the commendation of the Council for their careful and judicious management of the public finances. The Territory's finances were sound; there was no public debt. There were admittedly insufficient resources for a large-scale development programme, but the responsible authorities should be congratulated on their judicious allocation of funds for capital development. In fact, the future development of the Territory would depend on improved productivity. In that connexion, it would be desirable for Western Samoan leaders to act on the advice given to them by the authors of the 1957 Financial and banking survey, advice which was reiterated by the Administering Authority in its memorandum on the political future of Western Samoa (T/1449, annex II). The Council should place further stress on that aspect of the situation by making an appropriate recommendation.

31. As to education, his delegation fully supported the views expressed by the Visiting Mission.

32. In conclusion, he congratulated the New Zealand Government and the Samoan people on the collaboration which had characterized their relations during the last few years, certain results of which would soon be evident and which would continue to bear fruit in the future.

33. Mr. VITELLI (Italy) said that the Visiting Mission's report and the statements by the representative of New Zealand and the special representative had given the Council a very clear picture of developments in Western Samoa. The draft time table established by the Administering Authority, in collaboration with the Samoans, for the transfer of powers and the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement represented a balanced and well-considered plan. His delegation was

happy to note that the introduction of cabinet government would take place some months earlier than the date originally set, which would give the Samoans a little more time to acquire experience in self-government before they attained independence.

34. One of the difficulties which, in the last few years, had seemed to stand in the way of the establishment of a truly free and independent Western Samoa was the existence of a dual status for its inhabitants. That situation obviously had to be changed if the new Samoan State was not to bear the stigma of racial prejudice. His delegation had therefore noted with interest the suggestions made by the Visiting Mission for the solution of that problem and had been glad to see that the Visiting Mission's arguments seemed to have had some effect on the rather rigid attitude of the Samoans. There now seemed to be ground for hope that they would ultimately agree to the establishment of a common status for all inhabitants.

35. It seemed inevitable that a dual electoral system would have to be retained for some time because of the Samoans' attachment to their social organization; that dual system should, however, be the result of the free choice of individuals and not of a dual status based on race. Universal suffrage should certainly not be imposed upon the population of the Territory and should not be introduced until it was requested by the population itself; but as long as there were two methods of voting, there should be an entirely free choice between them. His delegation hoped that the solutions suggested by the Visiting Mission would commend themselves to the Western Samoan Government. The Visiting Mission deserved the praise of the Council for its contribution to the solution of that problem.

36. When the electoral difficulties had finally been overcome and a Samoan citizenship had been established, the Samoan leaders would be able to devote themselves more freely to the vital questions of the administrative organization and the economic development of their country. In that connexion, his delegation was glad to note that New Zealand had expressed its readiness to continue to assist Western Samoa after the latter had attained independence, by supplying it with skilled personnel and providing it with a market for a large part of its banana crop. That declaration of intention should certainly dispel any apprehensions that might arise in Western Samoa with regard to the markets of the new State. The transition from trusteeship to self-government or independence was a delicate period and Administering Authorities could help to smooth that process.

37. The extent to which the new State would have to seek foreign assistance would depend on the human and material resources available to it. Hence, the importance of training skilled Samoans and of the economic development of the Territory.

38. So far as the training of Samoans was concerned, his delegation was aware that the budgetary restrictions necessitated by fluctuations in the prices of commodities exported by the Territory had had adverse effects on educational expenditure. The Territory's financial situation now seemed to have recovered, but the Visiting Mission had drawn attention to certain educational problems, other than expenditure, especially the need to establish a proper balance between primary education and secondary and vocational education. In that connexion, the Visiting Mission had put

forward a number of practical suggestions which deserved attention. The Italian delegation was glad to note that the New Zealand Government was prepared to give further assistance to the Samoans with a view to developing a nucleus of young people trained to take positions of responsibility.

39. With reference to economic development, he said that, while the present situation seemed fairly satisfactory, especially when compared with that prevailing in some other Pacific areas, the large increase in the population and the peculiar structure of the economy, based on two or three main exports, made a policy of long-term economic development imperative. It was necessary to introduce more advanced techniques in agriculture and possibly also to exploit additional resources, such as commercial fishing and tourism. Export items should also be diversified in order to reduce the shocks of price fluctuations. The Administering Authority had already done much along those lines, but it had often been faced with a lack of response on the part of the Samoans or with obstacles arising from their attachment to a land tenure system geared to a subsistence agriculture. Land tenure problems were common to various territories, including others in the Pacific, and, while they required a very cautious approach, the experience gained elsewhere might help Western Samoans in their solution.

40. Although aware of the progress made, the Italian delegation wished to emphasize, as it had done at the twenty-second session (919th meeting) and as the Visiting Mission had also done in its report (para. 121), the need for a long-range comprehensive programme of economic development. The adoption of such a programme was of particular importance on the eve of Western Samoa's independence, when the Territory should be assisted in making a proper appraisal of its future resources.

41. In conclusion, he commended the Administering Authority and the Samoan people for the important progress made during the past years, notably in the political field, and for the harmony which had characterized their relations. That harmony augured well for the future co-operation between the two States.

42. Mr. KIANG (China), after congratulating the Visiting Mission on the quality of its report to the Council, said that he first wished to comment on the constitutional development of the Trust Territory. He greatly welcomed the Administering Authority's agreement to the inauguration of a cabinet system of government on 1 October 1959, or three months ahead of the time originally proposed. Citizenship and electoral laws would then be enacted, in time to serve as a basis for the preparation of the electoral rolls for the 1960 elections to the Legislative Assembly. So far as the constitutional convention was concerned, the Executive Council had proposed that it should be held before the 1960 elections. He thought that that suggestion hardly seemed appropriate; before the basic organic law of Western Samoa was enacted, the constituent body must receive an explicit mandate from the people.

43. With reference to the question of the head of the future State, he recalled that a joint meeting of the Fautua and the members of the Legislative Assembly had decided that the two heads of State would be appointed by the parliament of Western Samoa from the

two royal families. In order to avoid possible disagreement between the chiefs of State, thought might be given to the practicability of alternating between the two Fautua on a yearly basis.

44. As to the future relations between New Zealand and Western Samoa, the Administering Authority had clearly stated that the attainment of independence by the Territory would be in no way conditional upon its concluding a treaty of friendship, and that that treaty, if concluded, would be terminable by either party in certain circumstances. It had also stressed that Western Samoa would be perfectly free to amend its constitution.

45. The Administering Authority thought that a plebiscite should be organized in the Territory early in 1961, under United Nations supervision, and that, after a study of the results, the Trusteeship Council should make a recommendation to the General Assembly concerning the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. A meeting of the Fautua and of the Legislative Assembly had adopted a resolution to the effect that all persons over the age of twenty-one should participate in that plebiscite, to determine whether or not the people of Western Samoa agreed to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, to the enactment of the proposed constitution and the conclusion of the treaty of friendship with New Zealand. While believing that those questions could well be put during the plebiscite, he felt that it would be premature for him to take any immediate position on that subject. He noted with great satisfaction, however, that the Visiting Mission had successfully persuaded the leaders of the Samoan people to accept the principle of universal suffrage for the plebiscite. Much as it would also like to see the principle of universal suffrage adopted in the future elections to the Legislative Assembly, the Chinese delegation understood why the Administering Authority wished to leave the matter to the judgement of the Samoans. It agreed with the Administering Authority that such changes could not be imposed from without, and hoped that, as education spread and the land tenure system gradually developed, the traditional matai system would change and the Samoans would accept more democratic methods. He welcomed the fact that the Visiting Mission's suggestions regarding the establishment of a non-matai roll for the forthcoming elections to the Legislative Assembly was being given consideration by the Western Samoan leaders.

46. With reference to the question of the public service, he stressed that Western Samoa could not at the present do without New Zealand officials, but it should take immediate steps to train Samoan staff to fill high administrative posts. In order to find candidates for the crash training programme recommended by the Visiting Mission, in which the New Zealand Government was willing to co-operate, it would be necessary

to expand secondary and higher education in the Territory.

47. So far as economic conditions were concerned, he welcomed the fact that they had improved, but there was urgent need for the adoption of vigorous measures to diversify the Samoan economy. In that connexion, it was encouraging to see that the short-range development plan adopted by the Legislative Assembly provided for the encouragement of secondary industries. He hoped that the recommendations of the Visiting Mission concerning forest conservation and development, the fishing industry and livestock would be duly followed up. There was much room for economic growth in Western Samoa, especially in agriculture. The plan adopted by the Legislative Assembly in October 1958 provided not only for the development of extension services and experimentation by the Department of Agriculture, but also for the development of vacant government land through the settlement of Samoan leaseholders and the construction of feeder roads. One of the difficulties besetting agricultural development was the land tenure system, under which farmers held their land at the discretion of a superior matai. The Visiting Mission had noted that some improvement was taking place in that connexion and that it would be possible to introduce a usehold system, which would give the occupier and his descendants security of tenure so long as the land was properly cultivated. He wished to endorse that recommendation of the Visiting Mission. Another welcome occurrence had been the establishment of the Bank of Western Samoa, which, he hoped, would be empowered to make advances to Western Samoan farmers.

48. In the field of public health, it should now be possible for the Western Samoan Government to allocate more funds for the development of health services to meet the needs of the increasing population. It was encouraging that a tuberculosis project would be undertaken in the Territory with WHO participation, and that that agency had offered to grant fellowships for training Samoan staff.

49. The development of education was particularly important in view of the fact that Western Samoa was rapidly nearing self-government. The upswing in the Territory's economy should permit the development not only of primary education but also of secondary education and vocational training, so that Western Samoa might cease to be dependent on officials and technicians recruited abroad. The Administering Authority was willing to grant Western Samoa increased aid in that field, and that generous gesture deserved commendation. Western Samoa should adopt a long-term plan for the development of its educational facilities, taking into account the needs of the population and the available financial resources.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.