



# TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Twenty-ninth Session  
OFFICIAL RECORDS

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**President: Mr. Jonathan B. BINGHAM**  
(United States of America).

### Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, Bolivia, China, France, India, New Zealand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 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.

### Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Nauru (continued):

- (i) *Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1961 (T/1589, T/1599, T/1600, T/L.1039);*
- (ii) *Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru and New Guinea, 1962 (T/1595 and Add.1)*

[Agenda items 3 (c) and 5 (a)]

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. McCarthy, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Nauru, took a place at the Council table.*

### GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. NOYES (United States of America) congratulated the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru and New Guinea, 1962, on its report (T/1595 and Add.1), which he felt sure would be a major contribution to the work of the Council in dealing with the Trust Territory of Nauru.

2. His delegation supported the view expressed in paragraph 144 of the Visiting Mission's report that the Nauruans enjoyed favourable conditions and that their interests were being well served by the Administering Authority. All the Territory's problems had clearly not been solved, but progress was taking place on many fronts. The Council should acknowledge the high stan-

dards of administration and co-operation with the United Nations which were clear from the report.

3. The Trusteeship Council had consistently favoured increased responsibility for the Nauru Local Government Council, and the Visiting Mission had also made certain recommendations in that respect (T/1595, paras. 88 and 89). The United States delegation agreed that the Administering Authority had prepared the ground for a step forward and that the time had come for it to turn over increasing responsibility to the Nauru Local Government Council. The Administering Authority should also be encouraged to advance Nauruans to positions of responsibility as rapidly as possible.

4. The Mission's recommendations with respect to consultations between the Nauruans and the Board of the British Phosphate Commissioners (T/1595, para. 95) was reasonable and his delegation had been glad to hear that the Administering Authority was in sympathy with that recommendation.

5. There was little, if any, discussion in the report of the documents contained in the annexes (T/1595/Add.1) and he hoped that the Chairman of the Visiting Mission would comment on the matter during the debate.

6. The most important point dealt with in the report was the question of the future resettlement of the Nauruan people. The Mission's recommendations in that respect (T/1595, para. 81) seemed to point a way out of the difficulties and he hoped that the Australian Government would be prepared to follow them. The officer provided by the Administration to help the islanders in formulating their wishes and requests had apparently been of assistance in preparing the submission to the Australian Government by the Nauru Local Government Council (T/1600). Unfortunately the proposals in question were so recent that neither the Administering Authority nor the Visiting Mission had yet had time to give their views with regard to them, but they were simply part of a continuing process of consultation between the Administering Authority and the Nauruans. His delegation had been glad to hear from Mr. De Roburt the Head Chief of Nauru, that he was entirely satisfied with the arrangements for consultation between his Council and the Administering Authority.

7. While the submission of the Nauruan proposals to the Administering Authority brought the process of consultation to a new stage, it did not seem to his delegation to be in any way inconsistent with the Visiting Mission's recommendation that the Administering Authority should take the responsibility for preparing detailed schemes of resettlement on the basis of the two main alternatives.

8. The Nauruans obviously had faith and confidence in the Australian Government; equally obviously they were fully aware of the difficulties of their situation. The Australian Government had given ample evidence

of its desire to work with them towards finding an equitable and acceptable solution of the problem of resettlement. The United States delegation therefore believed that a satisfactory solution would be found in ample time.

9. Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom), in reply to the point raised by the United States representative about the documents annexed to the report, said that when the Mission had arrived in Nauru its main purpose had of course been to have full discussions with the Nauru Local Government Council. The day before the first meeting the Local Government Council had presented an agenda with statements and working papers as the basis for the discussions. The principal documents laid before the Mission had been annexed to the report. Lengthy discussions had been held and the views of the Local Government Council had been elucidated. The Mission had considered the recommendations put forward both in the documents and in the subsequent discussions. He believed that all the points raised in the documents were covered by the recommendations in the report, although the report dealt rather with the discussions which had taken place than with each of the points raised in the working papers. After careful consideration the members of the Mission had decided that the documents should be annexed to the report although they were not specifically petitions to the Trusteeship Council.

10. Mr. CORNER (New Zealand) associated himself with the remarks made at the previous meeting by the representative of France about the high quality of the report of the Visiting Mission. That report and the statements made at the 1189th and 1190th meetings by Mr. De Roburt, the Head Chief of Nauru, had clearly set forth the wishes of the Nauruan people and the practical realities which must be faced in fulfilling them. The position of Nauru was unique; it was a tiny and isolated island with an indigenous population of only 2,400, a population which could enjoy an acceptable standard of living only by the exploitation of a single natural resource which dwindled every year. Generalizations based on other Territories and the usual maxims on decolonization would be of comparatively little use. Decisions regarding the future should be approached with care, with imagination and with flexibility.

11. During the fifteen years since Nauru had been placed under trusteeship, the Trusteeship Council had tried to ensure that the handful of people on the island should enjoy as fully as possible the benefits of the International Trusteeship System and that, when the time came for them to decide, their future should be in accordance with their freely expressed wishes. That preliminary aim had been conscientiously discharged; the Administration's record in Nauru had been so consistently commended by past United Nations visiting missions as to allow no grounds for doubting its good faith and earnest efforts to promote the well-being of the people. The annual report now before the Council<sup>1/</sup> showed that medical, educational and social services had reached a standard not often found elsewhere in the Pacific or, indeed, anywhere else. Political progress had been steady and productive. The Nauru Local Government Council was demonstrating a re-

sponsible concern for the people's welfare, as Mr. De Roburt had made clear. The groundwork had been well laid; the time had obviously come for further advances and all members would welcome the announcement made by the special representative that one of the primary tasks of the incoming Administrator would be to examine the means of further political devolution. The recommendations of the Visiting Mission regarding a constitutional conference provided a valuable starting-point, and so did the acceptance by the Administering Authority of the Mission's proposal to add a formal annual conference to the informal meetings customarily held between the Nauruan representatives and representatives of the British Phosphate Commissioners.

12. That was the normal pattern of political progress in all Trust Territories, but in the case of Nauru that normal pattern was overshadowed by the crucial and still unresolved question of the future of the Nauruan people itself. As most members of the Council had pointed out, the need for long-term planning for the Nauruans' future had now become the overriding issue. Political, economic and educational progress would depend upon the settlement of that question.

13. In connexion with education, he had been surprised by the Mission's reference, in paragraph 48 of its report to fears and obsessions. Compared with the bulk of the planet's three thousand million inhabitants, the Nauruans were among the most favoured and the most fitted to survive in modern conditions. He could see no need for fears and obsessions; the Nauruans had every cause to be positive and confident.

14. The query which hung over the future of Nauru was only indirectly the result of phosphate extraction. If the latter were stopped or sharply curtailed the resulting fall in the levels of Nauruan income would only worsen the situation. The simple fact was that the island had always been largely barren. Before the phosphate resources had been developed it had supplied only a subsistence living for a small number of people, and that mainly by fishing. There was a small strip of fertile land around the coast. The phosphate lands had never grown anything useful. No top soil had been removed by the mining operations. The islanders, therefore, like many others in the Pacific, must have lived under a constant threat of over-population. That threat had been lifted by the discovery of the phosphate deposits. The phosphate revenues had provided a steadily rising standard of living to keep pace with the growth of population. When the phosphate deposits were exhausted, however, that high standard of living must encounter the more normal economic facts of life on a Pacific island. Those facts were, quite baldly, that a large population could not be maintained on a small island without some form of emigration.

15. It had been suggested that the fertility of Nauru could be increased by covering the barren areas with a blanket of topsoil. Soil specialists had declared, however, that that was impossible; the cost would be prohibitive and the soil unstable. But even if it were feasible, the resulting arable land, however productive, could not begin to provide the Nauruan people with the sort of life to which they had grown accustomed. The USSR representative had suggested that the Nauruans could develop their fishing, but clearly they would not be able to maintain their present elaborate economy by selling fish to each other and at such a remote distance from other centres they certainly could not sell it to any one else.

<sup>1/</sup> Commonwealth of Australia, Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of Nauru from 1st July, 1960, to 30th June, 1961 (Canberra, A.J. Arthur, Commonwealth Government Printer). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1589).

16. Without some form of resettlement the end of phosphate extraction would also have side effects which would dislocate the entire structure and habits of present-day Nauruan society. The phosphate workings had raised standards of education and technical training to the levels demanded by an advanced industrial society. Without the employment they offered and the revenue they provided there would be no opportunities and no outlet for the growing body of skilled Nauruans. Even the diet and level of consumer goods would be upset. The phosphate ships provided a fast and frequent link with the outside world, enabling the islanders to import large quantities of food and other goods. Without the phosphates neither the ships nor the goods they carried would find their way to Nauru.

17. Faced with those facts, the Nauruan people had concluded that some form of emigration or resettlement was essential, a view which had once again been confirmed by the Head Chief. That opinion should therefore be taken as the starting-point of the efforts of the Administering Authority and of the United Nations. The problem then became one of assisting the Nauruans to express their wishes in a detailed and practicable form. The Administering Authority's original proposals<sup>2/</sup> had not apparently met the essential need of the Nauruans to preserve the identity of their community. The Visiting Mission had made certain suggestions and subsequently the Nauruan representatives had set out their desiderata both for an island home and for their future State. The next step was to discover how far those desiderata could be realized in practice. In principle the Visiting Mission would appear to be right in feeling that the facts of geography, of international life and of economics might rule out the discovery of a suitable new island. The important point, however, was that the Nauruans themselves must be enabled to exploit every possibility. Only they could decide whether any particular site approached their ideal and determine in what directions they might have to compromise. The process at the present stage, therefore, was one of search and negotiation. The search would have to be extensive and the Nauruan representatives must be closely associated with it. The Nauruan representatives had already inspected two possible island sites and the discussions with the Australian Minister for Territories which had taken place in June would be resumed in August.

18. The joint Administering Authority fully acknowledged its obligations to assist the Nauruan people after the phosphates were exhausted. The earlier proposals indicated that finance at least should not be one of the anxieties of the Nauruans in deciding on their future home. It remained for the Administering Authority to make every effort to ascertain and to meet the wishes of the Nauruans themselves. The "freely expressed wishes of the people" could be a glib and unthinking phrase, but the Administering Authority took it seriously. It would be ironical if Australia were to be criticized in the Trusteeship Council precisely because it was careful not to seek to impose a solution from outside. Nevertheless the Administering Authority was also aware that the purposes of consultation and negotiation should not needlessly be prolonged. There was a clear obligation on all members of the Council, and particularly on the joint Administering Authority, to do everything pos-

sible to ensure the best future for the tiny but unique community of the island of Nauru.

19. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Council must concentrate its attention on the basic issue, which was the demand of the Nauruan people that it should be granted independence and given the possibility of creating its own sovereign State. The will of that people was clearly stated in the memoranda presented to the Visiting Mission by the Nauru Local Government Council (T/1595/Add.1) and in the Nauruan proposals (T/1600) submitted to the Australian Government. The memorandum contained demands for independence in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)); the document submitted to the Australian Government contained proposals for the creation of a sovereign Nauruan State and the conclusion of a treaty of friendship with Australia on terms which would violate the sovereignty of neither State. Such was the clearly expressed will of the Nauruan people and it was fully in accordance with the Declaration. A year before, at the twenty-seventh session, Nauruan representatives had told the Council that they had never even heard of the Declaration, for the Administering Authority had failed to bring it to their notice. But that historic document had become the property of an ever-increasing mass of people in the colonies, and now it had finally reached Nauru too, lost in the Pacific wastes.

20. The Governments of Australia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand were taking no steps to implement the Declaration in Nauru; indeed, the joint Administering Authority was directly sabotaging the implementation of the Declaration on the grounds of "special circumstances", and even ignored the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council. At its twenty-seventh session the Council had called upon the Administering Authority to establish realistic targets for the rapid and planned advance of the Territory in all aspects of its political life (A/4818, p. 1, para. 22); the Administering Authority's response was virtual mockery, for in its annual report it stated flatly that it did not consider that realistic target dates for political advancement could be established. In the memorandum entitled "Target dates for Nauru" (T/1595/Add.1, annex II) the Nauru Local Government Council also demanded that realistic target dates should be set for independence. But the only plan which the Administering Authority had with regard to Nauru was the proposal for resettlement in Australia, which had already been rejected by the Nauruans themselves.

21. At the twenty-seventh session the Administering Authority had assured the Council that it would base itself upon the wishes of the Nauruan population in all matters affecting their future, yet a year later it was still attempting to impose a plan which it knew was unacceptable to the people. In order to achieve that end, the Administering Authority had attempted to utilize the Visiting Mission which had been sent to Nauru in April; that attempt had been greatly assisted by the fact that half the members of the Mission had been representatives of colonial Powers, the post of Chairman being held by the representative of the United Kingdom itself—one of the three Powers constituting the joint Administering Authority. The latter had naturally sought to safeguard the interests of the Administering Authority and had tried in every way

<sup>2/</sup> See A/4818, pp. 60-61, paras. 5-12.

possible to stress that proposals for the future of the Nauruan people must be formulated by the Australian Government rather than by the people themselves. The Soviet delegation agreed with the view expressed by the New Zealand representative that it was for the Nauruan people to decide what place was or was not suitable for them. Moreover, the Chairman of the Visiting Mission had tried to cast doubt upon the feasibility of the proposals advanced by the Nauruan people for a new island home. Paragraph 78 of the Visiting Mission's report stated that the Mission doubted whether the search for an island home in fact offered the best hope for a solution for the Nauruan people; while paragraph 79 stated that as an alternative to the proposal for an island home, a proposal should be worked out and set out in detail for the establishment of a single community centre for the Nauruans in Australia. It was clear that the Visiting Mission's proposal in no way differed from the plan of the Administering Authority, which had already been examined in the Council and categorically rejected by the Nauruan people.

22. The Nauruans quite justly rejected any plan for their resettlement which would mean the end of the Nauruan community and of its existence as a national entity. In appendix A to its memorandum "Resettlement and independence for the Nauruan people" (T/1595/Add.1, annex I), the Nauru Local Government Council had said that the Australian proposals were unsatisfactory in many respects, and had expressed the fear that the three Governments composing the Administering Authority were trying to disperse the Nauruan people by resettling and assimilating them in the three countries concerned. They had pointed out that "... such a scheme is not in keeping with the spirit of the United Nations Charter ...". They had gone on to say that no amount of explanation could possibly change the fundamental nature of the proposals, the consequences of which must inevitably be "... a systematic or methodical obliteration of the Nauruan race from the face of this earth".

23. The Soviet delegation wished to assure the Nauruan people that it would never agree to plans of that kind on the part of the Administering Authority, which ran counter to the interests and the expressed desires of the Nauruan people, and would categorically object to their approval by any United Nations body. Such plans were merely predatory in nature and arose from the policy of ruthless exploitation of the natural resources of Nauru as carried out by one of the three administering Powers through the British Phosphate Commissioners. His delegation had frequently urged the Council to require the Administering Authority to renounce its present policy with respect to Nauru, which was based on the 1919 Agreement for the exploitation of the phosphate deposits, and base itself instead on the Trusteeship Agreement, the United Nations Charter and the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

24. His delegation continued to believe that it was possible to ensure proper living conditions for the indigenous inhabitants of Nauru within the framework of freedom and independence—a possibility to which the Visiting Mission had unfortunately paid no attention. To that end, control and ownership of the natural resources of the island must be turned over to the people of Nauru, as well as all the equipment used in the mining and processing of the phosphates, and the Nauruan people themselves must exercise full control

over that industry and receive the whole profit therefrom. That would mean liquidating the British phosphate company; there would then be no further excessive plundering of the island's resources, with the result that the deposits would last not for thirty years, as might be the case under the present arrangement, but for at least a hundred or a hundred and fifty years.

25. An end must be put to the situation in which the real masters of the island were not the Nauruan people but the British Phosphate Commissioners, in which the island was regarded by the Administering Authority primarily as a source of the cheapest and best phosphate in the world, to be used for the agriculture of Australia and New Zealand. The representatives of the Nauruan people had expressed that view clearly in the memorandum entitled "The place of the Nauruan interests in the order of priority" (T/1595/Add.1, annex IV), and they had requested that their interests should be placed before all others and that whenever clashes of interests occurred theirs should be given first consideration. The memorandum had revealed the essence of the Administering Authority's policy, and also entirely refuted the Visiting Mission's unfounded statement that the Administering Authority served the interests of the population.

26. The principal factor determining his delegation's attitude towards the Australian and other proposals for the future of the Trust Territory was the agreement or lack of agreement with such plans on the part of the population itself; that was likewise the decisive criterion by which the Trusteeship Council should be guided in reaching its decision. Any proposals for the future of Nauru and its population must come in the first instance from the Nauruans themselves and be supported by them; without their agreement, no decision should be taken to implement any such plans. His delegation therefore gave unqualified support to the demands of the Nauruan people for the creation of their own independent and sovereign State; the Council must require the Administering Authority to satisfy those demands and to take immediate measures to transfer complete authority to the indigenous inhabitants, in accordance with the Declaration. Secondly, all the assets and property of the British Phosphate Commissioners in Nauru must be handed over to the Nauruan people, without compensation. Finally, the Council must categorically reject the Administering Authority's plans for the resettlement of the Nauruans in Australia and their assimilation into that country; such plans were against the expressed will of the population and were designed to destroy the Nauruan community in the interests of the British Phosphate Commissioners. As the Head Chief of Nauru had said, the main problem lay in reconciling the wish of the Nauruan people to set up an independent, sovereign State on an island adjacent to Australia with the wishes of the Australian Government in the matter. It was the clear duty of the Trusteeship Council to give unreserved support to those just demands of the Nauruan people.

27. Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom), exercising his right of reply, said that he would restrict himself at that stage to answering only two of the accusations made by the Soviet representative. In the first place, that representative had claimed that the Visiting Mission had been utilized for the purposes of the Administering Authority; as Chairman of the Mission, he would like to state that the members had not been open or available to be used by anyone. In the second place,

the Soviet representative had made a most serious accusation against him personally, alleging that his purpose had been to safeguard the interests of the Administering Authority. Having been unanimously elected as Chairman of the Visiting Mission, however, he had devoted his whole efforts to the service of the Council and to the people of Nauru; he had not consulted his Government from the day of his appointment to the present time. It was regrettable that the Soviet representative should make imputations against the personal good faith of other members of the Council.

28. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had not intended to advance any accusations against the Visiting Mission or against the Chairman personally. Members of the Council, however, had a right to express their views regarding the report of the Visiting Mission and to criticize it if they saw fit. His views were naturally different from those of the United Kingdom representative, and he was bound to say so. That representative had stated that he was defending only the interests of the Nauruan people; the best way for him to demonstrate the truth of his claim was to support the proposals submitted by the Nauruan people on 19 June, which were now before the Council.

29. Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) said that the representative of the Soviet Union was not entitled to question the good faith of members of the Mission, particularly its Chairman, who had acted with the greatest objectivity. The representative of the Soviet Union had said that the future of Nauru must be settled by its people alone. Yet Nauru was isolated and its people could hardly investigate the possibilities of resettlement without the Administering Authority's co-operation. The problem must be solved by the Administering Authority and the people of Nauru together. Since the Administering Authority had been very slow to submit clear and specific alternatives, the Visiting Mission had been obliged to suggest possible solutions. The situation had changed since the Visiting Mission had been in the Territory, because the Nauru Local Government Council had since then submitted its proposals to the Administering Authority. Nevertheless, the Head Chief of Nauru had said at the previous meeting, in reply to a question by the United Kingdom representative, that the Nauruan proposals did not clash with those which the Visiting Mission had submitted to the Administering Authority. Thus it was clear that General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) could be implemented in Nauru only by agreement between the people of Nauru and the Administering Authority.

30. Mr. KIANG (China) said that, according to the established practice of the Trusteeship Council, once a Visiting Mission's report had been presented members of the Mission were under no obligation to answer questions except in order to clarify the wording of the report. He hoped that the Council would not depart from that practice.

31. His delegation thought that the present uncertainty about the resettlement of the Nauruan community should not prevent the Administering Authority from giving effect to measures which would advance self-government in Nauru. The annexes to the report suggested, however, that no progress had been made since the Council had endorsed the recommendation of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, 1959, that the Nauru Local Government Council

should be given wider powers, and the special representative had not informed the Trusteeship Council of any measures taken to that end. While many of the powers and functions of the Administration should rapidly be devolved upon representative institutions, the Local Government Council should also make full use of its existing powers, particularly that of taxation, and the Nauruan people should be prepared to take responsibility for all services which the Administering Authority was now providing. He hoped that the Administering Authority would give prompt and favourable consideration to the recommendation in paragraph 89 of the 1962 Visiting Mission's report that an advisory committee should be set up to consider the whole matter of Nauruan participation in the exercise of legislative and executive authority on the island and should report with recommendations within six months.

32. The Visiting Mission had rightly recommended that the Nauruan people should participate fully in all decisions of the British Phosphate Commissioners which affected Nauruan interests. Mr. Kiang suggested that a system of annual conferences should become permanent, so that representatives of the British Phosphate Commissioners and of the Nauruan elected government could regularly review the company's activities. Although the Nauruans did not want immediate participation on the Board of the phosphate company, he hoped that the Administering Authority would ensure that qualified Nauruans were trained for and appointed to responsible administrative positions in the phosphate industry.

33. He hoped that the Council would urge the Administering Authority to give effect to the Visiting Mission's recommendations for the creation of a public service commission with a board of five members, of whom three might be Nauruans.

34. He agreed with the Visiting Mission that countries which had benefited from low-price high-quality phosphate should provide generous assistance to any future settlement scheme (T/1595, para. 115). Steps should also be taken at once to increase the amount of the Nauruan Community Long-term Investment Fund. His delegation would like to hear the expert opinion which the Administering Authority was trying to obtain, in consultation with FAO, about the practicability of back-filling the worked-out phosphate land with top-soil. When the phosphate deposits were exhausted, those who chose to remain on the island would probably have to turn to the sea and their very small amount of land as a means of livelihood.

35. The Administering Authority had made progress in the social and educational fields; he was also glad that it had experimented with the control of phosphate dust.

36. When the 1959 Visiting Mission had given the future of the Nauruan community a prominent place in its report (T/1448 and Add.1), it had been criticized by a minority in the Council and accused of overlooking the basic objectives of the International Trusteeship System and of asking the people to give up their island home. Now, however, the leader of the Nauruan people had told the Council that a new home must be found for the Nauruans. No suitable islands had, however, been found and the Nauruans had not been able to accept the Australian proposal for their integration in Australia. Since the Nauruan leaders were to discuss the far-reaching proposals contained in document T/1600 with the Australian Government in August, the Council

should not express a final opinion on the matter at present. The proposals suggested that Nauru might become a self-governing entity associated with a larger independent community. He had been impressed by the Head Chief's answer to his question about the connexion between the Nauruan proposals and the question of resettlement. When Nauru had achieved self-government, the question of resettlement would take a more natural course, and Nauruans settled elsewhere would be able to look to Nauru as their home. He was confident that the Administering Authority and the Nauruan people would work out practical proposals and that the Australian Government would respect the Nauruans' natural desire to keep their national identity.

37. As a party to the Trusteeship Agreement, the United Nations had a responsibility for ensuring that the resettlement of Nauruans elsewhere, if that was their freely expressed wish, was consistent with the provisions of Article 76 b of the Charter. If the Nauruan people freely decided to be resettled in some other place, with the same rights and opportunities as the citizens of that place, they would become part of an independent people and the purposes of trusteeship would have been achieved.

38. Mr. KIDWAI (India) said that the question of the future of Nauru was becoming increasingly urgent, because the phosphate deposits, which were the island's only source of income, would be worked out in thirty years at the most. The Trusteeship Council had discussed the possibility of levelling the worked-out land with explosives and heavy crushing equipment and importing soil to fill it up, and also alternative sources of livelihood for the people; yet paragraph 66 of the Visiting Mission's report made it clear that Nauru could not maintain its population when the phosphates were exhausted, and the Head Chief and other leaders had agreed that a new home must be found for the Nauruan people. The Administering Authority had been unable to find a suitable home for them on an island off Papua or New Guinea, and there seemed to be no suitable island in the South Pacific or off the Australian coast which was not already inhabited. The Mission reported that the proposal for the settlement of the Nauruans in Australia was gaining increased interest and was in line with the Australian Government's scheme for the integration of the Nauruan people. The Administering Authority had not yet considered the Nauru Local Government Council's proposal for the creation of a sovereign Nauruan nation related to Australia by a treaty of friendship. If a suitable island off the Australian coast were found, he suggested that the Administering Authority should put forward a detailed scheme for resettlement there; otherwise, active consideration should be given to the resettlement of the Nauruans in Australia, with such provisions as would enable them to maintain their cultural and ethnic identity and to enjoy the full benefits of Australian education and employment, as proposed in paragraph 79 of the Visiting Mission's report. He supported the Mission's recommendation that the Administering Authority should make detailed and firm proposals which the Nauruan people could consider and which could be presented to the Trusteeship Council in a year's time.

39. The Visiting Mission had praised the Administering Authority's present achievements and plans in the fields of health, housing and nutrition. The island's finances were, however, less satisfactory. The benefits received by the Nauruan people had increased

steadily since the conclusion of the Trusteeship Agreement, and they now received about a quarter of the export value of their phosphates. Presumably the Nauruan people would not have benefited from their own resources to such an extent without the Trusteeship Agreement; they might have benefited still more if they had exercised full control over their destiny. It was not for the Administering Authority or the Council to decide whether people were receiving adequate benefits from the sale of their own resources, but in other parts of the world, where the owners of resources had not been receiving adequate compensation for the sale of those resources, an adjustment acceptable to both sides had been worked out. At the 1190th meeting, the Head Chief had said that the Nauruan people were not getting an adequate price for their phosphates. His delegation thought that the Nauruans should be more closely associated with the deliberations of the British Phosphate Commissioners, so that they might know whether they were receiving adequate benefits.

40. He hoped that the proposal for an annual conference between the Commissioners and the Nauruans would be acceptable, especially to the Nauruan representatives. Otherwise his delegation would be prepared to consider the proposal that Nauruan participation on the Board of the phosphate company should be considered.

41. Mr. BHADKAMKAR (India) said that some doubt had been cast on the objectivity of members of the Visiting Mission. He himself had been a member of the Mission, and he felt sure that no member of the Mission had deliberately departed from the strictest objectivity.

42. Mr. OBEREMKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, having now heard the views of other members of the Visiting Mission, he would like to clarify the statement he had made with regard to the Mission's work. He reiterated that his delegation did not agree with the principle whereby half the membership of any Visiting Mission comprised representatives of the colonial Powers. He would have much preferred the Mission to be composed entirely of anti-colonial Powers. Moreover, the representative of the very Administering Authority whose administration the Mission was supposed to investigate had even been the Chairman of the Visiting Mission. His critical comments thus did not apply at all to the representatives of Bolivia and India, about whose objectivity he was in no doubt.

43. In the light of the Bolivian representative's statement that the Visiting Mission had not had at its disposal the Nauruan proposals of 19 June, it would appear that the Mission had not had the opportunity of taking those proposals into account. They were now, however, before the Council and he hoped that even the members of the Visiting Mission might modify their views in the light of them.

44. Sir Hugh FOOT (United Kingdom) observed that, as the Chinese representative had pointed out, it was not the practice for members of a Visiting Mission to take part in the general debate as such. He would, however, emphasize four points.

45. First, as had been made clear by the special representative and by the Visiting Mission's report, the new proposals recently put forth by the representatives of Nauru depended upon finding a suitable island elsewhere.



46. Secondly, the Head Chief had clearly stated that the proposals of the Visiting Mission with regard to participation in the administration of the island and in the affairs of the phosphate company were wholly acceptable to him and to his Council. He had also made it clear that the proposals recently put forward by the Nauru Local Government Council did not conflict with the recommendations of the Visiting Mission.

47. Thirdly, the USSR representative had raised the question of the free will and the wishes of the people of Nauru. The Visiting Mission, however, merely proposed that the people of Nauru should be in possession of all the facts before reaching their final decision.

48. Fourthly, the USSR representative had suggested that the Visiting Mission had not dealt with the important matter of targets. In that connexion he drew attention to paragraph 147 of the Visiting Mission's

report, which stated that the Mission considered that it should be possible to formulate and decide upon detailed plans for the future and to be ready to put them into effect within a year. That was a clear and definite recommendation, involving immediate action, and he did not believe that any earlier date could have been set. Until the people of Nauru had been given the facts and had had an opportunity to decide, it was clearly useless to consider any other target date. Within a year it should be possible to have all the necessary facts about an alternative island and about the possibility of settlement in Australia. The people of Nauru should then be able to reach their decision. The question of target dates had been very much in the minds of the Visiting Mission and indeed the entire report led up to the final recommendation which he had quoted.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.