



**TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL**  
*Thirty-first Session*  
**OFFICIAL RECORDS**

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*President:* Mr. F. H. CORNER (New Zealand).

**Present:**

The representatives of the following States: Australia, China, France, Liberia, 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: 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 1963 (T/1624, T/L.1073 and Add.1);
- (ii) Examination of petitions (T/PET.10/L.5, T/PET.10/L.6, T/PET.10/L.7 and Add.1);
- (iii) Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1964 (T/1620)

[Agenda items 4 (b), 5 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 (concluded)**

1. Mr. YATES (United States of America) said that while it was true that, politically, most of the islands of the Pacific had an uncertain future by reason of

their geographical and economic situation, their small size, their linguistic problems and their isolation, it was equally true that the United States had accepted the challenge of developing the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in conformity with the provisions of the United Nations Charter and under the vigilant scrutiny of the international community. The work already accomplished had not been easy. At the preceding session of the Trusteeship Council his Government had announced its intention of accelerating the progress of the Territory by spending the entire amount of the new appropriation on education and public health. His delegation was happy to note that the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1964, had recognized the efforts made by the Administration and the results accomplished. At the same time it realized that all phases of the development of the Territory should move along at a more or less equal rate. It also realized, as did the Visiting Mission, that improvements in education would give rise to new problems in the economic and social spheres. His Government therefore intended to devote increasing attention to economic and social programmes and to take fully into account all the criticisms and suggestions offered to it both by the members of the Council and by the members of the Visiting Mission.

2. The report of the Visiting Mission (T/1620) was a document of great importance, by reason, in particular, of the realism with which it recognized the task faced by the Government of the United States. It had the special merit of stressing the difficulties connected with the development of a territory with a small land area consisting of many scattered islands. Moreover, the necessary effort and cost steadily increased as the Territory moved away from a simple economy of local subsistence towards a money-based economy geared to world standards and aspirations.

3. He assured the members of the Council that each recommendation submitted would be examined with the most careful attention.

4. Mr. GODING (Special Representative) thanked the members of the Council for the courtesy which they had extended to him. He and Mr. Remengesau had benefited greatly from the Council's interesting discussion and the suggestions made by its members. The debate had centred largely on the report of the 1964 Visiting Mission, and rightly so, for the recommendations it contained were extremely useful. It might not be possible to carry out all the recommendations, but each one would be given careful study.

5. The political unification of widely dispersed peoples speaking different languages and having different customs was by no means an easy task. Nevertheless, as had been pointed out by the French representative, the Mission had noted its strong impression that Micronesia was welding itself into a unified people. During the past three years the Council of Micronesia had ceased to be merely a gathering of district representatives and had become a body of elected

representatives who discussed problems common to the entire Territory. The outlook of the people had also changed: while local allegiance was still strong, a "Micronesian" spirit was increasingly emerging.

6. As far as the proposed legislative body was concerned, many questions had been raised which could not yet be answered. However, the important thing was that, as the United States representative had said, a legislative body would be functioning by 1965 and the requisite framework would have been set up by that time. Although all details had not yet been settled, the Administering Authority was looking forward to elections in the autumn of 1964, and the target envisaged for the following year would undoubtedly be attained.

7. He entirely shared the Visiting Mission's conviction that Micronesia's greatest resource was the youth of the country. Whatever the particular problems faced by the Territory, it possessed an industrious and eager generation of young people who wished to make the most of the resources of their small islands. Micronesia, despite its isolation, had now emerged into the mainstream of modern life, and its inhabitants must be assisted in promoting its social, economic, political and cultural development. Without necessarily envisaging large-scale industrial development, in view of the limits imposed by natural resources and geography, it was possible to provide for a better future for the Micronesian people. It was with that end in view that the Administering Authority had provided in particular for a tremendous expansion in education.

8. It was essential to establish a proper balance between economic, social and political development, and the suggestions made by the Visiting Mission in that connexion would receive the most careful attention. A number of specific recommendations had already been put into effect under the new reorganization plan which provided for the establishment of a division of resources development headed by an Assistant Commissioner who would have the task of ensuring proper co-ordination at all levels. The Administration recognized that the Micronesian people must be associated with all aspects of economic planning, and it expected to work closely with the future congress of Micronesia in that field.

9. The progress made in education had been clearly set forth in the report of the Visiting Mission and in the annual report of the Administering Authority.<sup>1/</sup> On the whole, there was little divergence between the steps planned and those recommended by the Visiting Mission. The school entrance age would be lowered to six years in the near future, and great progress had been and would continue to be made towards the goal of providing free secondary schooling for all those desirous and capable of taking advantage of it. Although some members of the Council had expressed keen regret at the closing of the Pacific Islands Central School and many inhabitants of the Territory shared that feeling, he did not think that all opportunity for district interchange at the high-school level had been lost. Consideration had been given to the possibility of interchanging students during the first year; that

was a proposal which had much merit. Also there were focal points for the interchange of ideas, such as the Trust Territory College Center at the College of Guam, for students from all districts of the Territory; and the Micronesian Teachers Education Center at Ponape, for teachers of the Territory. No final decision had been taken with respect to the future of Territorial institutions at the college level; that was a matter on which the future congress of Micronesia would doubtless have an opportunity to express the opinion and wishes of the people.

10. Adult education was rapidly moving ahead, and the Administering Authority was giving attention to vocational and technical training programmes. To further the education of women, recourse was had not only to scholarships but also to special training programmes organized in co-operation with such bodies as the East-West Center in Hawaii, the South Pacific Commission and the United Nations Technical Assistance Board. A refresher course for nurses had been initiated in Hawaii and would be given on a continuing basis; there were also special training courses covering commercial subjects, various fields of home economics and other women's activities. A Micronesian woman who had done much to improve the education of women in her country and to make them aware of the new social conditions in the Territory had just received a United Nations grant for the purpose of observing women's activities in various parts of the Far East and the Pacific. Other women were acquainting themselves with women's activities in general in the Fiji Islands, under the auspices of the South Pacific Commission, and numerous vocational training scholarships were being offered to women candidates. In addition to the regular scholarship programme, an additional group of 150 Micronesian men and women was being afforded the opportunity of participating in special training programmes in widely varying technical fields in 1964. Inhabitants of the Territory were also taking advantage of the scholarships offered them by the United Nations, and six persons would study under such scholarships in 1964.

11. In the field of medicine, the Administration was striving to provide full medical training to all qualified students but it realized that it would be a long time before a sufficient number of Micronesian physicians could be integrated into the Territory's medical services. The medical staff directors were now studying the Visiting Mission's suggestions with regard to medical training, in particular, the suggestion that the Administering Authority might investigate the possibility of using the Papuan Medical College of Port Moresby as an additional and interim training measure. The Assistant Director of Medical Services was scheduled to visit the Central Medical School at Suva and the Papuan Medical College in the near future. The Administration also intended to provide every opportunity for full professional training of physicians and dentists.

12. The Administering Authority shared the opinion of the Visiting Mission that broadcasting, if used properly, could be an invaluable instrument for creating political consciousness, strengthening unity and maintaining contact between the Administration and the people. The many suggestions of the Visiting Mission had been or were being implemented, and in 1964 each district would have an adult education supervisor who would also have responsibility for educational broadcasting and for intensive training

<sup>1/</sup> United States of America, 16th Annual Report to the United Nations on the Administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, July 1, 1962 to June 30, 1963, Department of State Publication 7676 (Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1964). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1624).

courses in programming, station management and other technical aspects of broadcasting operations; this would continue until each district station had an adequate staff. Moreover, it was felt that one of the best means of providing broadcasting training was to utilize the resources of the University of Hawaii and the rural broadcasting stations in Hawaii. The Administration was also interested in the broadcasting operations of Papua and New Guinea and of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, and several people had already been trained in Western Samoa and Fiji. Generally speaking, the people of the Territory and the neighbouring islands followed the programmes with great interest.

13. The Administering Authority had taken note of the Visiting Mission's suggestion that certain documents relating to the deliberations of the Trusteeship Council and the reports of visiting missions should be given wider publicity in the Territory. Copies of the Visiting Mission's report had already been sent by air mail to the members of the Council of Micronesia, and others were to be distributed to district legislatures, to secondary school libraries and to members of the staff. The highlights of the Council's meetings would be broadcast over all the existing stations in the Territory, and summaries would be published by the Territory's Office of Public Information, as in previous years. As the Council had already been told, its deliberations were followed with the greatest interest by the leaders of Micronesia.

14. In conclusion, he pointed out that by ensuring that political advancement went hand in hand with social progress it was possible to maintain an open society offering opportunities for all. For that reason, the Administering Authority fully intended to do everything in its power to provide a better life and an honourable life for the people of the Territory.

15. The PRESIDENT thanked the special representative for his co-operation and asked him to convey the best wishes of the Trusteeship Council to the people of Micronesia.

*Mr. Goding, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, withdrew.*

#### APPOINTMENT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

16. The PRESIDENT said that it had been suggested that a drafting committee composed of representatives of the countries which had been members of the 1964 Visiting Mission should be appointed to prepare draft conclusions and recommendations on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. If there was no objection, he would therefore consider that the Council wished to set up a drafting committee consisting of the representatives of China, Liberia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

*It was so decided.*

17. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) suggested that the report of the Visiting Mission (T/1620) should also be taken into account in drafting the Council's recommendations and conclusions.

*It was so decided.*

Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Nauru: annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1963 (T/1619, T/L.1072/Rev.1) (continued)

[Agenda item 4 (c)]

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

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

18. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had listened with the greatest interest to the statements on Nauru made by the representative of Australia and by the special representative. He asked the special representative how Curtis Island had first come under consideration as a place for the possible resettlement of the Nauruan people.

19. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) said that when, at the request of the Nauruan people, the Resettlement Committee had been authorized to visit possible places, there had been some publicity in Australia about its travels. As a result, a local private organization known as the Rockhampton Research and Promotion Bureau had written to the Australian Government drawing its attention to the possibilities of that part of Queensland. Nauruans had then visited the island and had concluded that it might be a place for resettlement. The Resettlement Committee had subsequently visited the island.

*Mr. Doise (France), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

20. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) asked the special representative to what extent Curtis Island met the requirements laid down by the Nauruans.

21. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) said that the first of those requirements was that the climate should be congenial and better than that of Nauru; the new territory should not be exposed to the danger of natural disasters. Curtis Island met those requirements: its climate was more temperate than that of Nauru, and up to the present time it had not, so far as he knew, suffered any natural disaster. The second requirement was that there should be an ample supply of water, but no floods. Actually, the island had many streams, not only for community use but also for irrigation purposes, and its topography was such as to rule out the danger of floods. The third requirement was that it should be free from reptiles, dangerous insects and vermin. While there might well be snakes on the island, there were certainly fewer than elsewhere. The fourth requirement was the absence of man-eating animals, and there were none on the island. The fifth requirement had to do with abrupt changes in temperature. Since the island was situated slightly below the Tropic of Capricorn, it had a very even temperature. The sixth requirement was that it should be large in size. In fact, the island covered 200 square miles whereas Nauru covered no more than eight square miles. The seventh requirement was that the soil should be fertile with good prospects for cash crops. The island happened to have large areas of arable land which could easily be irrigated, and offered abundant possibilities for growing tropical fruit trees, vegetables, etc. The eighth requirement

was that fish should be plentiful in the surrounding seas. That requirement was satisfied. The ninth requirement was that the island should have mineral resources. Unfortunately, the mineral resources of territories all over the world were already being exploited. The tenth requirement was that there should be a good harbour or natural anchorage to accommodate the volume of shipping envisaged. That requirement was also met. The eleventh requirement was that the island should be situated in close proximity to Australian markets. There were potential markets on the east coast of Australia, and the island was near them. The final requirement was that the island should be situated on a main shipping route or have easy access to such a route. Actually, it was on the major east coast shipping route.

22. In conclusion, he pointed out that the island met most of the requirements put by the Nauruans to the Australian Government with the exception of the one relating to mineral resources.

23. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) inquired whether the Administering Authority and the Nauruans were aware of any other islands which might meet all or most of the requirements laid down and at the same time make it possible to satisfy the people's desire for sovereignty.

24. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) replied in the negative. The prospects of resettlement in an island within the New Guinea group had been investigated, but two difficulties inevitably arose. First, any island which seemed suitable had its own indigenous population with rights superseding those of the Nauruans; and, secondly, the islands were very remote, whereas the Nauruans had advanced to such a stage of development that they wanted to have easy communication with other places in the area.

25. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) asked whether, if sovereignty were granted to the Nauruans on Nauru, the island would be able to meet the needs of the population in future years.

26. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) explained that the island was small and had very little cultivable land. The opportunities for growing food crops were therefore limited. The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization had investigated the island's productive capacity and had concluded that it was not very great. It was true that there were fish in the sea surrounding Nauru, but there was no doubt that the island did not possess resources sufficient for the indigenous inhabitants to live there in the manner to which they had become accustomed. The population, moreover, was growing rapidly. It had risen from 1,500 inhabitants in about 1948 to 2,700 at present, and would probably amount to some 6,000 in 1980.

27. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) asked whether Curtis Island would offer the Nauruans sufficient resources.

28. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) said that it would. First and foremost, Curtis Island was more than twenty times as large as Nauru. Conditions were suitable for agriculture, stock-raising and fishing, and an industry could thus be established in that field. The island was within easy daily travel of the port of Gladstone, which might become the biggest coal-exporting port in Australia. A start had already been made with establishing a large-scale aluminium industry, involving an investment of £A54 million or between

\$100 million and \$120 million. Any Nauruans wishing to work in industry would no doubt be able to find work at Gladstone while continuing to live on Curtis Island.

29. It should not be forgotten that if the Nauruans were resettled on Curtis Island they would become Australian citizens, which would enable them to practise professions in Australia. There was no question but that all the Nauruans who were able and willing to work would find fully satisfactory opportunities for employment in their new land.

30. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) asked whether, in the event of resettlement, the Nauruans would lose their identity as a people.

31. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) recorded the Administering Authority's belief that the identity of the Nauruans would be preserved, first by their own will to remain a people and secondly by the fact that they would own the island and be free to decide whether any other people could settle there.

32. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) asked whether the Administering Authority thought that Nauruans could replace the Australians at present holding senior posts in the Administration of Nauru.

33. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) said that, in the Administering Authority's view, as the Nauruans became qualified to give to the community the services it needed the Australians would give up their posts to them. In any case, Australia itself urgently needed Australians for its services, particularly in the field of education.

34. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) asked whether education on Nauru was compulsory, free and integrated.

35. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) said that it was.

36. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) asked whether Nauruan children suffered any disadvantage at the primary level because of their cultural background and language.

37. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) said that they did not. Their knowledge of English, however, was not comparable to that of English-speaking children. In order to remedy that situation, kindergartens and pre-schools were being established on the island, so as to accustom the children to use English from a very early age. There were four pre-schools, staffed by Australians and Nauruans. An active programme to train Nauruan girls for work in the kindergartens was at present under way.

38. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) asked whether, if the representative of Australia had no objection, he might put his remaining questions to Mr. Bernicke, adviser to the special representative.

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

39. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) asked whether the people of Nauru were in general satisfied with the health services on their island.

40. Mr. BERNICKE (Adviser to the Special Representative) said that he had been a member of the Medical Department for a very long time and had never heard anyone complain about the services given to the population.

41. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) asked whether the Nauruans were satisfied with the educational system on Nauru.

42. Mr. BERNICKE (Adviser to the Special Representative) said that they were. His only regret was that the plans now being executed had not been put into effect five or six years earlier.

43. Mr. McCARTHY (Australia) said that education in Nauru had expanded and become more efficient. The Nauruan language was so complex and difficult that only a very small number of Europeans succeeded in acquiring a good knowledge of it. Some eight or nine years previously a specialist in the teaching of English had gone to the island and taught the language with such success that it could now be said that by the later stages of primary school a Nauruan child had completely overcome the difficulties of English. That was one of the reasons why the development of education had been so remarkable in recent years.

44. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) asked if the Nauruans were satisfied with the administration of justice in the Territory.

45. Mr. BERNICKE (Adviser to the Special Representative) said that they were.

46. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) asked the special representative whether Curtis Island met all the conditions put forward by the Nauruans.

47. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) said that it did, except so far as the possession of large mineral deposits was concerned.

48. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) asked whether, in the special representative's view, the people of Nauru would have agreed to settle elsewhere if the British Phosphate Commissioners had not set about exploiting the island in such a way that it had become uninhabitable.

49. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) said that they would. Supposing that there had been no exploitation of phosphate, but that as a result of trusteeship the Territory had progressed in the same way, there was no doubt that the Nauruans would have had to find a new home.

50. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) asked whether, if the Nauruans should prefer to become independent on Nauru, the Administering Authority could reclaim the land exhausted by the exploitation of phosphate.

51. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) replied that it would be extremely difficult and expensive to reclaim the land from which the phosphate had been taken. The phosphate deposits occurred in plateaux around very hard limestone pinnacles and reached to a depth of twenty to thirty feet. The pinnacles occurred at intervals of about three or four yards, and their diameter at the base was ten or twelve feet. In order to recover the land, it would be necessary to blast down the pinnacles one by one, crush the rock and cover it with a sufficiently thick layer of fertile soil imported from Australia. But even if that were done, two insuperable difficulties would remain. First, the ground on Nauru was very porous. When there was any rain, whatever the amount, the water passed quickly through the layers of earth and was held only by the pressure of the salt water, whose density was greater. The extreme porosity meant that the land would be arid. Even if certain crops could be grown, cash crops would be out of the question. Secondly,

the island was remote from any possible market and could be worked only on a basis of subsistence agriculture. That was not what the Nauruans wanted. It was probably for that reason that the people of the island had stated that they would be compelled to find a new home in order to survive as a people.

52. Mr. McCARTHY (Australia) thought that the word "reclaim" was perhaps not right, since it implied that the land had once been fertile and that the fertility of the land had been lost and was to be restored. That was not the case, however, because the great mass of the island consisted entirely of phosphate, and phosphate was rock.

53. When the matter of the island's possible rehabilitation had come up in the Trusteeship Council, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization had been requested to undertake investigations, the results of which had subsequently been endorsed by the specialized agencies of the United Nations. The Research Organization had concluded that rehabilitation of the phosphate land was quite impracticable for a whole variety of reasons, including the important reasons to which Mr. Marsh had referred. The main part of the island, i.e., the central part, had never been fertile and had never been used by the Nauruan people, except for minor purposes; in fact, the Nauruans had used it only for the exploitation of the tomano tree, the wood being employed for the construction of household furniture and canoes, and the leaves for housing and domestic purposes. Accordingly, the land could not be rehabilitated, and there were no new developments which made such rehabilitation possible. The island could support life for only 1,500 people at the most, at a subsistence economy level. The problems of resettlement arose not merely from the exploitation of phosphate, but also from a combination of factors which had developed owing to the size and very nature of the island.

54. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) asked the representative of Australia how the Administration viewed the refusal of the British Phosphate Commissioner to permit the professional adviser of the Nauru Local Government Council to be present at their discussions.

55. Mr. McCARTHY (Australia) recalled that when, in response to the Trusteeship Council's recommendation (A/5204, p. 39) arrangements had been made for annual meetings between the British Phosphate Commissioners and the Nauruan people, those arrangements had not envisaged the presence on either side of outside persons, whoever they might be. The Phosphate Commissioners had not wished the Nauruans to be represented by an expert—an eventuality which might have required the Commissioners themselves to be similarly represented. But, as the special representative had pointed out, there had been nothing to prevent the Nauruans from seeking expert advice, if they wished, outside the talks; and indeed they were possibly doing so.

56. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) did not know whether the recommendation of the Trusteeship Council should be interpreted as excluding resort to expert advice. All she knew was that the Nauruans were not experts and that they had been incapable of participating as experts in the discussions with the British Phosphate Commissioners. In view of the fact that the question of royalties had had to be discussed, she wondered whether it would not have been desirable to accept the presence of the adviser whom the Local Government Council had wished to send. That adviser would

not have taken part in the discussions; he would have been there simply in order to advise the delegation.

57. Passing to another question, she referred to page 14 of the annual report of the Administering Authority<sup>2/</sup> and asked the special representative to explain on what matters the Administrator might act in opposition to the advice of the Local Government Council.

58. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) knew of no instance in which the Administrator had so acted.

59. Mr. BERNICKE (Adviser to the Special Representative) confirmed the special representative's statement.

60. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) asked Mr. Bernicke whether he did not think that a law giving the Administrator such power would be in conflict with some of the extended powers which had been given to the Council.

61. Mr. BERNICKE (Adviser to the Special Representative) replied that theoretically it would be, but that in fact the case had never occurred.

62. Miss BROOKS (Liberia), referring again to the annual report, asked what Mr. Bernicke thought about the particular power of the Administrator to disallow a rule made by the Council.

63. Mr. BERNICKE (Adviser to the Special Representative) replied that the Council accepted the existence of that power as some sort of safeguard for the community.

64. In reply to a question from Miss BROOKS (Liberia), Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) explained that formerly the Local Government Council had functioned as an advisory body. The Council now had the power to make rules. That was a legislative function. The Council had moved from an advisory position to a position of initiative in legislative action, although that power was not absolute.

65. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) noted that the special representative himself conceded that there were limitations on the power of the Local Government Council.

66. She asked the special representative whether he could indicate what sort of position was being filled by methods other than promotion and transfer of staff.

67. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) could not provide detailed information concerning the positions advertised by the British Phosphate Commissioners. The important point, it seemed to him, was that any position to which one of the existing staff members could not legitimately aspire was advertised.

68. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) understood, from the explanation just given, that the positions in question probably could not be filled by the staff of the British Phosphate Commissioners, because they did not possess the necessary qualifications.

69. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) confirmed that interpretation.

70. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) asked the special representative whether he thought that there were Nauruans

in the Territory who were capable of filling the positions which were being offered.

71. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) knew only that the advertising of positions in Nauru was a bona fide effort to fill positions from within Nauru.

72. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) understood from the reply of the special representative that the British Phosphate Commissioners felt that the Nauruans could fill the positions which were being offered; advertising did not necessarily mean that those positions were open to outsiders.

73. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) assumed that, by advertising positions in Nauru, the British Phosphate Commissioners could recruit only Nauruans. Consequently, they expected that some Nauruans considered themselves able to fill, and were interested in, those positions.

74. He reminded the Liberian representative that the Administration had advertised the positions and that, even if no applicants appeared, it had provided an opportunity for anyone able to fill one of the positions in question to get the post. An employer could not do more than that.

75. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) had thought that the positions were of a technical nature; that was why she had spoken of applicants from outside. She next asked whether an appointment had been made to the Public Service Commission.

76. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) replied that there was no Public Service Commission, but a single Commissioner, who was the Administrator. The Nauru Local Government Council and the Administrator had agreed that the Commissioner, in the exercise of his statutory powers, might have an advisory committee of three, two of whom would be Nauruans: the Official Secretary, who would be the head of the Public Service, and another Nauruan appointed by the Local Government Council.

77. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) had had the impression, at the last session of the Trusteeship Council, that the Head Chief was soon to be appointed Commissioner.

78. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) was not aware of that; the arrangement of which he had just spoken had been accepted by the Local Government Council.

79. Mr. McCARTHY (Australia) did not recall that, at the last session of the Trusteeship Council, there had been any suggestion that the Head Chief would be appointed as Public Service Commissioner. In his opinion, the Head Chief had enough work to do in his present duties, for his position was a very responsible one.

80. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) asked the special representative whether he thought that the increased rates of compensation for trees destroyed on non-phosphate-bearing lands were equitable.

*Mr. Corner (New Zealand) resumed the Chair.*

81. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) replied that the increases had been acceptable to the representatives of the Nauru Local Government Council.

82. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) said that the agreement reached did not necessarily reflect the true feelings of the Nauruans regarding the fairness of the compensation.

<sup>2/</sup> Commonwealth of Australia, Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations: Administration of the Territory of Nauru from 1st July, 1962, to 30th June, 1963 (Canberra, Commonwealth Government Printer, 1964). Transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by a note of the Secretary-General (T/1619).

83. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) replied that the Nauru Council reserved its position when it was not satisfied, as, for example, in the matter of the royalty rights. That showed that when it gave its agreement it was satisfied.

84. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) observed that there were indications that some of the older Nauruans would prefer to remain on Nauru even if the place of resettlement offered better opportunities. She asked whether, if the island's resources had not been depleted by the British Phosphate Commissioners, the people of Nauru would at any time have been willing to leave it.

85. Mr. BERNICKE (Adviser to the Special Representative) replied that in order to maintain their standard of living and because of the population increase, the Nauruan people could not remain on the island, which was limited in area and resources. Resettlement was therefore necessary.

86. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) thanked the special representative and Mr. Bernicke.

87. Mr. Chiping H. C. KIANG (China) asked Mr. Bernicke what his impression of Curtis Island had been.

88. Mr. BERNICKE (Adviser to the Special Representative) said that he preferred Curtis Island to Fraser Island and felt that it offered more potentialities for development.

89. The PRESIDENT thanked the special representative and Mr. Bernicke for their co-operation.

*Mr. Marsh, special representative of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of Nauru, and Mr. Bernicke, adviser to the special representative, withdrew.*

#### GENERAL DEBATE

90. Mr. YATES (United States of America) expressed appreciation to the special representative for the thorough and forthright manner in which he had replied to questions.

91. The problem of Nauru was not an easy one. The economic asset which made a modern level of living possible on the island was being gradually consumed, thus making resettlement of the inhabitants essential. The reports of the Administering Authority showed that the Nauruan people and the Administering Authority were trying to do their best to solve that problem. The Administering Authority was currently awaiting a decision by the Nauruans on the acceptability of Curtis Island for resettlement. That decision depended primarily on the form of government that would be agreed upon between the Administering Authority and the Nauruans. While the people of Nauru of course wished to preserve their identity, it was understandable that the Australian Government could not accede to the Nauruan request for sovereignty over Curtis Island, which was a part of Australian territory lying very close the mainland. His delegation felt that the Administering Authority deserved great credit for its efforts and hoped that a solution would be found at the July meeting between the Nauruan Committee and the Australian Government.

92. Although occupied with the question of resettlement, the Administering Authority was continuing to take steps to ensure that the Nauruan people derived direct benefits from the phosphate deposits. That was being done through two funds, the Nauruan Land-

owners Royalty Trust Fund and the Nauruan Community Long-Term Investment Fund. The British Phosphate Commissioners had offered to increase the royalties paid to landowners by 50 per cent. In addition, the number of Nauruans working in the Public Service had increased. The programme for a single primary school system with no discrimination on the basis of race had now been put into practice, and a teacher-training centre had been opened in Nauru for Nauruan teachers. The Nauruan people were also receiving thorough training in various technical fields. The Administering Authority should be commended for those achievements.

93. His delegation felt that most of the difficulties encountered by the Administering Authority had been overcome. The people of Nauru were determined to become a part of modern life through education, social advancement and a high degree of self-government; the Administering Authority had spared no pains to help them achieve those goals.

94. Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that despite the decisions of the United Nations, the situation in the Trust Territory of Nauru was marked by the clear refusal of the Administering Authority to accede to the wishes of the Nauruan people in so far as their political, economic and social development was concerned. The will of the Nauruan people had been clearly expressed in the proposals submitted by the Nauru Local Government Council to the Australian Government on 19 June 1962 (T/1600) and in the statements made by the representatives of the inhabitants in the Trusteeship Council. Notwithstanding the statements of the Australian representatives, that will had been disregarded by the Administering Authority, which had tried to compel the Nauruans to give up their own plans for their future. All the solutions put forward amounted to the same thing: subordination of the Nauruans' desires to Australia's demands. The Administering Authority was continuing to pursue that course; the pressure which the Australians were exerting on the people of Nauru was contrary to the principles of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. The Nauruan people and their representatives in the Nauru Local Government Council were resisting that pressure with admirable courage.

95. In every area the will of the Nauruan people was clear, and it was expressed in the documents before the Trusteeship Council. In their proposals of 19 June 1962, the representatives of the Nauruan people had called for the creation of a sovereign Nauruan State governed by Nauruans. Those proposals had not lost any of their validity; the Nauruans still demanded their freedom and independence. The Administering Authority had simply deceived the credulous and concealed its determination to force the Nauruan people to bow to the demands of their so-called guardians. What the Australians sought was the physical liquidation of the Trust Territory and the subjugation of a resettled Nauruan people. It was typical that, despite the refusal of the Nauruans to accept the plan that would make them Australian citizens, the Administering Authority continued to press stubbornly for its implementation. At that very meeting, the special representative had stated that upon resettlement on a new island the Nauruans would become Australians. His delegation felt that the Trusteeship Council should side with the Nauruans in their dispute with the Administering Authority.

The Nauruans' concern over their future, expressed by the Nauru Local Government Council in its 1962 proposals, was entirely justified. His delegation wished to assure the Nauruans once again that it would never agree to the plans of the Administering Authority if they did not reflect the wishes of the people of Nauru, that it would categorically oppose the approval of those plans by the Trusteeship Council or any other United Nations body, and that it would emphatically reject any proposal which conflicted with the wishes and interests of the Nauruan people. It endorsed the three basic conditions put forward by the Nauruans with respect to their resettlement: complete independence as a sovereign entity, territorial sovereignty in the new place of settlement, and sovereignty over the island of Nauru as the Nauruan homeland.

96. His delegation rejected the Administering Authority's attempt to impress the members of the Trusteeship Council with the size of Curtis Island, on which it wished to resettle the Nauruans. The Administering Authority was obliged to provide the Nauruans, in their new homeland, with living conditions which they found satisfactory. When it continued to argue that it was impossible to separate the problem of Nauru's political development and independence from that of Nauruan resettlement, it was merely demonstrating Australia's desire to prolong its colonial domination over the Nauruan people. In the matter of the Territory's political development and the problems connected with the future of the Nauruans, the Administering Authority showed indifference to the will of the people of Nauru. One of the memoranda submitted by the Local Government Council to the Trusteeship Council (T/1595 and Add.1, annex II) clearly set forth the demands of the Nauruan people regarding target dates for the Territory's progressive advancement towards independence. Three years after those Nauruan proposals, the Administering Authority had not even drawn up plans for transferring legislative and executive powers in the Trust Territory to the Nauruan people. Indeed, the Administrator of the Territory could still annul any law or regulation adopted by the Local Government Council. The most important posts in the Administration were always held by Australians and the Territory's police was always headed by an Australian, so that the Local Government Council, which was responsible for maintaining law and order, actually lacked the means of carrying out its duties. The Administering Authority claimed it was not practical to transfer highly specialized posts in the Administration to Nauruans. Furthermore, according to the annual report (p. 17), the Administrator had the right to remove any member of the judiciary for "misbehaviour or incompetence".

97. All the actions of the Administering Authority were influenced by the Territory's wealth: the phosphates, their exploitation, dividends, and profits obtained by the three Powers constituting the joint Administering Authority and by the British Phosphate Commissioners. His delegation reaffirmed its position that the transfer of all the property of the British

Phosphate Commissioners to the Nauruan people was wholly justified, both morally and legally, and was supported, in particular, by General Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII). Nothing had been done about the rights of the Nauruans to their national resources, and the talks between the Nauru Local Government Council and the British Phosphate Commissioners had produced no tangible results. Indeed, the representatives of the Local Government Council had been at a disadvantage in those talks as compared with the representatives of the British Phosphate Commissioners. The only fair solution was to transfer to the Nauruans all the property and equipment of the British Phosphate Commissioners; that solution was all the more justified in that the British company was prospering, while the people of Nauru were being deprived of what was rightfully theirs and social conditions on the island still left much to be desired.

98. The level of education in Nauruan schools had still not reached that of Australian schools. In addition, very few Nauruans were receiving a higher or university education, and no Nauruan had been given a United Nations scholarship. The Administering Authority held that it alone had the right to decide whether inhabitants could avail themselves of United Nations scholarships. His delegation felt that that policy was aimed only at limiting the Nauruans' horizons and leading them exclusively in the direction desired by the Administering Authority.

99. Furthermore, despite the demands made by the Nauruans, the problems of the phosphate dust had not been solved. Measures should be taken to enable the Nauruans to enjoy living conditions equal to those of Australians living on the island.

100. His delegation felt that the Trusteeship Council should, first of all, draw the Administering Authority's attention to the fact that it must be guided solely by the wishes of the people of Nauru, to whom all sovereignty should be transferred. Secondly, all legislature and executive powers in Nauru should be handed over to the Nauruans. The proposals of the Nauru Local Government Council on that question should be submitted as an official document to the United Nations General Assembly at its nineteenth session. Furthermore, all key posts in the Administration should be held by Nauruans. Thirdly, the consultations between representatives of the Local Government Council and the British Phosphate Commissioners should be continued in circumstances more favourable to the Nauruans. Fourthly, urgent measures should be taken to improve social, cultural and material conditions on the island so that the Nauruans' living conditions were not inferior to those of the Australians.

101. In conclusion, he asked Mr. Bernicke, the adviser to the special representative, to convey the best wishes of the Soviet delegation to the people of Nauru and to assure them of the sympathy of the Soviet people.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.