



**TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL**  
*Thirteenth Special Session*  
**OFFICIAL RECORDS**

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*President:* Miss Angie E. BROOKS (Liberia).

*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.

Adoption of the agenda (T/1671)<sup>1/</sup>

[Agenda item 1]

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the thirteenth special session of the Trusteeship Council and drew attention to the provisional agenda appearing in document T/1671.

*The provisional agenda was adopted.*

Report of the Secretary-General on credentials (T/1672)

[Agenda item 2]

2. Mr. SHAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation wished to reaffirm its opposition to the unlawful occupation of China's seat in the United Nations by the representative of Chiang Kai-shek. The USSR delegation could not, therefore, support paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report (T/1672), which recognized the representative of Chiang Kai-shek. Only a representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China could lawfully occupy China's seat in the Trusteeship Council.

3. Mr. LIU (China) pointed out that it was stated in the Secretary-General's report that the credentials of all representatives had been issued in accordance with the provisions of rules 14 and 16 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council. Hence his

delegation's credentials were not open to question. With regard to the USSR representative's remarks, he said that the Government which he represented was the legitimate Government of the Republic of China, a founder Member of the United Nations and, by virtue of Articles 23 and 86 of the Charter, a member of the Trusteeship Council.

4. Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) said that, in the opinion of his delegation, only a representative of the People's Republic of China could occupy China's seat in the Trusteeship Council.

5. Mr. FINGER (United States of America) said that it was clear that the Government of the Republic of China was the only Government recognized by the United Nations as the legitimate Government of China. His delegation therefore supported the Secretary-General's report.

6. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the Secretary-General's report, amended by the replacement of Mrs. Anderson by Mr. Finger as the representative of the United States, and of the observation made by members.

*It was so decided.*

Letter dated 7 November 1967, addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Australia, concerning the future of the Trust Territory of Nauru (T/1669;<sup>2/</sup> T/L.1134)

[Agenda item 3]

*At the invitation of the President, Head Chief Hammer De Roburt, Special Adviser to the Australian delegation, and Mr. John Oman Ballard, Special Representative of the Administering Authority, took seats at the Council table.*

7. Mr. SHAW (Australia) informed the Council that, following the resumed talks between representatives of Nauru and representatives of the Governments of the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia, it had been agreed that Nauru should accede to independence on 31 January 1968. It was the earnest hope of the joint Administering Authority that the Trusteeship Council would recommend to the General Assembly that the latter should, in agreement with the Administering Authority and in consultation with the Nauruan delegation, decide to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement and thereby give effect to the agreement which had been reached between the Nauruan authorities and the Administering Authority. It was necessary that the General Assembly should agree to do so during its current session and he expressed the gratitude of his Government to members of the Council for agreeing

<sup>1/</sup> See Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Thirteenth Special Session Supplement No. 1, Resolutions.

<sup>2/</sup> Also issued as document A/6903; see Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 13.

to meet at less than thirty days notice in order to make that possible.

8. As the 1965 Trusteeship Council Visiting Mission had reported (T/1636),<sup>3/</sup> Nauru was a small island, but a prosperous one thanks to the proceeds from the phosphate deposits. Its population paid no taxes and had a high standard of living. The people lived in peace and unity, free from repression. The rule of law prevailed and all persons were equal before the law and all enjoyed access to all the benefits which their society, under their leadership, could provide.

9. That state of affairs was of comparatively recent origin. After its first contact with the outside world in 1798, the island had been visited only sporadically by whaling ships and traders; in 1888 it had been proclaimed a German territory and phosphate mining operations had begun in 1906. In 1914, following the outbreak of the First World War, Nauru had been occupied by an Australian military force and on 28 June 1919, under the Treaty of Versailles, a mandate for the administration of the Island had been conferred on the British Crown. On 2 July 1919 the Nauru Island Agreement had been signed by the Governments of the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, providing for the administration of the Island and vesting the title to the phosphate deposits—the rights to which had been purchased by the three Governments from the Pacific Phosphate Company—in the British Phosphate Commissioners, appointed by the three Governments. During the Second World War, the Island had been occupied and most of the industrial plant and buildings had been destroyed and the Nauruans removed to the Caroline Islands. On 31 January 1946 the survivors of the Nauruan people had returned to the Island. For that reason the date 31 January was of particular significance to the people of Nauru and it was a matter of great satisfaction to them and to the Administering Authority that Nauru should accede to independence on that day.

10. Since January 1946 the indigenous population of Nauru had risen from 1,280 to approximately 3,100 and the standard of living was now one of the highest in the world, the per capita income being higher than that in Australia. If the price paid for the phosphate and the cost of production remained in approximately the same relationship as at present and the Nauruan people put aside the same proportion of their funds as they had the previous year, their long-term fund would stand at approximately US\$400 million when the phosphate deposits were exhausted. There had also been steady and impressive progress in other directions, including educational, cultural and political development, of which the Council had been kept regularly informed.

11. A formal agreement between representatives of the Nauruan Local Government Council and the three partner Governments on the future of the phosphate industry had been executed on 14 November 1967 and copies would be circulated to members of the Council. Under that agreement, the capital assets of the phosphate industry would be purchased by the Nauruan people at an agreed valuation over a period of three

years, during which time the British Phosphate Commissioners would continue to produce the phosphate but the net proceeds of its sale would go to the Nauruans, who would have a directing role in the operation through the Nauru Phosphate Corporation; the production and sale price would be at a rate established by the Agreement, based on the assessed world market price for phosphate. The Nauruan Phosphate Corporation would assume full control in 1970.

12. Since the thirty-fourth session of the Trusteeship Council, discussions with the Nauruans concerning their political advancement had continued. Those discussions, had been described by Mr. Barnes, the Australian Minister for Territories, in a statement in the House of Representatives on 24 October 1967 (T/1669, Annex). The result of those discussions was that, in accordance with the wishes of the Nauruans themselves, they would accede to independence without any fetters or limitations of any kind. They hoped to maintain close links with the Governments of the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia, especially the latter, but the nature of those links would be determined by agreement after independence. Australia looked forward to a continuation of the close and friendly relationship which had characterized its association with the Nauruan people.

13. The Australian Parliament had already passed an Act providing for the transfer of authority and the Nauru Legislative Council had passed an ordinance providing for a convention to adopt a constitution. Australian administrative control would cease when the constitution came into force. In the meantime, Australia was providing the Nauruans with whatever assistance they needed for a smooth transfer of power. On the attainment of independence, the obligation assumed by the joint Administering Authority under the Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory of Nauru approved by the General Assembly on 1 November 1947 would have been discharged. Australia was proud to have fulfilled its obligations under that Agreement and under the Charter of the United Nations.

14. In conclusion, he paid a tribute to the leader of the Nauruan people, Head Chief Hammer De Roburt, who had shown his dedication to the interests and service of the Nauruan people and he suggested that he might be heard by the Council.

15. The PRESIDENT called upon Head Chief Hammer De Roburt.

16. Mr. DE ROBURT (Special Adviser to the Australian delegation) recalled that Australia had administered the island of Nauru for almost half a century. About two generations of Nauruans had taken five decades to arrive at their present situation. Fifty years was not an unduly short period for a homogeneous group of a few thousand people with a single culture and heritage, one language and one religion, to learn to manage their own affairs. Australian tutelage of those people, which it had exercised also on behalf of the other two partner Governments of New Zealand and United Kingdom, had been effective. Those Governments could be proud of their

<sup>3/</sup> See Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 2.

achievements, and he wished to thank them, on behalf of the people of Nauru, for the many benefits received.

17. During the past two decades, the Council had sent to Nauru six visiting Missions which had been instrumental in encouraging and fostering his country's progress towards independence. The burdensome task borne by the Administering Authority for half a century, and by the Council for a shorter but no less significant period, was coming to an end. His people's association with the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom would remain friendly and close, although it would take a different form. Similarly, the Nauruan people wished to retain the closest possible ties with the United Nations, although they recognized that theirs would be too small a country to assume the responsibilities of full membership.

18. During the past few months, while talks between representatives of the Administering Authority and the Nauruan people had proceeded, a great deal of work had been done in the planning of the future government. The paper entitled "Statement of Nauruan delegation on political and constitutional changes", which had been placed before the Council in June 1967, had formed the basis for that planning. The Nauruan people had surveyed the various matters that would need to be included in their constitution and, in respect of many of them, they had already placed the prepared briefs in the hands of the legal draftsmen. They had examined the existing administrative structure on Nauru and had completed a plan for its reorganization so that it might better serve the needs of an independent government. As a result, they had decided to create a number of new administrative posts and had begun to select candidates for them. Consideration had been given to the nature of the Island's future relations—political, economic and social—with the outside world. While there was still much work to be done before 31 January 1968, their planning had ensured that they would enter upon independence smoothly and without any disturbance to the process of government or to the rule of law.

19. It would be recalled that the Nauruan people had decided that their constitution should derive its legal force from an act of the Nauruan people themselves, assembled for that purpose in a constitutional convention. The Legislative Council of Nauru had now adopted a constitutional convention ordinance. Elections for the convention would be held on 16 December 1967 and the first meeting was scheduled for early January 1968. That would ensure the adoption of a constitution in ample time to be brought into force on 31 January 1968. Only part of that constitution would be permanent. Provisions guaranteeing fundamental rights and freedoms to all persons living on Nauru, citizens and non-citizens alike, would be adopted in their final form and certain other constitutional provisions would be treated similarly, but some parts of the constitution would be of a temporary nature. The powers to be vested later in a president and cabinet would be exercised for a short initial period by a council of state, whose members would be jointly responsible for all major decisions. That arrangement avoided the difficulties that would be encountered in trying to operate a ministerial system before the administrative structure had been com-

pletely reorganized. In addition, there were other parts of the constitution which it was thought proper to give the convention a longer period to consider and discuss than would be possible before 31 January. In those cases, the temporary provisions would follow existing practice, with only a minimum of change. By those means, the Nauruan people felt that they had provided a basis for a smooth transfer of power in the time available to them.

20. On all those matters, full agreement had been reached between the Administering Authority and the representatives of the Nauruan people. There was one subject, however, on which there was still a difference of opinion—responsibility for the rehabilitation of phosphate lands. The Nauruan people fully accepted responsibility in respect of land mined subsequently to 1 July 1967, since under the new agreement they were receiving the net proceeds of the sale of phosphate. Prior to that date, however, they had not received the net proceeds and it was therefore their contention that the three Governments should bear responsibility for the rehabilitation of land mined prior to 1 July 1967. That was not an issue relevant to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, nor did the Nauruans wish to make it a matter for United Nations discussion. He merely wished to place on record that the Nauruan Government would continue to seek what was, in the opinion of the Nauruan people, a just settlement of their claims.

21. He hoped that the Council had reached the conclusion that the Nauruan people were ready to take the great step forward that was the cherished aim of all dependent peoples, the step from tutelage to sovereign independence. The Nauruan people had no doubts; they faced their future as an independent State with the anxieties common to all peoples and Governments in a troubled world but with confidence that they could acquit themselves creditably, handle their affairs efficiently and demonstrate that the responsibilities of independence had not been placed on their shoulders prematurely.

22. In conclusion, he associated himself with the Australian representative's request that the Council should recommend to the General Assembly that the Trusteeship Agreement for Nauru should be terminated on 31 January 1968.

23. Mr. CRAW (New Zealand) said that he would like to begin by speaking on a personal note. He himself had served on the Sub-Committee of the Fourth Committee which had drafted the Trusteeship Agreement for Nauru. He had later visited the Island and discovered why it was that the first Europeans to land there had described it as "Pleasant Island"—not so much because of its scenic beauty as on account of its inhabitants, whom they had found "charming, sturdy, reliable and intelligent". He had also had an opportunity to witness the dedication of the officials of the Australian administration in Nauru. At the time of the Japanese invasion, the Administrator and several others had shown their loyalty to the Nauruans by choosing to remain on the Island rather than escape as they could have done; they had later been put to death. He wished to pay a tribute to the competence, sense of justice and dedication of the Australian administrators.

24. In the discussion which had taken place between the Nauruans and the Administering Authority, the Nauruans had held firm to their request for free and unfettered sovereignty. As a result of those discussions, the people of Nauru would resume that sovereignty which had passed from them eighty years previously. It was entirely appropriate that that should happen. The population of Nauru was small in number but it was a unified, proud and able people with a strong sense of being a unique human group. The Nauruans were also a tenacious people and they had never wavered in their desire to manage their own affairs. They wanted independence and it had now been agreed that they should have it.

25. Under the Trusteeship Agreement, the Administering Authority had accepted the obligation to take "all appropriate measures" with a view to the political advancement of the Nauruan people and to promote the basic objectives set forth in Article 76 b of the United Nations Charter, including "progressive development towards self-government or independence". That obligation had been carried out in full. New Zealand had always considered that the International Trusteeship System offered a special opportunity for protecting the rights of dependent peoples and ensuring their political advancement, and the successful attainment of independence by Nauru would be one of the fruits of that experience. There was little now for the Council to do but recommend to the General Assembly that the Trusteeship Agreement for Nauru should cease to be in force upon the Territory's accession to independence on 31 January 1968.

26. For New Zealand, that event would have special significance because when Nauru became independent New Zealand would presumably cease to be a member of the Council. That would be a moment of some nostalgia for those members of the New Zealand delegation who had worked on trusteeship affairs. In 1945, the then Prime Minister of New Zealand had presided over the Committee entrusted by the San Francisco Conference with responsibility for preparing the sections of the Charter dealing with the Trusteeship System, and two Territories for which New Zealand had had full or partial responsibility—Western Samoa and Nauru—had been placed under that system. New Zealand had played its part in the work of the Trusteeship Council both as an Administering Authority and, he thought, as a constructive critic of developments in other Trust Territories.

27. As the New Zealand Prime Minister had said in announcing the agreement on independence for Nauru, his Government looked forward to continued friendly ties between Nauru and New Zealand.

28. Lastly, he wished to extend his congratulations to Head Chief Hammer De Roburt and to the Nauruan people.

29. Mr. SHAW (United Kingdom) said that it was almost twenty years ago that the Trusteeship Agreement for Nauru, to which his Government together with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand were parties, had been approved by the General Assembly and had gone into effect. The purpose of the present special session of the Council was to seek approval for the termination of that Agreement. The charges placed

on the Administering Authority in pursuance of the obligation which it had accepted under the Trusteeship Agreement had been discharged and it now remained only for the formal transfer of power to the independent Government of Nauru to take place on 31 January 1968.

30. Among the various Trust Territories with which the Council had at one time or another been concerned, the history of Nauru was in many ways unique. Even since Nauru had been placed under the Mandates System of the League of Nations in 1919, formal responsibility for the obligations then undertaken by the international community, and thereafter continuously maintained, had been shared among the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. That tripartite responsibility between three members of the Commonwealth of Nations had proved to be an eminently workable arrangement, partly because of the close degree of understanding between the three partner Governments and the similarity in their policies of decolonization, but mainly because from the outset, by agreement with the other two Governments, the actual responsibility for the administration of the Territory had been vested in the Government of Australia.

31. Australia's association with Nauru went back fifty-three years to the time when at the beginning of the First World War that former German territory had been occupied by Australian military forces. It had since then been under continuous Australian administration, first during the period of the League of Nations Mandate and in the last two decades under the Trusteeship System of the United Nations.

32. Australia had regularly reported to the Council on behalf of the Administering Authority on the progress and development of Nauru and had received Visiting Missions in the Territory. His own Government and that of New Zealand, as jointly constituting with the Government of Australia the Administering Authority, had been closely involved at all stages in the negotiations of recent months, which had now reached a satisfactory and final agreement with representatives of the Nauruan people that Nauru should accede to independence on 31 January 1968. It was due above all, however, to Australia's efforts in the Territory over the years that the people of Nauru were ready to assume responsibility for the entire direction of their own affairs and to shoulder the responsibility of full independence. It was right therefore that a tribute should be paid to the Australian administrators who for more than half a century had worked in the Territory to that end.

33. The people of Nauru had not always had an assured and uninterrupted life of tranquillity. They had known at first hand the dislocations and hardships of war and many of their people had experienced the sufferings brought in the wake of global conflict. In recent years their future had at times been obscured by doubts and uncertainties when, against a possibility that eventually the Island's phosphate resources might be exhausted, ideas had been canvassed for resettling them in a new island home. In the end the people of Nauru had come to the conclusion that the Island of Nauru, to which they had always belonged, must be their permanent homeland.

34. Nauru was indeed fortunately placed to set its course on the uncharted waters of independence. Its people enjoyed a standard of living which would be the envy of many other still dependent Territories in the Pacific. The educational and medical facilities on the Island were of a high standard and Nauru enjoyed the unifying advantages of a single culture, a single language and a single way of life.

35. Substantial sums had been set aside with prudence and foresight to provide for the time when Nauru's livelihood would have to depend on sources other than the phosphate deposits and those sums would continue to accrue and increase over the years. As the Council was aware, control over those deposits under the agreements recently ratified would shortly pass into the hands of the Nauruan people. Many of those fortunate circumstances were largely attributable to the phosphate deposits with which nature had so generously endowed Nauru and to the operation of those deposits over the better part of half a century by the British Phosphate Commission, to which his Government nominated a representative. Although the United Kingdom had never been involved in the day-to-day administration of the Trust Territory, it was a source of satisfaction to it that in that way it had been able to play a positive role in the Island's development.

36. Recent years had also seen the rapid promotion of political advancement and responsibility in the Territory. The Nauru Local Government Council and the Nauru Legislative Council now comprised a body of experienced representatives fully capable of managing the affairs of their country. Although the final form of government in independent Nauru was still to be determined in the constitutional convention, whose deliberations would lie entirely outside the purview either of the United Nations or of the Administering Authority, the preliminary first constitution to come into force at independence provided the framework for a democratic form of government. Those temporary arrangements for a democratic form of government and constitution had been approved by the elected representatives of the Nauruan people and accepted by the three Governments which formed the Administering Authority.

37. It was a source of great satisfaction to his Government that the way was now clear for Nauru to accede to independence on 31 January 1968. It was clear from what he had said that the Administering Authority had sought faithfully to discharge the obligations assumed in regard to Nauru under the Trusteeship Agreement of 1947 and that it had done so "... in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and in such a manner as to achieve in the Territory the basic objectives of the International Trusteeship System". His delegation therefore considered it wholly proper for the Council to recommend to the present session of the General Assembly that the Trusteeship Agreement in respect of Nauru should cease to be in force as from 31 January 1968.

38. The United Kingdom delegation wished to pay a tribute to Head Chief Hammer De Roburt, who by his perseverance, moderation and devotion to the cause of Nauru had sought to bring about the solution for his people's future which he believed to be in its best

interest. He had pursued that goal with skill and determination, and the occasion for the current special session represented for him and for his people the culmination of their efforts.

39. The United Kingdom Government looked back with satisfaction to an association with Nauru over half a century and was proud to have played a part with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand in accomplishing the task which the Administering Authority now sought to lay down. Relations between the three Governments and the people of Nauru had always been close and friendly. As Nauru moved forward into independence, the United Kingdom wished its people peace, security and prosperity and looked forward to a continuation of the warm and genuine ties of friendship and understanding which existed between the two countries.

40. Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted the announcement that the Governments of the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia had agreed to meet the request of the representatives of the Nauruan people and to grant them full and unconditional independence on 31 January 1968, and to ask the General Assembly to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement on that date. From the statement by the Australian Government (T/1669, Annex), that Australian law would cease to apply in Nauru when the latter became independent, he understood that from that date relations between Australia and Nauru would be based on full equality and sovereignty. He had listened with interest to the statement by Head Chief Hammer De Roburt from which he understood that no conditions or reservations would be attached to independence.

41. The fact that a small nation like Nauru had won for its people the right to independence, the right to live as a sovereign nation, was evidence of the great and invincible force of national movements which overcame all obstacles to freedom and independence. The peoples of the world, united under the banner of freedom and independence, progress and socialism, were waging a decisive attack on the forces of reaction, imperialism and colonialism. In the previous few decades, more than seventy States had become independent in Asia, Africa, Latin America and elsewhere. The powerful impetus of the national liberation movement of the peoples, supported by the forces of socialism and the revolutionary labour movement in the capitalist countries and by all progressive forces, had created favourable conditions for the struggle of even the smallest colonial nations for freedom and independence. For that reason, the struggle of the Nauruan people for independent existence had been successful.

42. In the Trusteeship Council and in the General Assembly, the Soviet Union delegation had always supported the demands of the Nauruan people with regard to the future status of their Territory. Now that they had attained their goal, he had great pleasure in conveying to the Nauru Local Government Council and to the people of Nauru and their leaders, Head Chief Hammer De Roburt and his colleagues, the sincere congratulations of the Soviet Union delegation and its best wishes for success in leading their country on the path of independent development.

43. The history of the development of the Nauruan people and their struggle for independence and self-determination deserved full respect. He wished them success and prosperity.

44. The USSR delegation would not raise any objection to the adoption by the Council of the draft resolution (T/L.1134) recommending that the General Assembly at its twenty-second session should resolve that the Trusteeship Agreement for Nauru should cease to be in force when Nauru attained full and unconditional independence on 31 January 1968.

45. His delegation was confident that the further development of Nauru as a sovereign nation would not be accompanied by any outside pressure and that the legitimate demands of the Nauruan people for sovereignty over the natural resources of the Territory and for the rehabilitation of the land would be fully met.

46. Mr. FINGER (United States of America) said that there was a striking difference between the factors considered crucial in Trusteeship Council discussions of Nauru and United Nations discussions of other Territories. It had been several years since the Council had had to devote extensive attention to social, economic and educational development in Nauru. The literacy rate was high and Nauru's concerns were rapidly becoming those of all modern countries with a high standard of living, owing mainly to increasingly enlightened management of the Island's sole known natural resource, and wise economic investment and diversification to assume continued dependable income.

47. In recent years, the Council had been able to concentrate on the ultimate political status of Nauru, and that political development might have been accelerated, had not the Nauruans themselves and the Administering Authority and the Council been concerned with the economic, social and political well-being of the people of Nauru after the phosphate deposits were exhausted. The Council had been concerned with the possible resettlement of the Nauruan people and with an equitable distribution and sensible use of the proceeds from phosphate sales.

48. The important decisions had now been made and agreements had been reached. The Trusteeship Agreement for Nauru must come to an end, as in the near future must those for the remaining Trust Territories. It was encouraging that both the people of Nauru and the Government and people of Australia had expressed a strong desire that the close and friendly relationship which had developed between them should continue.

49. He was confident that Head Chief Hammer De Roburt would continue to lead his people with the same concern he had shown for their future and that he would continue to pursue their best interests as he saw them.

50. Nauru was a tiny Island in a distant place and developments there were not familiar to many Americans. Americans were, nevertheless, historically dedicated to the principle of self-determination whether in Nauru or in Africa or in Asia. The people of the United States particularly welcomed the applica-

tion of that principle in Nauru. The Government and people of the United States wished the people of Nauru well.

51. Mr. LIU (China) said that the attainment of independence was a development of historic importance to the people of Nauru. Nauru was entering a new epoch in its history and he offered the sincere congratulations and best wishes of the Chinese Government and people to the people of Nauru. Although Nauru might be among the smallest of nations, it was certainly not the least. Its people were well educated, the Island was rich in resources and he hoped that it would always remain an island of peace and happiness. Head Chief Hammer De Roburt, who had shown outstanding qualities of diplomacy and statesmanship throughout the negotiations, personified the Nauruan spirit of independence and freedom.

52. The Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom had faithfully discharged their responsibilities under the Trusteeship Agreement. They had contributed to the economic, social and educational advancement of the Territory and they had assisted the Nauruan people in developing the art of government and administration. His delegation was happy to join with other members of the Trusteeship Council in recommending to the General Assembly that the Trusteeship Agreement for Nauru should cease to be in force when Nauru became independent. He hoped that 31 January 1968 would always remain a day of pride for the Nauruan people.

53. Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) offered his delegation's congratulations to the Administering Authority and to the representatives of the Nauruan people, in particular Head Chief De Roburt, on the agreement they had recently reached. He was pleased to note the atmosphere of friendship in which Nauru was attaining independence, at a date particularly close to its heart. He wished to express his delegation's appreciation to the Australian Government for the wisdom with which it had guided Nauru along the road of political, economical and social progress, in accordance with its undertakings under the Trusteeship Agreement. France offered its best wishes to the people of Nauru and their leaders.

54. His delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution submitted by the Liberian delegation (T/L.1134), in spite of the reference to General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), which did not seem appropriate; indeed it felt that the reference to the relevant provisions of the Charter would have been sufficient.

55. Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia) said that his delegation warmly welcomed the decision of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom to grant full independence to Nauru. The Liberian delegation had always felt that there were no people in the world that were not ready for independence and that there were no people whose needs could be better met than by their own efforts, for lack of freedom retarded aspirations and deprived the individual of ambition.

56. His delegation congratulated the Nauruan people and offered them its best wishes for the future. The Liberian Government commended the Australian Government for its tutelage; it was happy to note

the statement of that Government that it would be ready to consider sympathetically any request by the Nauruans for assistance. He also noted the statement of Head Chief Hammer De Roburt that Nauru wished to retain the closest ties with Australia.

57. He had pleasure in introducing draft resolution T/L.1134 and commended it to the Council's consideration. He pointed out that in operative paragraph 2, the words "full and" should be inserted before the words "unqualified independence".

58. The PRESIDENT put the draft resolution (T/L.1134) submitted and orally amended by the representative of Liberia to the vote.

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously. 4/*

59. The PRESIDENT wished, on behalf of the Council, to congratulate all those concerned, including the Administering Authority, on the forthcoming accession of Nauru to independence and to offer the Nauruan people all good wishes.

*Head Chief Hammer De Roburt and Mr. Ballard withdrew.*

Terms of reference of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru and New Guinea, 1968 (Trusteeship Council resolution 2148 (XXXIV); T/L.1135)

[Agenda item 4]

60. Mr. SHAW (United Kingdom), introducing the draft resolution contained in document T/L.1135 on behalf of his own delegation and that of China, said that, as a result of the decision that Nauru should accede to independence on 31 January 1968, it would naturally be no longer appropriate for the 1968 Visiting Mission called for in the Council's resolution 2148 (XXXIV) to include Nauru in its itinerary. The draft resolution sought to amend the Mission's terms of reference accordingly.

<sup>4/</sup> See resolution 2149 (S-XIII) of the Trusteeship Council.

61. Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had no objection to the proposal to amend the Visiting Mission's terms of reference. Regarding the dispatch of a visiting mission to New Guinea, he recalled that a Soviet Union proposal at the Council's thirty-fourth session (1321st meeting) for a joint mission of the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had been over-ruled by the colonialist majority. His delegation had therefore abstained in the vote on the draft resolution at that time. For the same reason, it could not support operative paragraph 3 of the present draft resolution. If the paragraphs were voted on separately, his delegation would be able to support operative paragraphs 1 and 2 but would abstain on operative paragraph 3.

62. The PRESIDENT said that the Soviet Union representative's statement would be noted and that, if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Council decided to adopt the draft resolution contained in document T/L.1135.

*The draft resolution was adopted. 5/*

#### Future composition of the Trusteeship Council

63. The PRESIDENT noted that the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement for Nauru would raise a problem regarding the future composition of the Trusteeship Council. She thought that it would be appropriate to request the Secretary-General to submit a legal study on that question.

64. Mr. SHAW (Australia) supported that suggestion.

65. Mr. DJERMAKOYE (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories) said that the document requested would be circulated later in the day.

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*

<sup>5/</sup> See resolution 2150 (S-XIII) of the Trusteeship Council.