



Distr.
GENERAL

T/PV.1404
19 June 1972

ENGLISH

Thirty-ninth session

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND
FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 16 June 1972, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. BENNETT United States of America

- Examination of annual reports of the Administering Authorities on the administration of Trust Territories for the year ended 30 June 1971: (continued)
 - (a) Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
- Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council
- Examination of annual reports of the Administering Authorities on the administration of Trust Territories, for the year ended 30 June 1971: (continued)
 - (b) New Guinea
- Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to observe the elections to the Papua New Guinea House of Assembly in 1972 (continued)
- General Assembly resolution 2865 (XXVI) on the question of Papua New Guinea
- Co-operation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples /General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI)/
- Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly
- Closure of the session

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages (English or French), preferably in the same language as the text to which they refer. Corrections should be sent in duplicate within three working days to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, Room LX-2332. Corrections received will be issued as a corrigendum.

AS THIS RECORD WAS DISTRIBUTED ON 20 JUNE 1972, THE TIME-LIMIT FOR CORRECTIONS WILL BE 23 JUNE 1972.

The co-operation of delegations in strictly observing this time-limit would be greatly appreciated.

EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES ON
THE ADMINISTRATION OF TRUST TERRITORIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1971:
(a) TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1735; T/L.1170 and Add.1,
T/L.1173) (continued)

The PRESIDENT: The first item on our agenda for today is the report of the Drafting Committee on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/L.1173). I call on the representative of France to introduce the report.

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): As the Council is aware, the Committee was established at its 1398th meeting and Australia and France were appointed as its members. I shall of course not take up section by section the proposals that have been made. I should simply like to say that the Committee attempted to reflect in this document what was said and what seems to have been generally accepted during this session -- that is to say, that 27 years after the war all its vestiges should disappear; that the talks of Hana and Koror have achieved concrete results, especially concerning the end of the agreement of association; that, nevertheless, certain arrangements still exist that could do with being clarified; that the manner in which the foreign affairs of the Micronesians would be associated to the foreign problems which concern them should be closely examined during future talks and that much was said of the problem of the Marianas; that, moreover, it was noted that Micronization was being accelerated, that the Council was pleased by this Micronization of the civil service but nevertheless thought that it should be speeded up even further and that further preparations should be made for it; and that the Council was happy to note that the atoll populations could soon return to their islands of origin, although that operation had lasted for a considerable number of years.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

The Council also made recommendations concerning the rather difficult problems of conciliation between the autonomy and the sovereignty of Micronesia and the importance of the subsidy which it receives.

In this connexion I have the impression that the text, which was originally in French, passed through the English language section and has come back to us in French with a different meaning, so that although my delegation is submitting this report it is not sure of finding in the French text what was there originally. Accordingly we should like at least to be permitted certain subsequent clarifications; because it is always embarrassing to be faced with a text in a form different from the form in which one wrote it.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

If our recommendations are followed, the Council will note with satisfaction the development of tourism and the effort being made by the Administering Authority to associate the people with what seems to be becoming the Territory's major activity.

Also, if the recommendations are followed, the Council will note the size of the sums spent in the field of fisheries, but will say that it deplores the fact that such sums have not led to a substantial increase in production and especially of exports, since fishing is without doubt the economic activity which may be in the forefront of the Territory's development in the future.

That is what is said in our recommendations and what we propose to the Council for its approval, with the minor reservations of which I have spoken concerning language. I think that I could take up those questions with the Secretariat.

The PRESIDENT: I am sure that the problem of translation can be cleared up with the Secretariat.

I should like to suggest that the Council take up first the draft conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex to the report (T/L.1173), and that we consider them section by section.

As there is no objection to that procedure, we shall proceed accordingly.

If no member wishes to comment on section A of the draft conclusions and recommendations, entitled "General", which comprises paragraphs 1 to 5, I shall put it to the vote.

Section A was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: Does any member wish to comment on section B, entitled "Political Advancement", which comprises paragraphs 6 to 19? If not, I shall put it to the vote.

Section B was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: Does any member wish to comment on section C, entitled "Economic Advancement", which comprises paragraphs 20 to 45? If not, I shall put it to the vote.

Section C was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: Does any member wish to comment on section D, entitled "Social Advancement", which comprises paragraphs 46 to 55? If not, I shall put it to the vote.

Section D was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: Does any member wish to comment on section E, entitled "Educational Advancement", which comprises paragraphs 56 to 61? If not, I shall put it to the vote.

Section E was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: Does any member wish to comment on section F, "Future Status", which comprises paragraphs 62 to 71?

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): I note the sentence at the end of paragraph 68. Although I presented the document, I should like to recall what I said in connexion with the powers of the District Legislatures.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no further comments, I shall put section F to the vote.

Section F was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 5 of its report the drafting Committee recommends that the Trusteeship Council adopt the conclusions and recommendations set out in the annex to the report and include them at the end of each appropriate section or subsection of a chapter. I shall put that recommendation to the vote.

The recommendation was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: Paragraph 4 of the report of the Drafting Committee recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the revised working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/L.1170 and Add.1) as the basic text for the chapter on conditions in that Territory to be included in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council.

I shall put that recommendation to the vote.

The recommendation was adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the vote the report of the Drafting Committee as a whole.

The report of the Drafting Committee (T/L.1173) was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the Soviet Union, who wishes to explain his vote.

Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation abstained in the vote on the report of the Drafting Committee on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands since we do not share certain of the assessments, conclusions and recommendations contained in that report and since we believe that the report does not contain any effective ways and means of bringing the Territory closer to independence and self-determination or any solution to the economic and social problems facing the Territory. Particularly, we cannot agree with the assessment of the negotiations between the delegations of the Congress of Micronesia and the representatives of the United States about the future political status of Micronesia. These talks, as I have already pointed out, were conducted in strict secrecy without the participation of the United Nations, in conditions of an obviously inequitable status for the people of the Pacific Islands which makes it possible for the Administering Authority to exert pressure on the representatives of the population of Micronesia to permit the United States to perpetuate its control over this Territory.

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

We should also like to emphasize that whatever agreement is reached about the future political status of Micronesia, the people of this Trust Territory should be entitled to self-determination right up to complete independence. Any attempt to restrict this right and to impose any conditions would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement. Only the people of Micronesia is entitled to take its fate into its own hands and to determine its future. No one, including the Administering Authority, is entitled to restrict or encroach upon its sovereignty by any means at all.

We cannot agree with the conclusions contained in paragraph 69 of the report which in point of fact encourage the dismemberment of the Territory. The Soviet delegation considers that only the Congress of Micronesia can conduct negotiations about the future political status of the Territory.

Finally, we believe that the report does not give an objective picture of the situation in the Trust Territory in the fields of the economy, education and health. The situation in all of these areas remains unsatisfactory. We cannot regard the steps taken by the administering Power adequate to transfer authority to and increase the powers of the central administration in the Territory and to ensure that people of the Territory shall have access to the relevant posts in the administrative apparatus.

For all these reasons the delegation of the Soviet Union abstained in the vote taken on the report of the Drafting Committee on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Mr. SACKSTEDER (United States of America): If the United States delegation found itself on the same side as the Soviet Union in voting on the adoption of the report on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, it was not, however, for the same reason.

We believe that the report has been carefully drafted to reflect the debate that took place in this Council and the views of the majority of the members of the Council. These views of the majority are by and large shared by my delegation and I can assure the members of the Council that in the coming year my Government will to the utmost of its ability seek to carry out the recommendations and conclusions so carefully formulated by the Drafting Committee and just now approved by the Council.

(Mr. Sacksteder, United States)

Our abstention in the vote was motivated only by the fact that during the coming months we expect to continue our delicate, deliberate negotiations with the representatives of Micronesia on the future status of the Territory, and we did not feel that we should a priori commit ourselves to the full implementation of each and every one of these recommendations should this prove, in the event, to be impossible or not fully realizable. That is the only reason why we abstained.

We do thank the members of the Drafting Committee for their careful and very complete work and wish them to know again that we will look to these conclusions and recommendations as a guide to our own actions in the coming months.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL (T/L.1176)

The PRESIDENT: Part I of the draft report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council appears in document T/L.1176. In accordance with the decision taken by the Council this morning, part II will consist of the revised working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/L.1170 and Add.1) and the conclusions and recommendations contained in document T/L.1173. It will be completed by the addition of sections containing the observations of members of the Council reflecting their individual opinions. I understand members of the Council have already received a draft text which, after they have made the necessary corrections, will be incorporated in the report. Does any representative wish to make comments on this draft report to the Security Council? As there are no comments, I shall put the draft report as a whole to the vote.

The draft report was adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the Soviet Union, who wishes to explain his vote.

Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation abstained from voting on the report as a whole for the same reasons which prompted it to abstain from voting on the report of the Drafting Committee.

EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF TRUST TERRITORIES, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1971: (b) NEW GUINEA (T/1733 and Add.1· T/L.1171 and Corr.1 and Add.1, T/L.1175)

The PRESIDENT: The report of the Drafting Committee is contained in document T/L.1175.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Pearsall, Special Representative, took a place at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the United States to introduce the report of the Drafting Committee.

Mr. SACKSTEDER (United States of America): It is my distinct pleasure to present to the Council, on behalf of the delegations of the United Kingdom and the United States, the report of the Drafting Committee on conditions in Papua New Guinea.

At its 1401st meeting, on 8 June 1972, the Council appointed a Drafting Committee composed of members of the delegations of the United Kingdom and the United States to make recommendations and conclusions concerning Papua New Guinea for the purpose of inclusion in the report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly. The Drafting Committee had much very good material to work with this year. It had the benefit of the annual report on Papua New Guinea and its supplement, the statements of the representative of Australia, the Special Representative and the Special Adviser, who were most helpful as well in their responses to questions, and the report of the Visiting Mission to observe the recent elections to the House of Assembly. It drew up the draft report contained in document T/L.1175, which is now before the Council.

The Drafting Committee has prepared from the information supplied recommendations and conclusions which, we feel, reflect the opinions held by the majority of the members of the Council. These recommendations and conclusions are divided into six categories, dealing first with general matters and subsequently with political advancement, economic advancement, social advancement, educational advancement and the establishment of intermediate target dates and a time limit for the attainment of self government or independence.

The Committee recommends that the Trusteeship Council adopt the revised working paper on conditions in Papua New Guinea contained in document T/E.1171 and Corr.1 and Add.1. As the basic text for the chapter on conditions in that Territory to be included in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly. The Committee also recommends that the Trusteeship Council adopt the conclusions and recommendations set out in the annex and include them at the end of each appropriate section or sub-section of the chapter.

The PRESIDENT: Does any member wish to comment on the report before I put it to the vote?

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): This is just a matter of details. At the beginning of this report it is said that the Territory now has its first national government. Rural wisdom has it that the engagement must not be confused with the marriage. I therefore think it would be wiser not to speak of "national government" when we are still at the stage of a territorial cabinet.

The PRESIDENT: Perhaps this is a publication of the banns.

I would suggest that the Council take up first the draft conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex and consider them section by section.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no comments on section A, "General", I shall put section A, comprising paragraphs 1 through 3, to the vote.

Section A was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: Does any member wish to comment on section B, "Political advancement"?

Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We should like to have a separate vote taken on paragraph 9 in section B.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no comments, I shall first put paragraph 9 to the vote.

Paragraph 9 was adopted by 3 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the vote section B as a whole, comprising paragraphs 4-24.

Section B as a whole was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: Does any member wish to comment on Section C, entitled "Economic Advancement", which comprises paragraphs 25-38? If not I shall put it to the vote.

Section C was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: Does any member wish to comment on Section D, entitled "Social Advancement", which comprises paragraphs 39-45? If not, I shall put it to the vote.

Section D was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: Does any member wish to comment on Section E, entitled "Educational Advancement", which comprises paragraphs 46 and 47? If not, I shall put it to the vote.

Section E was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: Does any member wish to comment on Section F, entitled "Establishment of Target Dates for the Attainment of Self-government or Independence", which comprises paragraphs 48-54? If not, I shall put it to the vote.

Section F was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 5 of its report (T/L.1175) the Drafting Committee recommends that the Trusteeship Council adopt the conclusions and recommendations set out in the annex of the report and include them at the end of each appropriate section or sub-section of a chapter. I shall now put that recommendation to the vote.

The recommendation was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 4 of its report the Drafting Committee recommends that the Trusteeship Council adopt the revised working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of New Guinea, as contained in document T/L.1171 and Add.1, as the basic text for the chapter on conditions in that Territory, to be included in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly. I shall now put that recommendation to the vote.

The recommendation was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the vote the report of the Drafting Committee as a whole.

The report of the Drafting Committee (T/L.1175) as a whole was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: Does any member wish to speak in explanation of vote?

I call on the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): The report of the Drafting Committee, in the opinion of the Soviet delegation, does not give a genuine evaluation of the situation obtaining in the Territory of Papua New Guinea, which was studied in some detail by the Trusteeship Council on the basis of the statements of the representatives of the political parties of the Territory and information presented by the Administering Authority and the members of the Visiting Mission. The report, for example, expresses particular gratification at what has been done by the administering Power in the field of the political, economic and social development of the Territory -- something with which the Soviet delegation cannot agree.

At this stage in the work of the Council we do not intend to repeat and reiterate all the comments regarding the evaluation of the situation in the Territory which we made previously in quoting rather relevant facts. However, we should simply like to emphasize that the movement of the people of New Guinea

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

towards self-determination and independence has obviously been dragged out, and the Administering Authority refuses to set a precise target date for the Territory to attain independence and self-determination.

At the same time, the Drafting Committee has in fact endorsed that abnormal situation, declaring in paragraph 54 of its report that the setting of a precise target date for independence might turn out to be impossible.

Our delegation cannot agree with that, nor can it support that approach to the question of the fate of the people of Papua New Guinea.

In paragraph 9 of the report it is proposed that the Council commend the Administration for its efforts in the field of political education of the population. At the same time, as the Visiting Mission has informed us -- and this is referred to in paragraph 10 of the report -- the concept of self-determination and independence is not completely clear to many people in the Territory, not to mention the bad situation regarding general education and the extremely small number of children enrolled in school.

In the section on economic development in the Territory there is no recommendation about the need for the enactment of effective measures in order to combat the inroads of foreign capital in Papua New Guinea -- foreign capital, which is by no means concerned about the economy of the Territory but simply wishes to derive profits from the Territory.

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

The economy of the Territory, as the Soviet delegation has already pointed out, continues to remain in effect a raw-material appendage to the metropolitan country, is extremely one-sided and depends on the export of only two or three items the prices of which are, as a result of fluctuations on the world market, extremely unstable. This deprives the economy of the Territory of any stability and causes an increase in the deficit in trade and payment balances.

I do not think these problems should be pushed aside. Rather, it should be suggested that the Administering Authority take effective steps to prevent the growth of foreign capital investments, to prevent profits from flowing abroad and to put an end to useful raw material being exported abroad without any processing taking place in the Territory.

All these problems are discussed in the report in very rosy terms. In sections D and E it is even stated that there has been success in social development and in the field of education, although that does not accord with the data contained in the report of the Administering Authority itself.

Of course, the report contains certain useful recommendations -- for example, that it is necessary to expand the authority of local governmental authorities; to take into account a number of critical comments made by the Visiting Mission about the need to give the indigenous population greater possibilities of participating in industrial concerns operating in the Territory; and to expand the organs of the Administration and have them staffed by indigenous personnel, and so on.

In paragraph 50 of the report reference is made to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and we should therefore like to repeat something we have already said: that that resolution has no relevance to the question of the purposes of the Trusteeship System.

For those reasons the delegation of the Soviet Union abstained from voting on the report of the Drafting Committee.

Mr. ASHWIH (Australia): My delegation abstained from voting on this report. We did so following our traditional position that as representatives of the administering Power it is our duty here to participate fully in the debate and

(Mr. Ashwin, Australia)

to answer any questions Council members may have but not, while representing the administering Power, formally to make recommendations to the administering Power. However, I can assure the Council that the administering Power and the Government in Papua New Guinea will carefully study the Council's report and give sympathetic consideration to its recommendations.

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO OBSERVE THE ELECTIONS TO THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY IN 1972 (T/1732 and Corr.1; T/L.1174/Rev.1)
(continued)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to draw the Council's attention to the fact that this item has already been considered by the Council together with the report of the Administering Authority on Papua New Guinea.

The Council now has before it a draft resolution on this subject (T/L.1174/Rev.1). I call upon the representative of France to introduce this draft.

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): In submitting the draft resolution contained in document T/L.1174/Rev.1 I would recall that the Visiting Mission went to the Territory upon the invitation extended last year by the Administering Authority. We followed up that invitation and we designated a Mission which went to the Territory to observe the elections.

What was the aim of the Mission? It was to ensure that the electoral consultation was organized, first, with the appropriate technical means; second, with care; and third, impartially.

The Mission reported to us in great detail and with precision. We were able to see that under your guidance, Mr. President, our colleagues went to all the areas of the Territory. That was no doubt very tiring; those who have visited the Territory know how difficult it must have been to go from district to district in the very brief time available.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

The Mission's conclusion is quite clear -- that is, that while certain technical suggestions could be made further to improve the electoral process there, on the whole the methods adopted are appropriate and, even more important, the Administration and the Chief Electoral Officer -- whom we had the pleasure of hearing and to whom we wish to pay a tribute for the way he fulfilled his functions -- saw to it that the rules were effectively applied. Thus the first answer is on the whole positive; the second is definitely positive; and so is the third.

The Mission's conclusions on this point is very clear. The elections were quite impartial. We profited greatly from the report and from the very existence of the elections throughout our debate, and we can say that the elections as such -- through their results and their promise for the future -- were the central element in our debate on New Guinea.

I therefore propose that we take note of the report of the Visiting Mission and draw attention to the fact that in formulating its own conclusions and recommendations on this question the Trusteeship Council has taken into account the observations contained in the Visiting Mission's report -- we have just seen that this has been the case -- and, finally, and not least important, express to you, Mr. President, and to our colleagues our appreciation for the work accomplished.

The slight revision of the original text is self-explanatory, I believe. It is simply a question, as I said a moment ago, of recalling the presence and assistance here of the Special Advisers, especially the Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Kaumi. I think that this slight modification will not disturb my colleagues and that they will understand them as they did the draft resolution contained in document T/L.1174.

The PRESIDENT: Does any member wish to comment on the draft resolution?

Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation will not vote against the draft resolution on the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to observe the elections to the Papua New Guinea House of Assembly in 1972 bearing in mind the reservations we expressed on this point at the meeting of 8 June during consideration of the Mission's report.

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

The Soviet delegation has two requests concerning this draft resolution. In particular, we would propose insertion of the following text to be inserted between the second and third paragraphs of the preamble:

"Noting that the membership of the Mission, in accordance with the request of the General Assembly expressed in resolution 2590 (XXIV), included, after consultation with the Special Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Administering Authority, non-members of the Trusteeship Council."

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

Secondly, at the end of the second paragraph of the preamble of the present draft resolution we propose the following addition: "and also the members of the Mission". Thus, the paragraph would read as follows:

"Having heard the statements concerning the report made by the representative of Australia and by the Special Advisers, one of whom was the Chief Electoral Officer of Papua New Guinea, and also the members of the Mission,"

because we did indeed hear statements from members of the Visiting Mission, Mr. Aryubi and Mr. Psoncak, and this is a fact which we believe should be duly recorded in the draft resolution.

Mr. WEIR (United Kingdom): I should just like to comment on the second amendment proposed by the representative of the Soviet Union.

As I understood it, it read, "and also the members of the Mission". I should like to suggest that we should omit the definite article since only certain members of the Mission addressed the Council I think.

Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We do not object to that drafting change, particularly since in the Russian version this has no significance at all because the Russian text will not be affected by it.

Mr. SACKSTEDER (United States of America): My delegation would have no objections to the proposals made by the representative of the Soviet Union. We see merit in the inclusion of a new preambular paragraph, as he has proposed it, and we would not object to the addition of the phrase, "and also members of the Mission" to the present third paragraph of the preamble so long, of course, as it is clearly understood that the Council is referring here to the statements of the members of the Visiting Mission which related to the elections rather than any other statements which they may have made to the Council at the time that they were heard.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no other comments I shall put the proposals to the Council.

I take it that it is the wish of members that we should vote first on the two amendments to the draft resolution (T/L.1174/Rev.1) submitted by the representative of the Soviet Union, incorporating the subamendment suggested by the representative of the United Kingdom and agreed to by the Soviet Union representative.

We shall vote first on his second amendment in which he proposes the addition to the present second paragraph of the preamble of the words "and also members of the Mission."

The amendment was adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the vote the other amendment submitted by the representative of the Soviet Union, in which he proposes the addition to the preamble of the draft resolution of a new paragraph to be inserted between the present second and third paragraphs. The text of the proposed new paragraph was read out a moment ago.

The amendment was adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT: The Council will now vote on the draft resolution as a whole, as amended.

The draft resolution (T/L.1174/Rev.1) as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Australia, who wishes to explain his vote.

Mr. ASHWIN (Australia): My delegation abstained from voting on this draft resolution for the same reason that we abstained in the voting on the report of the Council on conditions in Papua New Guinea; that is, because it contains a paragraph -- paragraph 5 -- inviting the Administrating Authority to take the recommendations into account, and for the formal reason that as the representative of the Administering Authority we feel unable to participate in making formal recommendations to it.

However, I should like to make it quite clear to the Council that we greatly appreciated the Mission's report and to remind the Council of the assurances given by the Chief Electoral Officer of Papua New Guinea that he found the report most valuable and that in future consideration of the electoral system in Papua New Guinea the recommendation made by the Mission will be taken fully into account.

I should also like to take this opportunity to make three other points. Firstly, that my Government was glad that the Council was able to accept our invitation to dispatch a mission to observe the elections, and we are glad that the Mission went: the elections that took place in Papua New Guinea earlier this year were of obvious importance. Secondly, that we were glad that the Mission was composed of representatives of both the Council and the Special Committee of Twenty-Four. Thirdly, that we welcomed the participation in the Council's discussions of the other two members of the Visiting Mission who were not members of the Council.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2865 (XXVI) ON THE QUESTION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The PRESIDENT: I should like to draw the Council's attention to the fact that this item has already been considered by the Council together with the annual report of the Administering Authority and the report of the Visiting Mission to observe the elections to the Papua New Guinea House of Assembly in 1972. The Council has adopted the conclusions and recommendations contained in document T/L.1175 and a resolution on the report of the Visiting Mission.

May I suggest that in its report to the General Assembly the Trusteeship Council draw attention to the action taken in this respect and to the comments made during the debate.

If there are no objections to this procedure, I shall take it that the Council agrees.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Council has now completed consideration of its agenda items relating to Papua New Guinea. Before going on to the next item on the agenda, I should like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the Special Representative, to the Special Advisers and to the other members of the Visiting Mission, for their contribution to the Council's deliberations. I would particularly like to express my thanks to the Special Representative, who is still here today with us, who gave us a most detailed and exhaustive analysis and report on developments in Papua New Guinea. We know of the many years which he has devoted to the development of the Territory and it is with great pleasure that we have had him here again this year to participate in the work of the Council. We trust that we will have the pleasure of having the Special Representative join us for future meetings. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. Pearsall, Special Representative, withdrew.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES [GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1654 (XVI)]

The PRESIDENT: As the Council will recall, this item derives from resolution 1654 (XVI) establishing the Special Committee, in which the General Assembly requested the Trusteeship Council to assist the Special Committee in its work. May I suggest that the Council draw the attention of the General Assembly to the useful co-operation that, again this year, has taken place between the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee of Twenty-Four as a result of the participation of two non-members of the Council in the Visiting Mission to observe the elections to the Papua New Guinea House of Assembly in 1972. May I also suggest that I as President of the Council be authorized, as in previous years, to address a letter to the Chairman of the Special Committee of Twenty-Four informing him of the decisions taken by the Council at this session concerning the two Trust Territories and expressing my continued willingness, as the representative of the Council, to discuss with the Chairman of the Special Committee of Twenty-Four any further assistance which the Special Committee might require of the Trusteeship Council.

Mr. ASHWIN (Australia): Members of the Council are aware, I think, that a Visiting Mission from the Special Committee of Twenty-Four is going, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, to the island of Niue and that the Mission is in fact leaving New York this morning. I would just like, in the context of this item, to inform the Council that my Government has invited the three members of the Mission --- who are the Chairman of the Special Committee, one of the Vice-Chairmen, and the representative of Sweden --- when they have completed their mission to Niue, to visit Canberra for discussion with the Administrating Authority of Papua New Guinea and then to make a short visit to Papua New Guinea itself.

The PRESIDENT: That can be added as another item of co-operation in the letter which I shall send to the Chairman of the Special Committee of Twenty-Four.

If there are no objections to the procedure I have outlined, I shall take it that it is acceptable to the Council.

It was so decided.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(T/L.1177)

The PRESIDENT: The draft report is contained in document T/L.1177. This draft has been prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with established practice. Before asking the Council to vote on the draft report, I should like to inform the members that the decisions we have taken at previous meetings, on the subjects, as well as the summaries of statements made during the discussion, will be reflected in the report, it being understood that the summaries of statements can later be changed through corrections which delegations concerned may subsequently wish to submit.

In accordance with the decision taken by the Council this morning when it approved the report of the Drafting Committee on New Guinea, part II of the report will consist of the revised working paper; that is, document T/L.1171 and Corr.1 and addendum 1, as well as the conclusions and recommendations which appeared in the annex to document T/L.1175. This part of the report will be completed by the addition of sections containing the observations of members of the Trusteeship Council, representing their individual opinions on this only.

(The President)

I understand that the members of the Council have already received the draft text containing their individual observations. After representatives have made the necessary corrections, that text will be incorporated in the report.

Does any representative wish to comment on the draft report?

Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to draw the attention of the Council to paragraph 29 of the draft report (T/L.1177), which states that

"At its 1403rd meeting, on 14 June 1972, the Council considered its agenda item on this subject and decided to draw attention to the fact that throughout its examination of conditions in the Trust Territories members had paid special attention to the measures and steps being taken to transfer all powers to the peoples of those Territories in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire...".

It appears to us that the words "being taken" should be replaced by the words "which should be taken". We think that that amendment follows from the tenor of our discussions. If we include the words "being taken", we would somehow be agreeing with the idea that adequate steps had already been taken along those lines. But from the discussions it was quite obvious that further steps will have to be taken in future. That is our first request.

Our second request concerns the following paragraph, paragraph 30, which now reads:

"The Council further decided to draw the attention of the members of the General Assembly and the Security Council to the conclusions and recommendations adopted concerning the attainment of self-government or independence in the two Trust Territories...".

We think that the words "the two Trust Territories" is not accurate because Papua is not a Trust Territory but a Non-Self-Governing Territory. Therefore, we propose that the word "Trust" be deleted and that we simply say "in the two Territories".

Mr. ASHWIN (Australia): I should just like to make a preliminary comment on the two suggestions of the representative of the Soviet Union.

In regard to his suggestion relating to paragraph 30, I personally would have no objection to it.

In regard to his suggestion relating to paragraph 29, it is certainly true that there are further steps which do need to be taken as far as Papua New Guinea is concerned. As we explained in our statement these steps are at this very moment the subject of discussion within my Government and that of Papua New Guinea, and negotiations are to take place in the very near future concerning these further steps. However, while it is true that the Council in its discussion of the Territories did consider further steps which needed to be taken, it also considered the steps which were being taken. In connexion with Papua New Guinea, many steps with regard to the transfer of powers have already been taken. Accordingly, it seems to me that the language used in the draft report before us is in fact satisfactory as it stands.

Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We agree with the representative of Australia that we have considered measures already taken, but we should pay attention also to measures which should be taken.

I shall change my amendment to the following: "special attention to the measures and steps being taken and to be taken to transfer all powers to the people of those Territories" and so on. Thus, I am keeping the present wording but am adding "and to be taken" -- "measures and steps being taken and to be taken to transfer all powers" and so on.

Mr. ASHWIN (Australia): That amendment seems perfectly satisfactory to me and I have no objection to it.

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): As to the change proposed in paragraph 30, if we really want to get out of the difficulty mentioned by the representative of the Soviet Union, let us simply say "in the Trust Territories" in connexion with the attainment of self-government or independence. Thus we would not be raising any extremely delicate legal problems.

The PRESIDENT: I would merely point out in this connexion that if we make any changes the Council will be changing and amending its former decisions, made at the 1403rd meeting. Of course, there is no reason why we cannot do that, if we wish.

Are there any other comments?

Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We agree with the amendment proposed by the representative of France, that is, simply to say "self-government or independence in the Trust Territories", omitting the words "the two". I believe that would be a more accurate reflection of the situation. Secondly, we do not understand what decisions the Council previously took which would not allow us to make this drafting alteration.

The PRESIDENT: The Council is perfectly free to alter its previous decisions, but I was merely pointing out that this language had already been decided on. We can amend it as the Council wishes.

If there are no further comments I shall put to the vote the proposed amendment to paragraph 30, which seeks to delete the words "the two" at the end of the third line so that that part of the paragraph would read: "... concerning the attainment of self-government or independence in Trust Territories..."

The amendment was adopted unanimously.

The PRESIDENT: I propose to put to the vote the proposed amendment to paragraph 29, which seeks to have the fourth line of the paragraph read: "... attention to the measures and steps being taken and to be taken to transfer all powers to the..."

The amendment was adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no further comments I shall put to the vote the report as a whole, as amended.

The report as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the Soviet Union, who wishes to explain his vote.

Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We should like simply to state that we abstained in the vote on the report as a whole for the same reasons that we abstained in the vote on the report of the Drafting Committee on the Situation in the Trust Territory of Papua New Guinea.

The PRESIDENT: With that action, the Trusteeship Council has completed the agenda of its thirty-ninth session.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT: As our 1972 session draws to a close I should like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Council for their diligent attention to the details of the agenda and for the free and frank discussion which has characterized our consideration of the various agenda items. I should like particularly to thank the members for their promptness in attending meetings that has enabled us to begin our daily meetings with dispatch and therefore to conclude our work with reasonable speed. I think we have set an example which might be followed by many other bodies of the United Nations. I should also like to thank the members for their patience with the presiding habits of the President.

I should like to thank our Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Tang, for his generosity with his time in attending so many of these meetings when he had many other calls on his daily routine. His participation has been of assistance to us all and we appreciate his presence.

I should like also to say a few words of genuine thanks to the Secretariat for its daily activities and for the flawless preparation of the daily papers which has enabled the President to get through the meetings and which, therefore, has contributed a great deal to the work of the Council in these past few weeks. I should like to thank the conference officer, the interpreters, the verbatim reports, the press officers and all others for their patience and their assistance in the work of this body.

I think we have had a very productive session, one which I hope has contributed to the orderly progress of the two remaining Trust Territories towards their achievement of self-determination. As I said in my opening statement, the Trusteeship Council is unique in the United Nations in having accomplished so much of its original programme that it has almost put itself out of business. I would have been glad to have presided over the session of the dissolution of this Council. That will take a little while yet, but it is surely on the way, and I think we can all look forward to that objective and to what it means in the sense of the exercise

(The President)

of self-determination by the peoples who have, under the arrangements of the United Nations, been for so long entrusted to the care of the Administering Authorities -- both those who are still living under those arrangements and those who have done so in the past and have now moved on to a different stage of development.

I shall close my remarks by again expressing my appreciation to all members for their co-operation and assistance in getting through our work at this thirty-ninth session.

I would also mention in closing that one member of the Council, Mr. Sacksteder, will be leaving for other duties in the near future. He has devoted several years now to the work of this Council, and has done it with dedication and with great diligence. We wish him well as he goes on his way to other duties.

We have welcomed new participants this year to the Council's work, particularly Ambassador Safronchuk of the Soviet Union and, of course, Mr. Weir of the United Kingdom, who is not unknown in these halls. Both Mr. Ashwin and Mr. Blanc are long-time participants and pillars of strength in the work of the Council. To all of you I say thank you and wish you au revoir.

Mr. WEIR (United Kingdom): First of all, Mr. President, may I thank you for including my delegation in the thanks that you have expressed to the members of the Council. In addressing you, the United Kingdom delegation has the greatest pleasure in congratulating you on the courtesy, skill, wisdom and dispatch with which you have presided over the 39th session of the Trusteeship Council. In keeping with its tradition we believe that the Council has given a demonstration of its ability to carry out its tasks in a constructive and practical manner and I agree with you, Mr. President, that this could well be an example for other bodies in this Organization. We trust that the Council will prove to have achieved, as a result of its work this session, further progress towards the fulfilment in the two remaining Trust Territories of the goals set out in Chapter XII of the Charter: progress towards what should be not only the final elimination of the Council's responsibilities towards these Territories but, as you said, Mr. President, the elimination of the Council itself, a sort of withering away of authority which even those of us who do not subscribe to the theories of Karl Marx would regard, I think, as the ideal consummation of political evolution along this path. The credit for that progress is due in no small measure to the lead that you, Mr. President, have given us from the Chair; a fitting culmination, if I may say so, to the active and outstanding part which you have played in this Council's affairs during the past year.

The Vice-President has not been called upon to assume undue official burdens during our session. But when he has presided he has done so with his customary mastery. My delegation looks forward to continuing to work with him throughout his period of office.

My delegation greatly regrets that we were not joined in our work this session by the representatives of the People's Republic of China. We hope, however, that they will be able to participate during the 40th session, and I am confident that they will be in a position to make a useful and positive contribution.

Finally, my delegation would like to pay a tribute to the members of the Secretariat: first, the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Tang, whom it has been an honour to have with us in what I think is his first official participation in the meetings of a principal United Nations organ.

(Mr. Weir, United Kingdom)

I should like especially to thank our Secretary, Mr. Pradas, who, with his considerable knowledge of this Council and its procedure, has assisted us throughout the session. Lastly, I should like to thank on behalf of my delegation the other members of the Secretariat -- interpreters, translators and editing staff, to mention only a few -- whose help is no less indispensable to the successful and expeditious conclusion of our work.

And may I, as a postscript, add our good wishes to those which you, Mr. President, have expressed to Mr. Sacksteder in his new assignment.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his generous statement.

Mr. ASHWIN (Australia): At the opening meeting of this session I spoke of Papua New Guinea and Micronesia being at a crossroads. I think it is clear from our discussions that they have gone past the crossroads and both are going along their respective ways towards self-determination quite rapidly. One of our Special Advisers, the Papua New Guinean Minister for Labour, Mr. Rea, referred, as you did, Mr. President, to the fact that the Council is moving towards a state of unemployment and I think it is quite true that this state is not now very far away from us. It is really the Micronesian and Papua New Guinean people who have determined where they want to go and how fast they want to go and that is as it should be, bearing in mind that the administering Powers have also to promote, to encourage and to act as a kind of catalyst in this process. But Senator Amaraich of the Congress of Micronesia made clear in his statement to us what the role of this Council should be.

I think that at this session the Council has studied the conditions in both Territories intensively and I believe it has reached conclusions which are fair and objective and which should be useful to the Governments in Saipan and Port Moresby and the Governments in Canberra and Washington.

I should like on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you, Mr. President, on keeping us up to the mark, or almost keeping us up to the mark, of the theatrical 10 minutes which you spoke of and on getting us through our business with such dispatch.

(Mr. Ashwin, Australia)

I should like to congratulate the Vice-President for holding his head up so high and avoiding taking the Chair for most of the meetings. I should like to express our appreciation to the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Tang, for giving up so much of his valuable time to attend meetings of the Council and I hope that he will go away from us with the impression that we are a serious body and that, despite our fairly limited membership, we do discuss the subjects we have to discuss conscientiously and impartially.

In conclusion, I should like to thank our Committee Secretary, Mr. Pradas, the staff who sit behind him at the dais and upstairs who have done so much in preparing documents and keeping us going, the verbatim reporters, interpreters, translators, the Council conference officer and documents officer and all the other Secretariat staff who have been involved in our work.

I should just like to add that I wish the Secretariat could at the beginning of our session let us all have a list of the Secretariat staff who are involved in meetings so that we will have an opportunity much earlier to get to know who they are.

Finally, may I on behalf of the Special Representative and the Special Advisers thank you, Sir, for the kind words you addressed to them.

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): Mr. President, I trust you will allow the one who might have been called upon to replace you to congratulate you on the care you have taken to ensure the punctuality, regularity and serenity of these meetings. The order which you introduced in our work made it possible for the Council fully to carry out its task, namely, to observe and to facilitate the evolution of Trust Territories, and especially to be concerned about the fate of their inhabitants.

When this session opened, Mr. President, you had just carried out what we might call a little practical exercise; your suntan showed that you had been determined to acquire practical experience of the realities in New Guinea. Your tiring labours were not in vain because you brought us living evidence of an event which will certainly transform the history of the Trust Territory.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

I should like to extend my thanks also to the Secretariat in the person of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Decolonization, who attended our meetings very regularly; and in the person of our Secretary, who has given us the benefit of his truly encyclopaedic knowledge on all the trusteeship problems, whether technical or political, whether bureaucratic or practical. I should also like to thank the whole Trusteeship team which each year gives us as much pleasure as comfort and which has obtained spectacular results in translation and distribution.

The interpreters have had a hard task to perform and one speaker has sometimes taken up too much of their time. I hope they will not hold it against him and will accept my thanks.

We sit close to the Secretariat at these meetings; we are well situated to see how hard they work and we are very grateful to them.

Mr. President, you have just announced the departure of our colleague Frederick Sacksteder. If we did not know that he had been called to new and important responsibilities under a more luminous sky than that of New York, we would have urged him not to leave us; but that is not the case and there is nothing left for us to do but to say that we shall miss his deep knowledge of our affairs, his keen intelligence which allows him to go from one problem to another without difficulty, and his constant good humour.

We hear that the Trusteeship Council is dying. All I can say is that death throes have never before been so pleasant.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of France for his generous statement.

Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Mr. President, the Soviet delegation would like to declare that it shares in the expressions of deep appreciation for your conduct of the present session as President of the Trusteeship Council. The Soviet delegation is very grateful and thankful to you for your efforts, which have helped the present Trusteeship Council session to proceed at a very high organizational level and in a very pragmatic way. We should like also to thank your Vice-President and to express our gratitude to the Under-Secretary-General, the Secretary of the Council and the members of the Secretariat, who have done a great deal of work and to a great extent have made it possible for this session of the Council to be so excellently organized in the conduct of its work, which I think could serve as an example to other bodies of the United Nations. In conclusion, we should like to wish health and happiness to the representative of the United States, Mr. Sacksteder, in his new post.

Mr. SACKSTEDER (United States of America): As I begin what will undoubtedly be my swan song at the United Nations let me thank you, Mr. President, and also my colleagues here on the Council for your good wishes to me personally as I leave the Trusteeship Council and the United Nations for some new duties in other certainly far more arid fields.

We are now closing the thirty-ninth session of the Trusteeship Council, having adopted reports to the General Assembly and to the Security Council. Although this delegation, Mr. President, has sorely missed your guiding hand at its helm, we have welcomed your opportunity to serve this year in a larger role and we feel that the free flow of so much information, the free exchange of so many divergent views in so cordial and dispassionate an atmosphere, has been due in no small measure to your calm and able direction of our deliberations.

We believe that the Council was most fortunate this year in benefiting from the presence of many nationals of Trust Territories -- the three distinguished Special Advisers from Papua New Guinea and the numerous advisers, petitioners and observers from Micronesia who gathered here with us at this session. It was

(Mr. Sacksteder, United States)

not only useful to the Council to receive so much first-hand information from the Territories but surely a broadening experience for all of them, advisers, petitioners and observers, who had the chance to witness this Council's discussion of their Territories. My delegation was deeply impressed, as we feel the Council was, by the evident ability and the grasp of government of the Special Advisers from both Territories and of the petitioners from Micronesia. We feel that their performance in this Chamber speaks more eloquently perhaps than the most complete reports or painstaking studies we could undertake of the progress of these peoples towards their goals of self-determination or independence.

The Council has laboured hard during the past three-and-a-half weeks, and we have passed on a great number of questions and issues. The importance through all this of the hard-working and efficient personnel of the United Nations Secretariat has once again impressed my delegation, as it has so often in the past, and should not, in our view, be lost in the great volume of the work that they have so quietly and diligently produced. We extend our heartfelt thanks for the patient, prompt and cheerful assistance of all members of the Secretariat. Our particular appreciation goes, of course, to the Department of Political Affairs and Decolonization and to its distinguished Under-Secretary General, Mr. Tang, for his active interest in the Council's proceedings. To the Secretary of the Council, Mr. Pradas, and to all his associates we express our thanks for their indispensable contribution to our work. We wish to thank also the members of the Department of Conference Services, our interpreters, translators, verbatim reporters and all other members of the Secretariat, without whose help this Council could not have even begun to function.

To our Vice-President we would only say that if you made his task this year an easy one it is surely because we are saving him for even more important duties in the future.

We and other members of this Council have acknowledged at this session the warm spirit that prevailed at the future status talks between the Micronesian and the United States delegations, as they together through their discussions moved towards that day when that particular trusteeship will have ended. Not all

(Mr. Sacksteder, United States)

participants are agreed about the progress that is being achieved at those talks, and there were even some moments at this session when that warm spirit seemed to have gone, but we feel that the personal warmth, encouragement and understanding that flowed from all delegations this year have renewed that spirit for the talks that lie ahead. My delegation would like to assure this Council that my Government will make every effort to translate that spirit into even further progress towards the successful conclusion of our trust, of all trusteeships, and soon, it is to be hoped, of the Trusteeship Council itself.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United States for his generous statement. I call on the Under-Secretary-General.

Mr. TANG (Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Decolonization): Allow me, Mr. President, to express my warm gratitude for the kind words that you and the other members of the Council have addressed to me and my colleagues in the Secretariat. At the opening meeting of this session I said that I would follow the work of the Council with keen interest and hoped to acquaint myself with its procedures and efforts in the fulfilment of the aims and purposes of the Charter. I have indeed followed the Council's deliberations with the greatest interest and have witnessed its efforts to achieve the objectives and principles of the Charter. In short, I have learnt something, if not a lot. I wish to assure you again that the Secretariat is always prepared to service the Council and to co-operate with it.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Under-Secretary-General for his remarks.

In closing, I should like to make two further statements of appreciation. One is for our Council Secretary, Mr. Pradas, who deserves our gratitude for long years of service to this Council, service which he has performed, in my own experience, with unflinching courtesy, loyalty and dedication --- and I speak not only of this session and other sessions, but of visiting missions, on one of which I had the privilege to serve with Mr. Pradas. So I should like to say a special word of appreciation to him.

And then to my Vice-President I should like to extend a special word as well. If he has not been asked to preside as much as at some previous sessions, I think it has been due to the diligence of this Council in that we got through our work so expeditiously that we cancelled several meetings that we had planned at which he would have been the presiding officer. However, I am confident that his day of power will come and that we will have continuing evidence of his eloquence and discernment. I think also that probably his day in the sun will come and that he can return with a bronzed visage to set off his Gallic handsomeness.

Mr. ASHWIN (Australia): I apologize for taking the floor again, but I do so to rectify an omission. As I sit directly opposite the representative of the United States he naturally, occupies my consciousness so fully that I am afraid that perhaps I cannot see the wood for the trees -- or perhaps it should be "the trees for the wood". But, of course, I should like to associate my delegation with the remarks which other members of the Council have made about his departure.

The PRESIDENT: Whether it be wood or trees, we can all agree that Mr. Sacksteder is a stout pillar.

With that, I declare the thirty-ninth session of the Trusteeship Council adjourned.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.