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President: U TIN MAUNG (Burma).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Burma, China, France, India, 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 the Pacific Islands (continued):

- (i) **Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1960 (T/1574, T/L.1014);**
- (ii) **Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1961 (T/1560)**

[Agenda items 4 (f) and 6]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Goding, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, took a place at the Council table.

GENERAL DEBATE

1. Mr. SOLANO LOPEZ (Paraguay) said that, in evaluating conditions in the Trust Territory, his delegation took into account two essential factors: the physical nature of the Territory and the nature of the population. The years since the United States had assumed responsibility for training the Micronesian people to manage their own affairs had been fruitful ones, although the measures taken, being preliminary ones, had been the most difficult of all. In considering future steps, the Council could not examine the situation in a Territory in isolation, but must take into account conditions in other regions. There had been many recent changes in the world scene, resulting from a growing awareness of the right to self-determination, and his delegation wished to do everything possible to advance the moment when the people of the Territory, like other peoples, achieved sufficient

political maturity to decide their own destiny. In the light of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), everything possible must be done to strengthen the political basis of the Territory without overlooking the need to consolidate the economy.

2. The special representative had said that the Administration would review the achievements of the past ten years, re-evaluate requirements and plan programmes for the future. Such a re-evaluation, if done with the high degree of self-criticism characteristic of the Administering Authority, would constitute a valuable contribution to the development of the Territory, and it must be followed by the formulation of revised, dynamic and complete plans with well-defined political, economic, social and educational objectives to be achieved by progressive constitutional stages. His delegation agreed with the tribute to the past achievements of the Administering Authority and the positive and constructive criticisms contained in the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1961 (T/1560), whose various conclusions and recommendations it supported by and large. It hoped that, after studying those recommendations, the Administering Authority would incorporate them in its general plan.

3. The statement made by the Chairman of the Visiting Mission concerning the incidents in Saipan (T/1560, para. 64) corresponded with his delegation's view and had been necessary in the light of the offence. He believed that, when circumstances required, visiting missions should take a more active role.

4. His delegation was pleased to note the specific statement by the Administering Authority that just and valid claims for damages suffered during the last World War must be met, and it trusted that the Council would hear at future sessions that those claims had been liquidated.

5. He did not feel competent to voice a definite opinion concerning the effects of radiation on the people of Rongelap, but he felt that investigations should continue. The measures proposed by the Visiting Mission in chapter VII of its report seemed simple and feasible and, if adopted, might bring about great relief from suffering, even if that suffering were purely psychological. Some action should also be taken to attenuate the psychological impact arising from the visit of the experts. He joined the Visiting Mission in hoping that there would be no further nuclear tests in the Territory.

6. His delegation had the greatest trust in the abilities of the Administering Authority, and was confident that it would lead the people of the Trust Territory to the objectives of trusteeship.

7. Mr. EDMONDS (New Zealand) pointed out that the Trust Territory possessed no valuable mineral deposits or similar assets which might offer a prospect of substantial economic benefits; it depended mainly

on the production and export of copra, and plans for future development were based on agriculture and fisheries, the only natural resources available. It seemed unlikely that the Territory, with its rapidly rising population, limited acreage of cultivable land and serious geographical handicaps, would ever be wealthy if restricted to its own resources. Its present dependence on outside financial support was likely to continue, to some extent, indefinitely.

8. While the final answer to the question of the future of the Territory could only be given at a later stage and by the people themselves, the Administering Authority should keep the goals of its policy under constant review. The Administering Authority had scrupulously respected the cultural values and traditions of the Micronesian people and had avoided any suggestion that the Territory might be economically exploited by outside interests but, at the same time, it had hesitated to commit large public funds to development lest the people's self-reliance, initiative and self-sufficiency should be destroyed. The Territory had thus lacked the benefits of large-scale private investment while not enjoying the fruits of large-scale governmental activity in economic matters. Economic planning had been tied rather too closely to actual natural resources and local levels of skills and had not fully taken into account the possibility of introducing small processing industries and other profitable activities, such as tourism, which, subject to suitable safeguards, might be of considerable value to the Territory. Private investment from outside need not mean exploitation since, even if some profits left the Territory, the resulting fringe benefits, employment opportunities and wages could not be lightly foregone and, furthermore, it was often possible for the Government or local interests to invest jointly with outside private concerns in commercial enterprises.

9. It was even more important, however, for the Administration itself to devote more money to basic economic development both by direct action, through such means as community development schemes and the provision of storage facilities and transportation for crops, and indirectly, by financing of private producers and co-operatives. His delegation was confident that the Administering Authority would give every consideration to the many excellent and constructive suggestions on that point in the report of the Visiting Mission (T/1560, para. 118). He welcomed the Administering Authority's intention to strengthen the Economic Development Fund, and urged that the Territory should have a separate budget for development, funds for which should be appropriated on a long-term basis to facilitate sound planning.

10. The time might be ripe for the Administering Authority to reappraise the meaning of "self-sufficiency". It seemed unlikely that the Territory could rise far above the subsistence level unless its economy was linked more closely with that of a larger and wealthier country, which logically should be the United States. If special provisions were required to ensure a market in the United States for Micronesian products, the necessary steps should be taken.

11. His delegation especially welcomed the Administering Authority's statement (1147th meeting) that a legislative council for the Territory would replace the Inter-District Advisory Committee by 1965; it hoped that it would be possible to set up the legis-

lature even before that date and that the great majority of the members would be directly elected. There was increasing need for a body which could speak for all the people of the Territory and be consulted by the Administering Authority on vital matters, and it was important, therefore, that the legislature should reflect and encourage the growing territorial consciousness.

12. The United States representative's statement (1147th meeting) that his Government regarded the principles of the General Assembly Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples as applicable to Micronesia raised the question of the political future of the Territory, which must be freely determined at an appropriate time by the inhabitants themselves. The exercise of self-determination presupposed the existence of a political entity, and that stage had not yet been reached in Micronesia. But the physical characteristics of the Territory made it difficult to imagine a future not based on a close association with both the United States and the island of Guam. The people of Saipan had indicated their desire to join Guam, but he agreed with the Visiting Mission and the Administering Authority that the exercise of self-determination by individual Districts was not a practical approach to the question of the Territory's future. Until such time as the people themselves were able to decide the matter, the process of integration should be accelerated so that, if the people of Guam and of the Territory eventually wished to enter into a closer association, they would be at much the same level of political advancement. Even now, the sharing of certain common services by the Territory and Guam would be to the advantage of both and might result in useful economies.

13. His delegation welcomed the information that the question of placing the Saipan District under the administration of the Trust Territory authorities instead of the Navy was being considered as was the question of reintegrating the District of Rota with Saipan. It was hoped that the decision reached would ensure that revenue raised in Saipan would form part of the Territorial budget, which sorely needed augmenting. He was pleased to note that the Administering Authority was actively considering the Visiting Mission's suggestions of ways in which Territorial revenue might be increased, for instance, through the levying of an income tax (T/1560, para. 105). Forms of taxation used by District Administrations should be carefully watched, since Territory-wide systems of taxation could assist in promoting territorial consciousness and would spread the spending of revenue more evenly over wealthier and poorer Districts alike. It would be unfortunate, moreover, if the legislative council inherited a "states-rights" problem "vis-à-vis" the Districts.

14. His delegation commended the Administering Authority for its efforts in training Micronesians to assume more responsible positions in Government services and noted its assurances that those efforts would be increased. As the central authority could be no stronger than its administrative machinery, he welcomed the statement that supernumerary United States officers would be retained in such services as health and education to ensure the maintenance of adequate standards, and was especially pleased at the intention to appoint a political affairs officer, an economic development officer and a marketing officer. The Administration also had an important role to play

in the matter of transportation and communication, the problems of which could not be solved in purely economic terms and which had an important political significance. His delegation supported the Visiting Mission's suggestion that the construction and maintenance of adequate roads would probably stimulate economic activity (T/1560, para. 92).

15. Regarding the Administration's many praiseworthy achievements in economic and social development, he hoped that the Fishery Development Project would be successfully completed and considerably extended. He appreciated the Administering Authority's work in improving and protecting the health of the community, and was particularly impressed by the low infant mortality rate, but he drew attention to the Visiting Mission's comments in paragraph 125 of its report, with regard to medical and health facilities in outlying islands. Educational problems were complex and would prove expensive to solve, but the work already done in ensuring primary education for all children was noteworthy. The Administering Authority might wish to consider whether part of the cost of salaries for elementary school teachers should not be met by the central administration. In paragraphs 144-148 of its report, the Visiting Mission had made some interesting comments and recommendations concerning English language instruction in elementary schools, which was of great importance, and the already generous scholarship scheme, vocational training and higher education. He stressed the importance of unifying the school curriculum throughout the Territory at all levels, as had been done for intermediate schools.

16. His delegation urged the earliest possible settlement of claims for compensation arising from war damage and from land disputes and for compensation to the unfortunate people of Rongelap; further delay could adversely affect relations between the people concerned and the Administration. He could not assess the scientific value of the report concerning the effects of radiation on the people of Rongelap, but it would probably be necessary to continue periodic examinations. Such surveys should be conducted with awareness of the understandable psychological sensibilities of the people and should not be so frequent as to keep them in a state of constant anxiety and apprehension.

17. The Visiting Mission had said in its report (T/1560, para. 22) that the transfer of the headquarters of the Trust Territory from Guam to a site within the Territory would be an important step towards creating a feeling of national unity and identity, and had cited evidence of some feeling in the Territory that such a transfer was desirable. The Administering Authority agreed that eventually the headquarters should be within the Territory, but appeared to feel that the final decision should be left to the new legislative council. However, if the setting up of the legislature was to be postponed beyond a year or two, the matter should be taken up with the Inter-District Advisory Committee, since any undue delay might mean, not only that a powerful instrument in the development of a territorial consciousness remained unused, but that future relations between Guam and the Trust Territory would suffer.

18. His delegation expressed its appreciation to the 1961 Visiting Mission and was confident that the Administering Authority would continue to discharge with great distinction its responsibilities towards the

people of Micronesia. The fact that the Government and people of the United States were by tradition, sentiment and conviction, reluctant administrators of dependent peoples was an asset, not a liability, and the development of the Territory offered a worthy challenge to their genius for creating unity out of diversity.

19. Mr. JHA (India) said that in examining the conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands the Council had the benefit not only of the Administering Authority's annual report^{1/} but also of the comprehensive report submitted by the Visiting Mission (T/1560) which included a number of constructive criticisms. He noted that the members of the Council, including the Administering Authority, had indicated their broad agreement with the Visiting Mission's observations and recommendations.

20. In the field of political advancement, the pace of evolution towards self-government and independence should be accelerated in keeping with operative paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). For instance, there was no reason why the number of municipalities chartered annually should not be raised from ten to fifteen or twenty with a view to completing the extension of municipal local government to the entire Territory within the next two or three years. The municipal councils were working well and popular response to the programme had, by and large, been good. He also felt that the Saipan Municipal Council should be transformed into a District Congress and that the Yap Island Congress should be extended to the entire District before long. The financial powers of the district councils should be expanded to include control and expenditure of central funds allocated to the District for public works and other local needs.

21. He did not understand why the transformation of the Inter-District Advisory Committee into a Territorial council should be postponed until 1965. The establishment of a Territorial legislature would promote the latent sense of unity which the Visiting Mission had observed in the Territory. Consequently, the Administering Authority should proceed with the establishment of the Territorial Council by the end of 1962. Such a step would be no more of an imposition on the people than the establishment of the Inter-District Advisory Committee had been. He felt that there should be a shift of emphasis in the Administering Authority's thinking from the District level to that of the Territory as a whole.

22. He endorsed the Visiting Mission's recommendation in paragraph 25 of its report that urgent steps should be taken with a view to the appointment of Micronesians to posts of District Administrator and Assistant District Administrator in all the Districts within the next two or three years.

23. He also supported the Visiting Mission's views and recommendations with regard to the secessionist moves in Saipan (T/1560, paras. 13-17). The Administration's officials on the spot, whether Navy or civilian, should give clear explanations to the people of Saipan and of the rest of the Trust Territory concerning the

^{1/} Thirteenth Annual Report to the United Nations on the Administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, July 1, 1959 to June 30, 1960: Transmitted by the United States of America to the United Nations Pursuant to Article 88 of the Charter of the United Nations, Department of State Publication 7183 (Washington, D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1961), Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1574).

problems of their future and the Territory's separate identity and integrity. That was a responsibility that rested with the Administering Authority, which was accountable to the United Nations. A Trusteeship Agreement could not be terminated piecemeal so as to destroy the integrity of the Trust Territory. The Administering Authority should now implement without delay all the measures recommended by the Visiting Mission for the administrative reintegration of Saipan with the rest of the Territory. In that context he welcomed the information that two Saipanese would in future participate in the work of the Inter-District Advisory Committee as full members. He also felt that an increasing number of students from Saipan should be sent to the Pacific Islands Central School at Ponape, rather than to Guam.

24. It was clear from the views expressed by the people of the Territory to the Visiting Mission that the desirability of transferring the headquarters of the Territorial Administration from Guam to a site in the Territory itself had been well established. Truk, being much more centrally placed than Guam, could be used for the administrative headquarters, while commerce and traffic could continue to flow to and from Guam, where the air and sea routes converged. The Trust Territory's communication headquarters were already located at Truk and the Council had been informed that the construction of a deep-water harbour there had passed the half-way mark. The transfer of the administrative headquarters to Truk would moreover provide more jobs for the inhabitants of the Territory, and would give them a sense of territorial and administrative unity.

25. On the basis of the Visiting Mission's account of the after-effects of radio-active fall-out suffered by the people of Rongelap (T/1560, chap. VII) and of the indications in the reports of the United States Atomic Energy Commission specialists that the illnesses reported in Rongelap were such as might be expected in victims of fall-out and that the occurrence of leukemia and other diseases would have to be watched, he found it difficult to accept the Administering Authority's statement that no after-effects of the fall-out were discernible and that the general health of the people was satisfactory. The victims should continue to receive proper care and attention and should be suitably compensated for the calamities experienced. He hoped that the Administering Authority would follow the suggestion in paragraph 205 of the Visiting Mission's report and settle the claims administratively.

26. Although the statement by the Administering Authority (1149th meeting) that it had no plans to resume nuclear tests in the Trust Territory was satisfactory as far as it went, he was of the opinion that such testing was devoid of all moral foundation and he therefore hoped that the Administering Authority would find it possible to announce that it had no intentions of undertaking any further tests of that kind at any time in the future.

27. With regard to social advancement he hoped that the Administering Authority, by developing modern means of communication, would promote the social and cultural unity of the Micronesian people. The Administering Authority was to be commended for all it had done in furthering their social welfare and improving public health. He was confident that the necessary steps would be taken to implement the Visiting Mission's recommendations in chapter III of

its report with regard to further improvements in the health services.

28. He welcomed the statement in paragraph 135 of the Visiting Mission's report that almost every child of school age was in school. Perhaps the most pressing need in that field now was for a considerable increase in the central funds available for education and a reduction of the age of admission to elementary schools from eight years to six. Special attention should be given to expanding and improving the secondary, vocational and technical education facilities, which were still very limited. He was glad to note from the special representative's statement that the Visiting Mission's suggestion to set up a teacher-training institute at the Pacific Islands Central School was to be acted upon, and that the Central School itself had been placed under the direction of the Territory's Education Department. He endorsed the Visiting Mission's observation in paragraph 140 of its report to the effect that the present policy, which left financial responsibility for elementary education to the local government bodies, led to wide variations in standards and quality of education. The Administering Authority could solve those problems by creating a central fund for education.

29. With reference to higher education, he hoped that the scholarship facilities would be expanded and that college-level courses would be added at the Pacific Islands Central School within two or three years. Lastly, he had been glad to hear from the United States representative that the Administering Authority was in general agreement with the Visiting Mission's view that the teaching of English should be started in the first grade of primary school; he hoped that that recommendation would be implemented without delay.

30. The Territory's main problems lay in the economic field. A highly concentrated effort on the part of the Administering Authority was required to develop the Territory's economic potential within a few years. Expenditure on communications should be considerably increased. Furthermore, the Administering Authority should for the next four or five years contribute as much for the planned development of productive economic activities as it did for current expenses. The fact that the Administering Authority, perhaps for good reasons, had not favoured the entry of private foreign investment capital into Micronesia, necessitated direct governmental investment in projects such as fisheries development, the processing industry and even specialized farming (e.g., cacao and coffee growing). Financial and technical assistance should also be given to indigenous co-operatives.

31. He endorsed the Visiting Mission's recommendations designed to increase local revenue and agreed with it that the provision of development finance should be on a long-term basis. It should also be possible to utilize the war damage compensation—the claims for which, he had been encouraged to hear, would be settled shortly—for the furtherance of economic development projects in the districts where they were most needed. The Visiting Mission's recommendations summarized in paragraph 118 of its report deserved the most careful consideration.

32. The Visiting Mission's comments and recommendations were so cogent that he saw no need for the Council to appoint a drafting committee to formulate observations and conclusions on the Trust Territory. He suggested that the Council might merely adopt a

resolution expressing appreciation to the Visiting Mission for its report and commending its conclusions and recommendations to the Administering Authority.

33. Mr. KOSCZIUSKO-MORIZET (France) congratulated the members of the Visiting Mission on their comprehensive and constructive report (T/1560). He greatly regretted that the report had not been circulated in French before the opening of the general debate. Unfortunately, such delays occurred at every session of the Trusteeship Council and the General Assembly, and his delegation therefore urged that at the next session of the General Assembly the translations of all documents should be available in good time.

34. He fully endorsed the views set out in paragraph 8 of the Visiting Mission's report, for political advancement in the Trust Territory had been slow and fragmentary. Admittedly, the geographical features of the Territory raised numerous problems, the most difficult of which was instilling a sense of national unity in the people. The inhabitants were still in the communal stage of political development, but they must be rapidly brought to where they could decide freely on their future. He had been happy to hear the special representative state that the Administration contemplated speeding up its activities in that respect.

35. The progress achieved so far should not be disregarded. The plan to charter ten new municipalities a year had been successfully implemented, so that forty-three chartered municipalities now existed, and the people took a keen interest in municipal life. While it was debatable which should come first, a national consciousness or national institutions, his delegation believed that in a Territory under international trusteeship representative institutions of a national character could precede the emergence of a national consciousness. His delegation had therefore closely followed the work of the Inter-District Advisory Committee, which represented the beginnings of a Territorial legislative council. The fifth session of the Committee had witnessed the further development of its sub-committees, and the establishment of a political sub-committee during the current year would no doubt constitute an important further step towards central institutions.

36. That Committee was not, however, elected by universal suffrage, and it was not until the coming year that its representatives would be chosen by popular election. In addition, the Committee had as yet only consultative functions. His delegation believed that it should as soon as possible become a deliberative body invested with administrative powers. In that respect, the announced date of 1965 seemed rather distant. The gradual emergence of a collective awareness, the fairly wide-spread employment of Micronesians in the civil service and the appearance of political parties were all factors which warranted a speeding up of the inauguration of new representative institutions.

37. When the legislative council was finally established, it would have to be situated somewhere in the Territory itself, and that raised the problem of the site of the administrative headquarters. While there were strong arguments for retaining the headquarters in Guam, his delegation believed that the purposes of the United Nations Charter and the future development of the Territory could be served in one of two

ways: by transferring the headquarters to the Territory, or, alternatively, by bringing Guam within the Territory's political and administrative framework, a solution for which there was sound geographical and ethnic justification.

38. The fact that the Territory was a strategic area accounted for many of the Administering Authority's actions, including the special treatment it gave to Saipan. Nevertheless, the future of the inhabitants must have priority over all other considerations, and hence his delegation considered that broader political rights should be granted. The maturity of the Micronesians was universally recognized, and it was quite possible that they would freely choose to form more durable ties with the United States. The plebiscite held in Saipan indicated the possibility of future integration of the islands into the United States, a development to which his delegation would not object if it was the freely expressed wish of the people.

39. The Visiting Mission noted in paragraph 73 of its report that the Territory's economy had remained static for a long time and recommended the introduction of comprehensive planning bolstered by a programme of investment. The Micronesians needed long-term capital and technical assistance, and the bulk of such aid could come only from the Administering Authority. His delegation agreed with the suggestion that investment credits, as distinct from working credits, should be allocated to a development programme. Public and private investments were not mutually exclusive but could readily be associated in a mixed economy. At the same time, the Administration should see to it that the people derived maximum benefit from such investments as well as from the establishment of business firms in the Territory. His delegation accordingly endorsed the recommendations on that subject set out in paragraphs 108 to 118 of the Visiting Mission's report.

40. The Administration had made notable advances in the medical and health fields and had developed the educational system to the point where practically all children attended primary school. Secondary education should be developed next, and in that respect the Pacific Islands Central School, located in Ponape, was a step in the right direction.

41. Mr. FORSYTHE (Australia) said that, while he might not agree with all the observations and conclusions set forth in the Visiting Mission's report, its sincerity of purpose and constructive intent were clear. Despite the apparent desire of the Visiting Mission for greater efforts and faster results, it had taken a realistic attitude towards measures to promote self-government or independence.

42. It had been suggested by some that all powers should immediately be transferred to the indigenous population of the Territory. But as members of the Visiting Mission had noted, the indigenous inhabitants had not expressed a serious desire for immediate independence for the Territory as a whole; they seemed to be more preoccupied with their economic future. Although the political problems of the area were considerable, at the present stage of development economic problems were paramount. Those problems, aggravated by the difficulty of communications, stemmed from a meagreness of mineral resources and from an economy heavily dependent on one or two basic crops. His delegation had been pleased to hear,

however, that there were prospects of relative self-sufficiency and that vigorous steps were being planned to diversify cash crops and to develop such industries as fisheries. It was likewise encouraging to know that the Administration would give careful consideration to the Visiting Mission's recommendation that small-scale industries suitable to the area should be investigated and established where economically feasible. He stressed, however, that there was no short cut to the higher phases of economic development.

43. As had been pointed out, the main need of the area was for more capital. Since the Administering Authority had taken the view that private capital investment should not be encouraged in the Territory, so that local resources might be preserved for the people themselves, some delegations felt it should provide additional means of capital as an alternative. It was gratifying, in that connexion, that consideration was being given to enlarging the governmental revolving fund for economic development and that a long-term development programme was being envisaged. His delegation welcomed the statement by Mr. Nucker (1151st meeting) that for the year beginning 1 July 1961 there would be an increase of some \$300,000 to \$400,000 in the budget for capital improvements.

44. Regarding medical and health services, he had been happy to learn that special measures were being taken to improve the situation in the outer islands and that Micronesian medical practitioners trained in the Central Medical School at Suva, Fiji, were working successfully in the Territory.

45. He wished to commend the Administering Authority for a year of progress in all essential matters in the Territory. Political advancement, for example, was evident in the chartering of more municipalities and in the development of political awareness and a sense of unity. In the complex situation prevailing in the Territory it seemed a matter for commendation that the Administering Authority still adhered to the view that a Territory-wide legislative council might be established within five years. The council would then be in a position to express itself on a number of outstanding political and economic problems and help to work out their solution in collaboration with the Administering Authority. But time was needed for that process to be completed. His delegation firmly believed that the Administering Authority was fostering the Territory's development towards self-government or independence as rapidly as possible.

46. Mr. ADRIAENSSEN (Belgium) said that many of the criticisms raised in the Trusteeship Council, and in the Territory itself, concerned the speed with which the Territory would achieve self-government or independence. There was general agreement that the process should be as rapid as possible, but not on how long it should actually take.

47. One of the major complaints raised in the Territory related to war damages. The Trust Territory, having no legal personality of its own, could not press

its claim in an international forum and was bound by the commitments concluded on its behalf by the Administering Authority. In addition, the Visiting Mission and the Trusteeship Council were not competent to represent the Territory either before the Administering Authority or before Japan. The Council did, however, have a solemn duty to ensure that the people of the Territory did not receive less favourable or less expeditious treatment than any other group of nationals within the jurisdiction of the Administering Authority. His delegation had been interested to hear from the United States representative that negotiations with Japan were well under way and that the claims of the Territory's people would be satisfied at an early date. But that was not the only means of indemnifying the Territory's people. Rather than deferring the settlement any longer, it might be wiser for the Administering Authority to advance the money claimed by the inhabitants, and recover it from Japan later. That possibility seemed to him to be in line with the Visiting Mission's report.

48. The Mission had further indicated its preference for a collective settlement which would benefit the majority of the population and not isolated individuals (T/1560, para. 219). That seemed to be a logical suggestion, for the damage had been largely collective and it would furthermore be difficult at the present stage to differentiate between individual and collective losses suffered during the war. In that connexion he welcomed the statement that the Administering Authority intended to consult the local councils more closely on the matter.

49. With regard to land claims, two aspects of the problem had on occasion been confused. The private aspect of indemnification of owners must be carefully distinguished from the political aspect, which concerned the whole of the Territory and more particularly its advisory or representative organs. Whereas the Administration might not find it easy to pay the rather large individual claims filed by inhabitants, it might be prepared to hand a global sum to the Territory's representative bodies and empower them to decide what share should be regarded as collective damages and what share as individual damages. That would stimulate both the Territory's economic development and its political activity, for the inhabitants would bring their claims to their own representative organs rather than to the Administering Authority.

50. In conclusion, he wished to express his delegation's confidence in the work carried out by the Administering Authority. Its accomplishments could be seen from what the Visiting Mission had observed in the Territory itself, and, in a sense, from the plebiscite conducted in Saipan. Despite any negative aspects, the plebiscite clearly showed that in opting for closer ties with Guam and for United States citizenship, the Saipanese population as a whole had cast a vote of confidence in the Administering Authority.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.