



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Thirty-first Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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at 3.10 p.m.

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CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued):</i>	
(i) <i>Annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1963;</i>	
(ii) <i>Examination of petitions;</i>	
(iii) <i>Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1964</i>	
<i>Statement by the representative of the World Health Organization</i>	61
<i>General debate</i>	61
<i>Examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of Nauru: annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1963 (continued)</i>	
<i>Questions concerning the Trust Territory and replies of the representative and the special representative of the Administering Authority</i>	62

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: 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]

STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

1. Dr. LEROUX (World Health Organization), replying to a question asked by the Soviet Union representative at the 1232nd meeting, said that a representative of WHO had visited Saipan for two days during September 1963. As a result of that visit, agreement had been reached on the 1966 programme of assistance from WHO to the Trust Territory. The programme was likely to provide fellowships in the field of nursing, public health, leprosy and health

education. It was also expected that the Territory would participate in a WHO regional seminar on leprosy control to be held in 1965 and would be able to call upon the services of the WHO regional adviser in leprosy control for the Western Pacific region. In addition, a WHO maternal-and-child-health team had visited the Territory in August 1963 and made recommendations to the Administration.

2. His organization had noted with gratification the decision of the Administration to raise the standard of professional training for medical and dental students. That decision had been particularly welcome since, in the observations it had submitted to the Council at its twenty-fourth session (T/1470), WHO had said it was essential that supervision and guidance in medical and health matters should be in the hands of fully qualified doctors, as the training received by assistant medical practitioners did not enable them to undertake the full responsibility for medical and health care. The annual report of the Administering Authority^{1/} also showed that the poliomyelitis epidemic in the Marshall Islands had been successfully controlled and that effective preventive measures had been taken.

GENERAL DEBATE

3. Mr. DOISE (France) praised the high quality and objectivity of the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1964 (T/1620). As stated in paragraph 194 of the report, Micronesia was "welding itself into a unified people". The Trust Territory was entering a new phase of more rapid development and the Visiting Mission had therefore thought that progress should be accelerated in all fields. The granting of responsibilities to the people signified, not only political but also economic and social progress.

4. In the political field, interest was concentrated on the proposal for the creation of a congress of Micronesia which, according to the special representative, would have true legislative authority. At the thirtieth session of the Council (1214th meeting) the French delegation had expressed the view that the existing Council of Micronesia might perhaps become a legislative body sooner than was anticipated by the Administration itself. It seemed that that prophecy was to be fulfilled, since it was announced that elections would be held in the autumn on the basis of direct universal suffrage. The United States representative had said that the suggestions of the Visiting Mission regarding the future congress of Micronesia (T/1620, para. 276) were being carefully studied by the Administration. One of the suggestions concerned the en-

^{1/} 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).

largement of that body's financial responsibility. That was a difficult problem, because United States subsidies accounted for nine-tenths of the revenue of Micronesia. However, it should be possible to find a solution that would reconcile the desire for sound financial management and the urgent need to give the members of the congress of Micronesia a sense of budgetary and financial responsibility. The French delegation supported the Visiting Mission's recommendation that the executive branch should be developed at the same time as the legislature. The creation of a true executive would be a unifying force and help to develop a Micronesian personality. In that connexion, his delegation agreed with the Visiting Mission that the Micronesians must be able to choose between all possible alternatives for their future.

5. The Administering Authority was making a great effort to diversify the economy. A fishing industry had been established and promised to be an important source of revenue. Much had been done to develop transportation. The Administering Authority would no doubt endeavour to implement the recommendations of the Visiting Mission on the subject of economic development (T/1620, para. 193).

6. The credits for education and public health had been increased. There was a completely new educational policy and the number of scholarships had doubled during the year. The French delegation had been most interested in the conclusions of the Visiting Mission on that subject (T/1620, para. 66) and particularly in those concerning adult education and vocational and technical training and the establishment of a junior college of Micronesia.

7. The recommendations of the Visiting Mission should be endorsed by the Council and taken into consideration by the Administering Authority. Without the considerable aid provided by the United States, there would have been hardly any development in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. That aid had already produced striking results: it confirmed the willingness of the Washington authorities to intensify their efforts and to enable the peoples for which they were responsible to accede rapidly to self-government and self-determination.

8. Mr. JACKLING (United Kingdom) said that, under Articles 76, 87 and 88 of the United Nations Charter, the duties of the Trusteeship Council were to determine whether appropriate and adequate progress was being made towards self-government and independence in accordance with the wishes of the people of the Territory concerned. His delegation believed that the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands was being administered in accordance with the Trusteeship System and with the high principles contained in the Charter, that there was peace and security in the area, that politically, economically and socially the islanders were being prepared for their ultimate destiny through the exercise of enlightened self-determination and that human rights and fundamental freedoms were respected in the Territory. As stated by the Visiting Mission, Micronesia was welding itself into a unified people. Through its accelerated education programme, the Administering Authority was enabling the people to know and understand the choices before them. There would be an elected congress, in which the peoples of Micronesia would be represented and would be able to legislate for the present and decide for the future. Social conditions were constantly being improved. The United Kingdom delegation commended the United

States for the progress it was making towards the goal of self-determination for the people of Micronesia.

9. His delegation endorsed the opinions and conclusions expressed in the report of the Visiting Mission, which was an admirable and valuable document. The recommendations concerning education and economic advancement deserved particular consideration by the Administering Authority. The comments of the Visiting Mission on the economic potentialities that could be developed were most interesting and encouraging. The Council had been told that the Administration would take the report into consideration and consider the application of many of its recommendations. That was an excellent example of the proper and effective use of the Trusteeship Council.

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

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.

10. Mr. YATES (United States of America), noting that twelve steel storage tanks were to be built on Nauru to relieve the perennial water shortage, asked the special representative how many such tanks had been completed.

11. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) said that storage capacity was being increased by three one million-gallon tanks. The present capacity was seven million gallons. The water shortage was more intermittent than perennial and depended on the amount of rainfall during any given year. There was no danger of an absolute water shortage because of the reserve storage capacity and the regularity of shipping.

12. Mr. YATES (United States of America) assumed that there was therefore no need for the utilization of desalinization processes.

13. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) confirmed that view.

14. Mr. YATES (United States of America) asked what the Administering Authority proposed to do about retraining the Nauruan people with a view to their resettlement. Had a retraining programme already begun or would it begin only after the final decision about resettlement had been taken?

15. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) said that the Administering Authority was engaged in a programme of training rather than retraining. The Australian Government believed that the fundamental training should be technical, in order to provide a body of skilled craftsmen to operate the services on which an advanced community depended for its standard of living.

16. If resettlement was based on Curtis Island, certain kinds of special training—in the operation of a long-range fishing industry, for example—would be necessary. However, it was not practicable to start

such special training until a decision had been made about resettlement. If particular Nauruans, once they were resettled, desired employment in adjacent mainland industrial undertakings, the Australian Government would provide the necessary training, but it was impossible to do so in advance. Therefore, until the place of resettlement was known, the Australian Government was concentrating on general technical and other training.

17. Mr. YATES (United States of America) wondered how close the Administering Authority was to a decision on where the Nauruans would be settled.

18. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) said that, as a matter of pure speculation, he believed that the Australian Government was, at the longest, within five years of such a decision and might be considerably closer. There would, of course, have to be a period of negotiation between the Nauruans and the Administering Authority on the details of the settlement, particularly on aspects of the political arrangement. There would be little need for much negotiation as to the place, about which the Nauruans had made a decision, or as to the general economic and social arrangements, which had already been proposed in broad outline to the people.

19. Mr. YATES (United States of America) asked whether there was any possibility that such a decision might be taken within the next few months.

20. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) replied in the affirmative. The representatives of the Nauruan people had indicated that they wished to discuss the matter further with the Australian Government in July 1964; those discussions might conceivably lead to a fairly quick decision.

21. Mr. YATES (United States of America) asked whether the problem of phosphate dust had been found to represent a real health hazard and what measures the Administering Authority had taken to deal with it.

22. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) said that the Administering Authority had referred the problem to the British Phosphate Commissioners, who, after some experimental work, had placed orders for precipitators to reduce the amount of dust. The dust was more of a nuisance than a health hazard.

23. Mr. YATES (United States of America), referring to the model house which the special representative had shown to members of the Trusteeship Council,

inquired what the cost of such a house would be, how many square feet it would cover and how many houses would be constructed.

24. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) replied that the cost of each house was estimated at between £4,000 and £5,000, or approximately \$10,000. Although he did not know the precise number of square feet in the house, the rooms were about as big as the rooms in an average Australian house and would therefore cover about 1,200 square feet. The number of houses to be constructed would depend in part on when the resettlement took place. If resettlement took place at the present time, some 600 houses would be required; if it was postponed until 1970, 3,000 people instead of 2,700 would be involved; and if it was postponed until 1980, the figure would rise to 6,000.

25. Mr. McCARTHY (Australia) said that the Administering Authority would build whatever number of houses was required for the Nauruan population.

26. Mr. YATES (United States of America) asked the special representative whether the Administering Authority had estimated how much it would cost to resettle the Nauruan people.

27. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) said that, under the broad preliminary plan, resettlement was expected to cost between £10 million and £11 million and would involve not only the creation of a town or towns consisting of the houses to which the United States representative had referred, but also all the services necessary to ensure that the Nauruans enjoyed a standard of living comparable to that of a similar Australian community. The financial responsibility for resettling the Nauruans would be shared by the three Powers constituting the joint Administering Authority, for whom Australia would take executive action.

28. Mr. YATES (United States of America) asked the special representative how often the Administrator had found it necessary to disallow acts of the Nauru Local Government Council and what had been the nature of the measures disallowed.

29. Mr. MARSH (Special Representative) said that he knew of no recent incident where that power had been used. Its main purpose was to ensure that legally defective ordinances would be reconsidered and remedied before they were promulgated.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.